
Office of Student Affairs

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Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

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A Modest Proposal

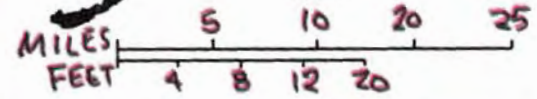
Name _____

Political Europe Worksheet

1. Label each ocean and body of water, and color them blue.
2. Label each country, and color each a different color.
3. Label the prime meridian and the scale.

B+

Scale:



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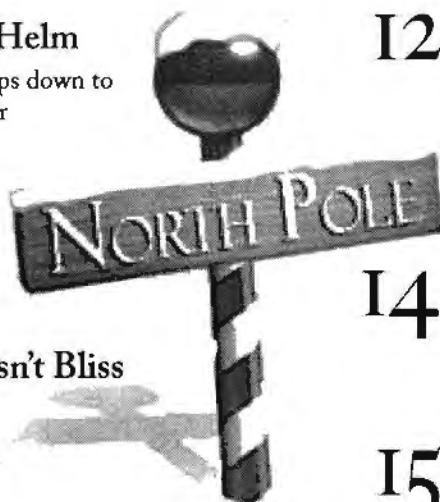
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A Modest Proposal

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Write for AMP!

Are you a fan of AMP? How about a vacuum? You can fix our page vacuums by submitting your contributions. This was supposed to be funny, sorry.

We're your voice. Why not use it? amodestproposal@gmail.com

Do it!

Helms Leaves the Helm

The Dean of ECS decides to step down after four years



by liam skoyles
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Dean Bob Helms has been one of the most influential figures on campus for the past four years, but many students on campus have yet to hear his name. With a shocking announcement, Helms, the Dean of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, is stepping down. His leadership of the Engineering and Computer Science School has taken us from a blip on the national radar to the fourth best engineering school in Texas.

From many interviews with faculty and staff, the most striking aspect of Dean Helms' first months at UTD was his powerful vision for what the school could and should be. Wasting little time, Dean Helms set about making his vision a reality.

Many students walking the halls of Green and Jonsson look at the new NERSL building and think of how the engineering school is taking money from the rest of the university, but this is simply not the case. That new building was the dream of Dean Helms and was brought to fruition through the immensely successful Project Emmitt.

Project Emmitt

As TI was searching for a site for its brand new \$3.2 billion manufacturing facility, Dean Helms saw an opportunity for UTD to continue its tradition of close ties to the company. Of course, the regional economic benefit of having this plant made it very attractive to lawmakers in Austin. TI wanted to have the factory close to home, but the low cost of labor and land elsewhere was a big draw.

In order to entice TI to build the fa-

cility in Richardson, Dean Helms struck a deal with both parties: a brand new research building would go up at UTD as part of a \$300 million development deal. Some of this money would come from the Texas Government's Enterprise Fund, some from the UT System, and some from private fundraising.

Overall the project was a win for UTD.

Project Emmitt Funding

- \$85 million for construction of the NERSL Building
- \$50 million from the Texas Enterprise Fund
- \$50 million from the UT System for laboratories, facilities and equipment in the NERSL
- \$15 million from UTD to support new salaries
- Private, Corporate and other commitments totalling \$100 million

“That new building was the dream of Dean Helms and was brought to fruition through the immensely successful Project Emmitt.”

Engineering Expansion

The other big push for Dean Helms over the last four years was the expansion of the engineering school. As Vice President for Research Bruce Gnade notes, “There are no top fifty engineering departments with only two departments.”

The Engineering School has already begun its expansion into other areas and is now planning even more. An initial emphasis on material sciences will tap into the current scientific love affair with nanotechnology. Several other cutting-edge fields will also be available to UTD students in the coming years. The department is considering bioengineering, which (with help from the medical field) should expand exponentially in the next few years, despite being a virtually unknown area of study today.

Rafael Martin, the Associate Vice President for Research, believes that the effects of the Dean's policies have already started to show. US News and World Report did not have any mention of UTD three years ago; however, the Engineering Department broke into the list of best graduate engineering programs two years ago and continues to rise up its ranks.

The Future

As the current Dean has decided to step down and return to his first love, research, the search has started to find the next dean of the second largest school on campus. The search committee has yet to be fully formed by Provost, Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, but will be headed by Bruce Gnade. The team leader believes that the biggest test for the new dean will be to “build and integrate the new programs into the current programs in the school”.

The search process, expected to be bolstered by Dr. Daniel's extensive connections, will likely be handled by a firm specializing in academic appointment searches.

Wherever the new dean comes from, he will be expected to lead the school in its expansion and bring UTD ever closer to our goal of becoming a tier one institution. ■

*Liam Skoyles will now return to his first love: rich, smoky-flavored bacon.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Know Your Rights Day

Be one of the few, the proud, the well-informed!



by ben dower

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This year, Student Government is sponsoring UTD's first "Know Your Rights Day." The purpose of this event is to teach students about personal rights and the responsibilities that come along with them. Knowing your civil liberties (and how to properly exercise them) is an important, yet oft-neglected, part of the educational process. Learning how to employ your rights in a stressful situation is a life skill with benefits that extend far beyond the college years.

November 14th marks the one-year anniversary of the UCLA taser incident. At approximately 11:30 p.m. in the Powell Library, the main undergraduate library on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles, twenty-three year old Mostafa Tabatabaiejad, an Iranian-American, was working at a computer.

UCLA policy mandates that students have their campus ID card on their person after normal business hours. When asked to display his identification by campus police officers, Mr. Tabatabaiejad pointedly refused, believing himself to be the subject of racial profiling. After asking him more than once to leave the library, campus police officers tasered Tabatabaiejad three distinct times.

Although Tabatabaiejad repeatedly stated that he was not fighting and would leave the premises, the police continued to taser him several times. Bystanders attempted to get the officers' names and badge numbers; later on, one officer was clearly heard threatening angry student onlookers with force. Three days after the incident, several hundred protesters gathered on the UCLA campus to express their outrage at the campus police's excessive show of force. The cell phone video of the incident received heavy media coverage and has garnered over one million views on YouTube.

At first glance, this entire incident



SG President Ben Dower and SG Vice President Ana Tavares commemorate Constitution Day by posing as a founding father and the Constitution. Photo by Patty Atchley

is one-sided. An innocent student was unfairly targeted by campus police officers and then subjected to unprovoked force by those figures. Mr. Tabatabaiejad clearly viewed himself as an innocent victim, rhetorically asking as he was hauled away, "Am I the only martyr?" and declaring that "here [was] your... abuse of power!"

However, after getting past the emotional response to the disturbing video footage, I can't help but recognize the complexity of the situation. Clearly the police used excessive force in the removal of Mr. Tabatabaiejad. However, allegations of racial profiling aside, Tabatabaiejad did not have a fundamental right to be in that library without his student ID card. As a student, it is far easier for me to empathize with Tabatabaiejad, but let's try to think about it from the perspective of the campus police.

Here was an individual unwilling to show his student identification in the

campus library after hours. They had no way of determining whether he had the right to be there. Judging from the video, it seems like that Tabatabaiejad was belligerent and aggressive when confronted by police officers. When asked to leave the premises, Mr. Tabatabaiejad initially refused.

In hindsight, it is easy to dismiss this evidence because we know that this twenty-three year old male was a student trying to work on a school computer. But the campus police officers had no way to know this at the time. All they knew was that there was an aggressive and suspicious individual refusing to comply with university policy.

Their highest priority, their highest responsibility, is to protect the safety of the other students. Mr. Tabatabaiejad did not have a right to be in that building and those campus police had every right to remove him.

That said, I am not defending the

amount of force utilized by those police officers. Clearly they went overboard in their efforts. However, I cite this incident because I think it highlights the difficult balance between personal rights and community safety.

Particularly important for a college student is knowing how to politely but firmly refuse a warrantless search, deny entry into your home, and decline to answer any self-incriminating questions. There are numerous situations in which the police will still proceed with their activity despite a refusal, and many in which probable cause gives them the right to do so.

However, if a police officer does behave improperly, a courteous, "Officer, I know you are just doing your job but I do not consent to any searches of my private property," could make all the difference in a court case in which evidence is obtained inappropriately.

The University of Texas at Dallas Police Department has been extremely helpful in the planning for Know Your Rights Day. We have tried very hard to maintain the distinction between "Know Your Rights" and "How to Break the Law and Get Away With It." However, ultimately the struggle to balance individual rights with community safety creates different priorities for different groups. We appreciate their respect for our goals and at the same time recognize the valuable service they provide to this campus.

The UCLA taser incident is not just a reminder about the importance of protecting civil liberties. It is symbolic of the delicate balance between upholding community safety through law enforcement and protecting individual rights from the potential abuse of that authority.

I strongly encourage all UT Dallas students to keep their ears open as more details about this event are nailed down and hope that you will attend UTD's first Know Your Rights Day to learn more about how to exercise your civil liberties. ■

Ben Dower just turned 21 and is wasting no time exercising his newly-acquired rights. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!



When Ignorance Isn't Bliss

Lack of basic geographical knowledge is no laughing matter



by **benedict voit**

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and **erica neiser**

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We'll be honest: this is personal. One of us grew up in South Carolina and has a friend who knows the local Beauty caught in this opprobrium. The other of us grew up in New Mexico (USA, that is; just to clarify).

Growing up, we witnessed complete ignorance, both from within our own states and from those without. Regardless of the origin, the ignorance was no laughing matter. Rather, such ignorance continues to shame us as a society, and speaks volumes for the sad state of our educational system.

The annual Miss Teen USA competition would have been just another beauty pageant for most Americans had the contestant from South Carolina never spoken. Many would have never even known of its existence. Miss Teen S.C., however, did respond to the question which resulted in weeks of national hysterics. The moderator asked her why Americans can't find their own country on a world map.

To say she butchered the answer would be generous. Clearly nervous and unaware of a proper response, she noted that a lack of map-ownership in the United States restricted such education. Furthermore, she stated that the U.S. should work with countries like South Africa and "the Iraq" to better our mutual understanding and education.

It pained us to watch, and instead of smiles or laughter, we cringed both for her and for our future. Our response is apparently a-typical. Every time this has

come up in casual discussion, we have only seen smiles, heard laughter and listened to remarks like "Wasn't that hilarious?" or (smiling) "Can you believe she is that

stupid?" One YouTube post has garnered over 15.5 million views.

When discussing the event, excuses of her rambling have ranged from "It's okay, she's from South Carolina" to "What do you expect from a beauty pageant?" Yet never once did we hear the question, "Why did her 18 years of public education fail her so miserably?" There was never a pitiful glance in her direction because two decades of her community's taxes couldn't produce a middle-school level response.

While this incident was frightening enough, what scares us more is how commonplace such geographical ignorance is. It's bad enough when a beauty queen slips up while onstage and under stress; it's

quite another for ordinary people in ordinary situations to display that same lack of knowledge. This refers to numerous conversations with native Texans who seemed utterly ignorant that New Mexico, with which Texas has more than 500 miles of border, is actually a U.S. state and not part of Mexico. This misconception has forced New Mexicans in Texas to carry their passport when purchasing wine or beer – the cashiers frequently refuse New Mexican driver's licenses as proper ID (this, of course,

they speak very good English.

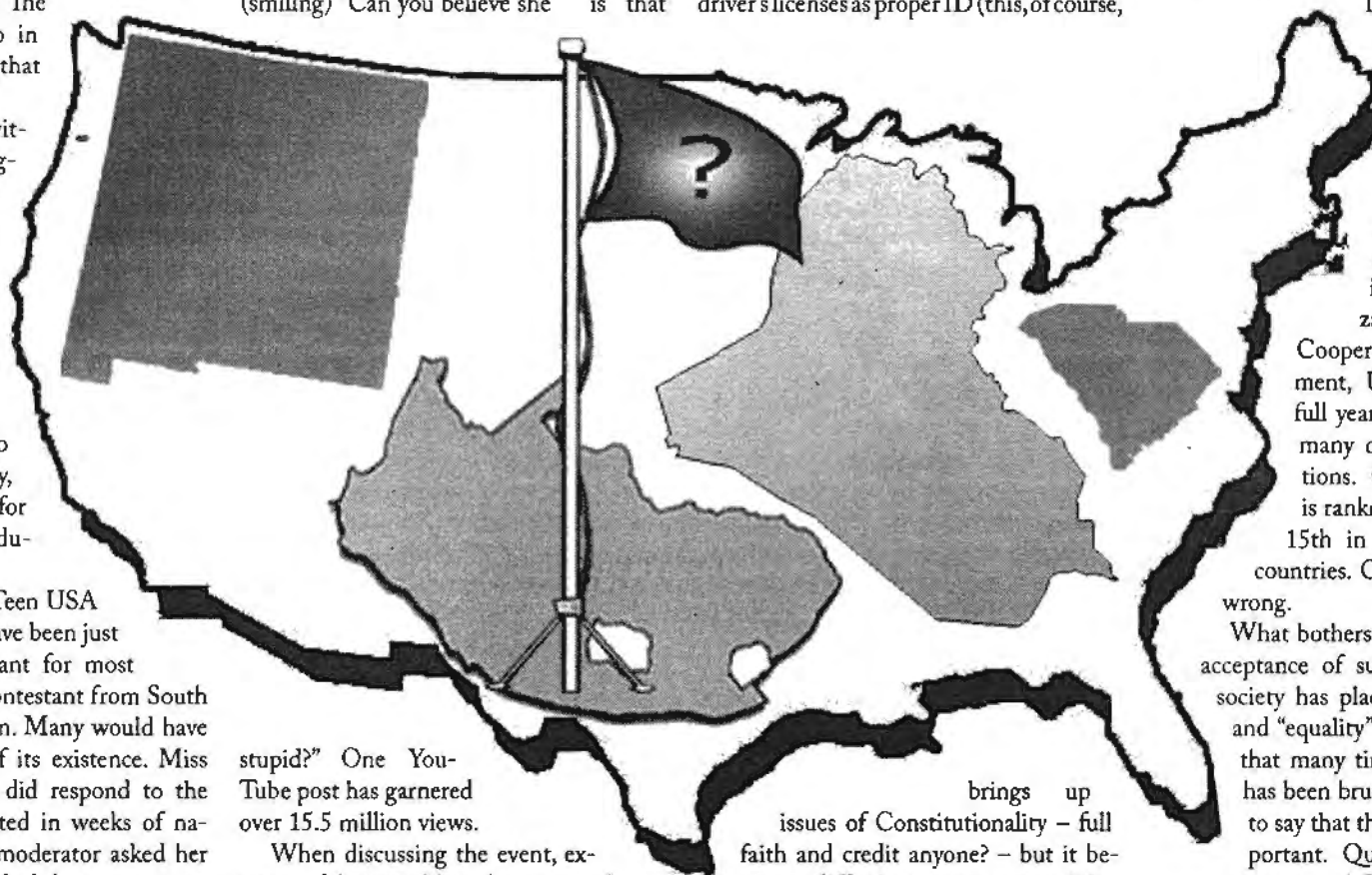
Sadly, this problem may be a U.S. specialty. While traveling abroad, the New Mexican among us frequently was able to have informed discussions about her state with citizens of other countries who had never even visited. Not only were they familiar with their own country, but when it was stated that home for her was New Mexico, "it's just west of Texas," they all looked slightly offended as if their intelligence had just been insulted.

It seems quite fashionable to bash U.S. schools these days, but we feel that much of this criticism is deserved. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, U.S. students lag a full year behind students in many other developed nations. Currently, the U.S. is ranked 24th in math and 15th in reading out of 29 countries. Clearly, something is wrong.

What bothers us is the shrugged-acceptance of such ignorance. Our society has placed "understanding" and "equality" so high on the list, that many times education itself has been brushed aside. This isn't to say that these values aren't important. Quite contrarily, they are essential. However, when others fail to grasp basic concepts, in this case geography, society teaches us to accept these difficulties as differences. The end result is a lacking education.

All in all, not being able to find America on a map or even New Mexico in America is embarrassing. This is not something to laugh about, or to shrug-off and ignore. Education will be a test for our generation. We'd better start studying now. ■

*Benedict Voit and Erica Neiser couldn't find a map, so they had to make this one.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/*



brings up issues of Constitutionality – full faith and credit anyone? – but it becomes difficult to argue states rights with those who don't even know the 50 states).

While this matter may seem amusing, it is only one of numerous encounters which reveals the lack of basic awareness. Another example: while walking by the senate offices in Washington D.C. a few years back, a badge-wearing official was overheard chatting on his cell phone: "Oh good, I thought you were going to try and tell me New Mexico was a state!" Begrudgingly, one of us has started inserting USA into the address line and tries to feel flattered rather than dismayed when told

Your Right to Remain Silent

Americans' unrightful claims to a massive welfare state



by richard badgett
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I've recently witnessed a phenomenon wherein more and more Americans are becoming aware of and asserting their newfound rights. It's as if America were living in this morass of economic despair and individual repression, and then suddenly, in the last 5 years or so, people became aware of all these rights that they never knew they had before. Like the right to a job. Or the right to a living wage. Or the right to health care. What an exciting time to be a civic-minded American!

At this point the more astute of you may have realized that none of the above mentioned items are actually rights. I'm guessing some of you didn't, and shame on you. Worse still, some of you may have known these were not actually your rights, but nodded along and thought "well, they ought to be."

I'm going to outline briefly why none of these things are your rights, why they should not be your rights, and what in fact are your rights. Know them. Love them. Live by them. But for crap's sake, don't dilute and degrade them with the lies of populist demagogues.

Before we tackle the issue of all these fake rights you never really had, let's do a little historical analysis to learn where this phenomenon came from. Essentially the modern age of entitlement stems from the presidency of FDR. I won't make many friends with this statement, but FDR was probably the worst president of the 20th century. In 1915, federal spending was a mere 2.3% of the GNP.

This is significant, because the 16th amendment, which allowed the collection of the income tax, was ratified in 1916. While spending as a percentage of GNP rose steadily between the years 1916 and 1933, the spike in government spending during Roosevelt's first term really signals the beginning of the mod-

ern trend toward massive government involvement in private enterprise. The reasons for this are purely political.

In an effort to secure his socialist monarchy, Roosevelt tapped into the fundamental flaw in popular elections: if you promise to give to 51% of the people what belongs to the other 49%, you can never lose. FDR was the penultimate demagogue, spending money that wasn't his to give to the dispossessed what they felt entitled to.

Roosevelt took money from those who had it, and gave it to those who did not. In return for this predation he carried all but 2 states in the 1936 election. The message to future politicians was

clear: fiscal responsibility does not win elections. Bowing to the demands of the majority, however outlandish or criminal, ensures political success.

The problem is that the money to buy off the unwashed masses has to come from somewhere. Neither bread nor circuses comes cheap. And where this money comes from is the productive segment of society. The nature of democracy ensures that the wants of the majority will be addressed before, and at the exclusion of, the needs of the whole. This is why the wealthiest 10% of Americans pay over 50% of the country's taxes while accounting for just 36% of its income. The wealthy will always be in the minority,

and they will therefore always be subject to the predations of the poor.

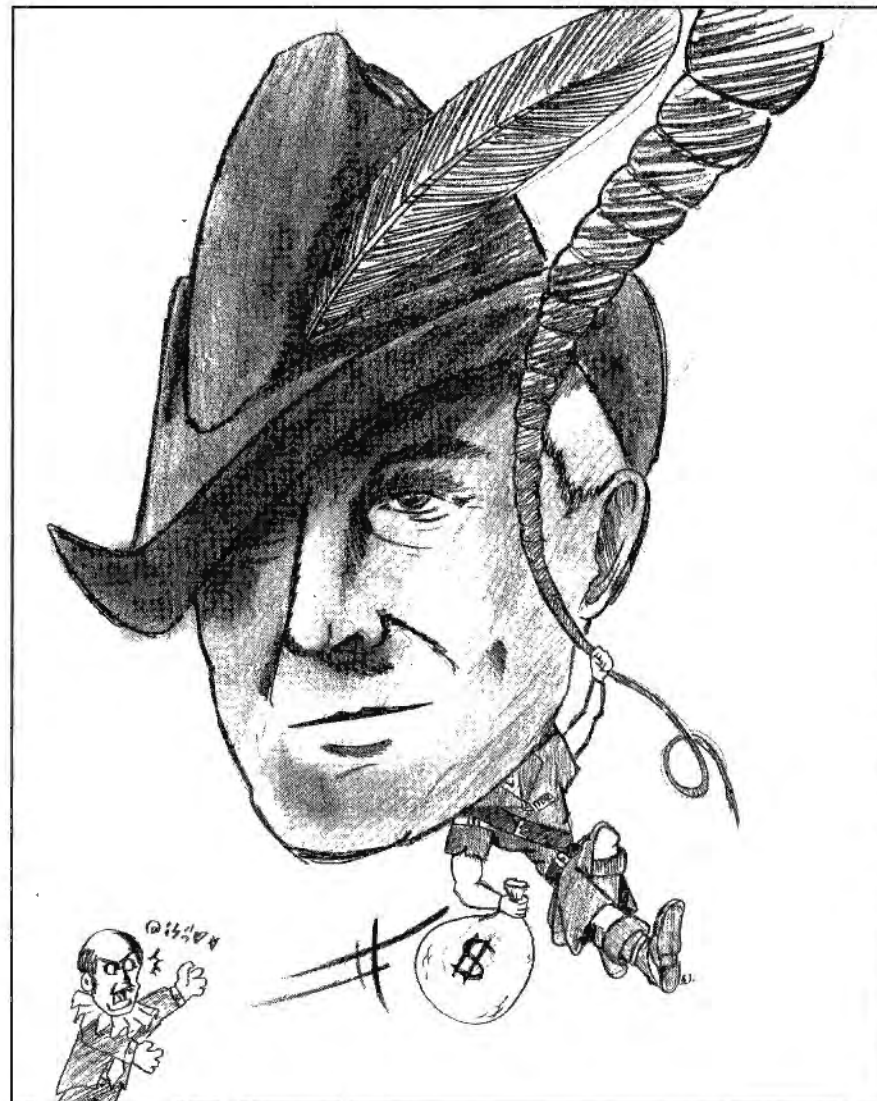
All this brings us back to these bogus rights you may think you have. You don't have the right to a job. Think about that one for a minute. Is it actually your contention that you not only have the right to force your services on someone else, but additionally, the right to demand that this same someone then reward you with their money?

That's absurd! If you can perform a task that someone finds value in, you'll be compensated accordingly. Imagine if some bum tried to demand of you a job and your money. Quit trying to take what isn't yours.

How about health care? Health care isn't quite as easy to categorize in terms of a trade, and it's easy to think that because of this it's somehow outside of finances. But you cannot receive health care without a doctor administering it. Should he be commanded to do so at the point of a gun?

He may be willing to administer service in exchange for compensation, and some compensation may even be non-monetary, but that exchange is voluntary. It's the doctor's choice to make, not yours. You have no "right" to his time or property any more than you have to mine or me to yours. You have no right to any person's time, wealth, life, or any portion thereof.

Next time you hear someone mention something like the right to a job, or the right to health care, or the right to finance whatever political or religious schemes they may have with other peoples' money, do everyone a favor. No matter how great a temptation it may prove, do not allow the government to become a tool of banditry and plunder. It is wrong for you to steal money from other people. It is just as wrong for you to ask a government, cowed by the tyranny of the majority, to perform this theft for you. ■



The world would be a better place if FDR wore green tights. Illustration by Scott Ungchusri.

Richard Badgett knows that, if the forefathers had been thinking right, the noble fight for the right to party could have been avoided. R.I.P. Mike D.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

Chow for Charity

Law firms disprove existence of pure altruism



by kimberley allen
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At first glance it looks like a charitable act, the sort of social responsibility that all businesses should endeavor. Simpson Thacher, a big New York law firm, instituted the Chow for Charity program, which gives summer associates the option to forego lavish \$60 lunches and instead spend a meager \$15. The difference is donated to nonprofit groups that provide legal services to the poor. In 2005, the firm donated \$27,000—the equivalent of 600 lunches.

Bravo. Clearly Simpson Thacher is a conscientious firm with, as its website claims, a “strong *pro bono* tradition.” Isn’t that admirable?

Yes and no. If it is charitable to give money that you’d spend anyway, then yes. It’s like donating money and deducting it from your taxes—hardly a selfless act. The Chow for Charity program doesn’t cost Simpson Thacher a dime; the only ones “sacrificing” are the summer associates. Even this is dubious, when considering that their lunch allowance alone exceeds the daily income of three-fourths of the world population.

That \$45 savings shrinks even further

in comparison to other firm outings—the endless happy hours, ritzy boat trips, extravagant golf weekends, etc. As law firms vie for top talent, money is suddenly no longer an object. Firms are happy to do whatever necessary to retain the interest of capricious summer associates. When one considers that a night of boozing with the firm could have paid a Rwandan college student’s full tuition (and done infinitely more

a much bigger trend. As one *Slate* article put it, exhibiting a “touch of conscience” is in vogue these days. Few expect companies and firms to dig deep for the less fortunate. And who can blame a profit-minded firm for implementing a charity program that makes more money than it gives?

It’s a stroke of genius, I’ll admit, and we’d all do the same. Show me the college student who volunteers

Simpson Thacher is motivated by altruism. Perhaps motivation is an irrelevant consideration, and we should judge a deed based solely on the amount of good it does for people. One could argue that the Chow for Charity program helps those in need; it shouldn’t matter that the giver benefits from it, as well.

Inevitably, we’re all self-interested human beings. In order to encourage donations, perhaps charities should play to what is arguably a stronger motivation than the desire to do good. After all, isn’t that the purpose of tax laws that encourage donations? Isn’t that the reason UTD has so many names on its buildings—because people who donate money want something in return?

While I can’t blame Simpson Thacher for giving out of self-interest, I will never admire them for doing so. I’d like to believe that altruism exists, that people occasionally move beyond self-interest and do good simply for the sake of helping others. Maybe it’s too much to hope for, and America’s values are increasingly self-centered. Regardless, I believe society, as a whole, will always value selfless acts. As long as that is the case, there’s still a reason to hope. ■

Kimberley Allen wonders
whether it’s rich, smoky-flavored chow.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

“The Chow for Charity program doesn’t cost Simpson Thacher a dime; the only ones “sacrificing” are the summer associates. Even this is dubious, when considering that their lunch allowance alone exceeds the daily income of three-fourths of the world population.”

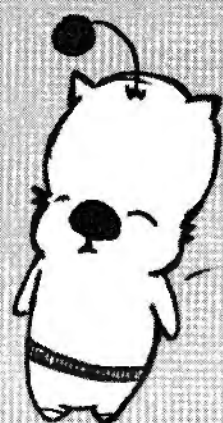
good), donating the difference from yesterday’s lunch seems hollow and stereotypically American.

It gets worse when you realize that cheaper lunches are also shorter; that firms actually *make* more money when they can bill \$150 for that productive half hour. Add to it that Simpson Thacher made \$2.5 million per partner last year, and the Chow for Charity program becomes merely the cheapest means to dismiss a wealthy firm’s societal debt.

Perhaps this offers a glimpse into

without keeping track of the hours or touting it on their resume. Yes, it’s great to volunteer, but we all know that employers want to hire people with a “touch of conscience.” I’m one of those who volunteers because I have to fill a community service requirement. (It’s ironic—volunteering, in many instances, is hardly voluntary.) So, I might exceed my required hours by one or two, just to look good, but anything more than that is asking too much.

But is that necessarily a bad thing? Perhaps it doesn’t matter whether



Mr. Moog says:
“AMP doesn’t have enough
anime content—kupo!”

Can you contribute? Help us out—and help out your resume!
Email us at amodestproposal@gmail.com.

Rich, smoky-flavored illustration
by Scott Ungchusri

Becoming an Incremental Environmentalist

Last month's issue of AMP gave environmental hopefuls a good, hard kick in the shins. Liam Skoyles' article "Solar Panels Eclipsed" exposed the energy sucking alter ego of "pollution free" solar plants. It is evidence like this, the kind that tells us that out trips to the recycling center produce more waste than our bottles and cans will ever save, that causes involuntary muscle spasms around my right eye. So, in the interest of my neurological well-being, I decided to clear up this environmental business for good.

When I began my quest for the end-all, be-all environmental strategy, I made a couple of assumptions that immediately left me discouraged. First of all, as many of you may already know, there is no magic silver bullet that will pierce the flesh of our pollution werewolves. Even if there were, we would still have vampires, goblins, and banshees to deal with. Secondly, there is no magical, conservationist book that automatically adjusts itself to your unique personal, social, and financial schedule. Actually, most resources are guilty of information overload, which can be discouraging in itself.

Lucky for you, I have done the research and have come to the conclusion that we are not stuck in an irreversible cycle of contamination and defilement. There are things that can be done at a grassroots level that have an actual effect on the world we live in. Tree huggers rejoice! Seriously though, if individuals became environmentally conscious on a global scale, they could actually curb global warming. So, here it goes: my assessment of the everyday changes of which I think we are capable.



by laura miller
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DRIVING HABITS

Transport accounts for 40% of personal CO₂ emissions

This was a hard one for me to swallow. I love my car; I need my car. How, then, can I reduce carbon dioxide emissions without giving it up? Obviously, we can't all go out and buy hybrids, nor should we (what would we do with all the old gas-guzzlers?). If you are in the market for a new car, keep in mind that smaller engines are 75% more efficient than their rip-roaring, heavy-duty, all-purpose counterparts.



Some tips for environmentally friendly driving:

- Slow down—reducing your speed by 10mph cuts emissions by 50% and saves a tank of gas per week.
- Check tires weekly, and get a tune up—replacing an air filter can increase gas mileage by 10%.
- Carpool—driving 2 days less per week saves 143 gallons of gas, and keeps 2,778 lbs. of CO₂ out of the atmosphere.
- Use public transportation whenever possible. This isn't easy given the sparse supply, but if the demand rises, so will the supply. UTD students can get free DART passes at utdallas.edu/dart.

REDUCE ELECTRICAL WASTE

Household energy accounts for 36% of personal emissions

Homes are massive energy users, and therefore massive emitters of greenhouse gas. Fortunately, there are some simple things you can do to reduce energy waste.

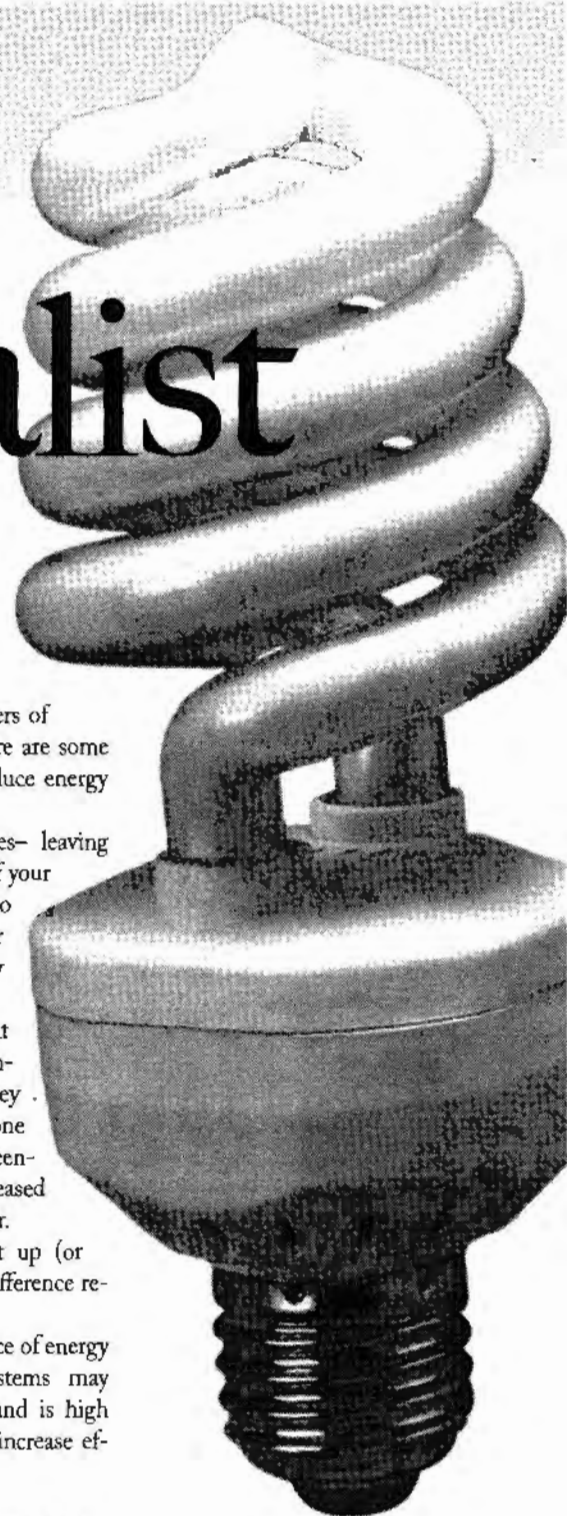
- Turn off your appliances—leaving them on stand-by eats up 10% of your electricity bill. Screen savers do not save energy. Putting your computer to sleep cuts its energy use by 80%.
- Use energy efficient light bulbs—they're a little more expensive, but they'll save you money in the long run. Just replacing one lightbulb stops 100 kg of greenhouse gasses from being released into the atmosphere each year.
- Turn your thermostat up (or down in the winter)—a 1° difference reduces emissions by 8%.
- Switch to a renewable source of energy (wind/hydroelectric)—these systems may have problems, but if the demand is high enough a way will be found to increase efficiency.

BUY ORGANIC/LOCAL FOODS

Responsible for 10-20% of personal emissions

How does the food I eat affect global warming? Two ways: 1) Nitrogen fertilizers used in non-organic fruits and vegetables release nitrogen oxide into the atmosphere, which has 310 times the warming power of carbon dioxide. 2) Foreign foods travel thousands, and tens of thousand miles to your local grocery store. Buying local foods cuts high-emission refrigeration and transportation by 90%.

Personal choice has not caused the environmental crisis. It is the result of social and historical trends that have favored industry and capitalism. Corporate giants like EXXON and KRAFT produce more pollution in one day than you or I could in a



lifetime. Many people feel that conservation is pointless while these super-polluters exist, but they don't understand the importance of purchasing power. Money feeds the beast; spend yours elsewhere, and it will eventually starve.

User-friendly web sites that support sustainable industries have petitions you can sign and give templates for letters you can send to local representatives: lcv.org (League of Conservation Voters), organicconsumer.org, VoteHemp.com, responsibleshipper.org.

Laura Miller is one good idea after another... and environmentally friendly while at it. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu

Will the Trinity Take Its Toll?

It's up to you to decide



by megan newman

megan.newman@student.utdallas.edu

What's green, black and controversial all over? The Trinity Project, of course! All summer, the project has been generating serious heat with Dallas politicians as well as the public, and as winter draws near, the heat is all but dissipating. Instead, battle lines are being drawn, and the whole city is preparing for a fight about the toll road as laid out in the plans of the Trinity Project.

At this point, some of you may be wondering what in the world I'm talking about. Let me fill you in: The Trinity Project is the largest public works project in the history of Dallas. City leaders had been crafting the project for over ten years when, in 1998, \$246 million were given to the project by Dallas voters.

Since then, a private organization known as the Trinity Trust has been raising money to foot the rest of the \$1.2 billion tab. The project includes plans to increase flood protection near the Trinity River while cleaning the river and surrounding area. In the process, manmade lakes, recreational fields, whitewater rapids courses, an equestrian center, three beautifully gigantic bridges to span the Trinity, and what would be one of the largest city parks in the nation will be created. Now we arrive at the tricky part of the project: also in the works is the planned toll road that would run parallel to I-35 and the Trinity River in downtown Dallas.

Two groups are squaring off on the issue, and one of them, led by City Council member Angela Hunt, has already succeeded in calling a referendum on the

toll road. That means if you're the lucky reader who is registered to vote in Dallas County, you get a say in this issue (yay!). Read on—and bask in the glory of being an informed voter and citizen.

How does a toll road evoke so much controversy? Angela Hunt and Trinity Vote (her pro-referendum organization) claim that the toll road is not what the Dallas voters authorized in 1998. She argues that Dallas residents were fooled by diagrams and media that focused mostly on a city

toll road, as currently planned, would be a tollway with between 4 and 6 lanes of traffic and a speed limit of 55 mph. Reducing the speed of the road ensures that it could not be a tollway. At first glance, Proposition 1 sounds like it would involve a relatively minor change in the project's plans—so what's the problem?

Vote No, an organization headed by former Dallas City Council member Craig Holcomb, is the organization opposing Angela Hunt's Trinity Vote. Vote No cites

would improve—something that has been a goal of Dallas for years; and finally, 4) using this plan prevents another long delay in the Trinity Project's completion.

If the referendum is passed, there is no other plan in place for the road; thus, it would be back to the drawing board twice—once for the road in the Trinity Project and once for the congestion-relieving road that would have to be placed elsewhere.

If you came to college from outside of the Dallas area and do not know the background, there have been setbacks before. Dallas locals know that “back to the drawing board” means political bickering and delay.

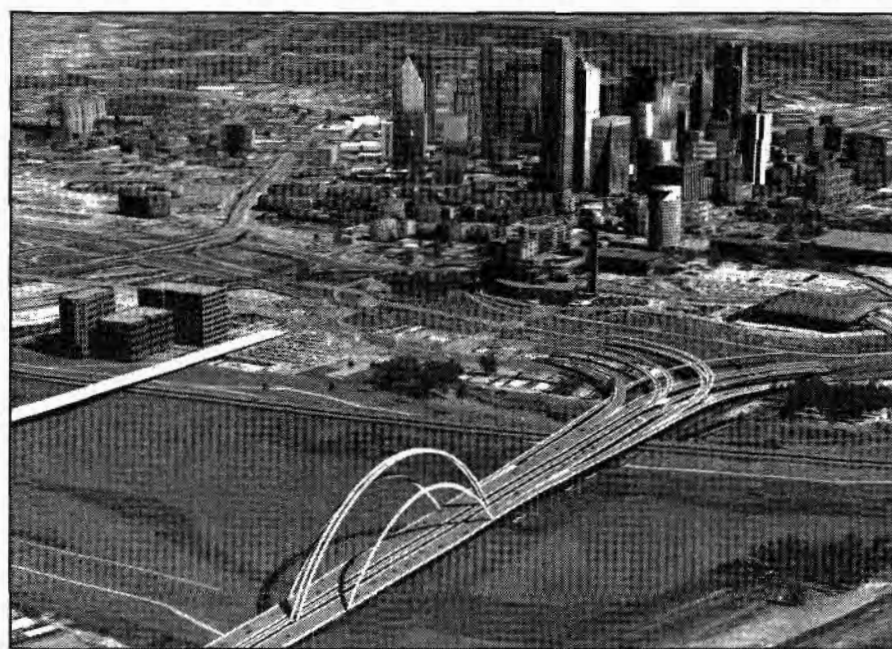
The road as planned serves multiple functions and earns useful outside money for its construction. According to Vote No, it is simply practical.

Holcomb's Vote No organization has one more important point: blocking the construction of the toll way hurts the long, interconnected chain of compromises that have marked debates over the Trinity Project since its inception more than a decade ago.

Excuse me for a moment while I climb onto the soapbox... Ahem. I am just a lowly student writer, standing before you with an extremely complex issue. The way I see it, the toll road itself is only a link in this chain of compromises that have been painfully forged over the past ten years by city leaders and citizens like us.

Finally, just as the chain is beginning to pull the project into reality, one city council member decides that she doesn't want a toll road near our largest city park, bearing down on the chain with a chisel and hammer. Luckily, you can save the chain and allow it to do its work by voting NO to Proposition 1 on November 6. But even if you don't agree with me, I encourage you to vote.

After all, the new park, golden gate-esque bridges, and road will belong to all of us—wouldn't you like to shape the outcome? ■



Concept art for the Trinity River Corridor. Photo courtesy of www.trinityrivercorridor.org

park with lakes and trees; the toll road, she claims, was not even mentioned as part of the project.

Over the summer, she hustled up the support for a referendum to counter toll road progress that will appear on the ballot on November 6 titled “Proposition 1.” This proposal stipulates that no road can be built between the levee walls with more than 4 total lanes of traffic. In addition, the speed limit can be no higher than 35 mph. The

several marked advantages for keeping the toll road as planned: 1) the North Texas Tollway Authority will pitch in \$1 million for every mile of the 10-mile toll road to aid in landscaping and levee construction; 2) the road would perform the much-needed function of relieving congestion in the area (if the toll way is not built, it could cost up to \$900 million in tax money to build a road to serve this same function elsewhere); 3) with traffic congestion down, air quality

Voter registration information for Dallas County

Voter Registration Form

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/vr17.pdf>

Mail the form to:

Elections Administrator Bruce Sherbet
2377 North Stemmons Frwy, Suite 820
Dallas, TX 75207

The last day to register is October 9.

For voting locations:

<http://www.dalcoelections.org/Nov62007/EVLocations.htm>

Megan Newman's favorite travel snack
is okra and fried plantains.

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

I'm Thinkin' Arby's

...and I can't help it!



by alex palmer

alex.palmer@student.utdallas.edu

I, like many college students and fast food connoisseurs, love Arby's. The restaurant can't quite make a jingle out of the ingredients of their items like McDonald's Big Mac can (Bun, beef, bun and maybe some canned cheese doesn't really go very well with any musical accompaniment or rap), but damn those sandwiches are good. Unfortunately, Arby's wonderful love cylinders are at the top of the price spectrum for what is considered fast food. Even with the sandwich's stark simplicity, a number three, after tax, will put you back nearly seven bucks. A consumer is hard pressed to find one menu item that will cost more than that anywhere else in the fast food world. How is one able to balance the godlike allure of an Arby's sandwich with a college student's budget?

Our salvation came with Arby's pick five for \$5 promotion. I know there are others like me that remember the original promotion for \$5.00. It was a golden era that will, perhaps, never come again. Soon, this deal was put on the menu permanently, but changing the menu layout in all of the Arby's across the nation must have been expensive because the price was eventually raised to \$5.95. How did the public react to the ninety-five cent increase? From what I could see, they didn't. It seemed that not many people noticed that the small zeros to the upper right hand of the five had suddenly changed into other unfamiliar, strange numbers. Personally I thought it was rather sneaky to add onto the price, but in comparison to the extra nine tenths of a cent that we pay for every gallon of gasoline, the price increase seemed hardly veiled. Ok, so the golden age of five had transmuted into the moderately less impressive silver age of five ninety-five. Still, the company had

the "five" repetition going, and five for five ninety-five was a pretty good deal. With all of the fives, who would recognize that it was actually more like 5 for 6?

For what seemed like years, there was calm in the Arby's world. Then, very recently, right under our noses, tragedy struck. If you have not heard, sit down. The Arby's pick five for five ninety-five deal is now the pick five for six ninety-five not so "deal-esque". The silver age has disappeared; only darkness remains. I proclaim that I will never visit Arby's and their overpriced, breathtakingly

and went to Arby's and picked five for six ninety-five. Presently, I am sitting at my computer, trying not to drip Arby's sauce on my keyboard, and thinking of nothing but my weak will power and my fantastic sandwich. Feeling simultaneously ashamed and blissful is a peculiar thing.

Taking a step back from my personal, short-lived boycott of Arby's, I can now ask myself: how expensive would Arby's sandwiches have to be for me not to buy them at least occasionally? Sure the frequency of my visits would decrease if I

King had a \$50 burger that was any good, it wouldn't be immediately shot down as a colossal waste of money; it would just be the famous \$50 burger.

The fact is that in an opulent, capitalist society like America, we have completely lost our sense of value. I find myself applying the question of how much is too much to things outside of the fast food sphere. One can spend one thousand times what my car costs for an exotic car like a Ferrari, but ultimately its purpose is still to get me from one place to another, albeit

faster and looking cooler. We see watches with price tags as hefty as that of a new house and coats that cost as much as European vacations.

So what should the rich Americans do about this? If they can afford it, they should eat Arby's while driving their Ferraris and checking the time on their overly expensive watches. They will be warm in their mink, and if the Arby's sauce gets on their coats they can just buy another. They, or their parents, have done well, and it is only capitalistic to spend the money on whatever whim catches their fancy at the time. The sense of value has disappeared, but not due to some sort of degenerate inappreciative American mindset. It is due to the fact that in a capitalist society, value is a product of what we want versus what we can afford. If one can afford anything, value becomes not necessarily lost but just a null point. The problems come into play

when we go ahead and buy what we cannot afford. Therefore, on a smaller scale, the rest of us can act like the rich. Capitalism is a system in which, if you are able to afford it, there is no reason that you can't have what you want. The extra two dollars at Arby's might be angering, but it certainly isn't putting any real strain on my pocket. If I want an Arby's sandwich, I should go and buy one because I can. ■

Alex Palmer is thinkin' Arby's...
and okra...how 'bout you?

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

 Arby's® Melt	 Medium Soft Drink	 Ham Melt
 Potato Cakes	PICK 5 FOR \$? 95	 Medium Curly Fries
 Turnover	 Small Shake	 Three Mozzarella Sticks

Expect to see this in your neighborhood Arby's in a decade. From Arby's.com

tasty sandwiches again!

I have to admit that this article was intended to only be a melodramatic rant brought on by my last visit at Arby's during which I discovered this unsettling fact. The plan was to act really mad, then get on the Internet and find the dates on which the two price increases occurred and say how much an Arby's sandwich would cost in the year 2050. This number would surely be in the area of the price of a small used car today.

The article did not go as planned. I ranted for a paragraph or two, got online to see if I could find some dates, got hungry,

had to pick five for ten dollars, but would I every now and then buy five Arby's sandwiches for two dollars a pop? Almost certainly. 5 for 20? Probably at least once. Would I like it? Not initially, but as I said, those sandwiches are damn good. Although it is my personal favorite, Arby's is not alone in my disregard of cost-benefit analysis. The dollar menu at McDonald's is intriguing, but how many times have I gone to McDonald's and bought one thing from the dollar menu? Taco Bell is the king of cheap, but I have personally spent over \$20 on tacos at one in the morning. If Burger

Fatty J's Picks



by james fickenscher
jxf036000@utdallas.edu

Noodle Bar

16627 Coit Road - Dallas, TX 75248 - Phone: (972) 380-2754

Food Tastiness - Excellent - 8
Appearance and presentation - Great - 7
Service - Great - 7
Bang for your buck - Excellent - 8
Overall - 7.67

Best deal - Vegetable Dishes
Worst deal - Lo Mein dishes
James's choice - Pad Thai

If you are looking for great, inexpensive Vietnamese food within walking distance of campus, Noodle Bar is where it's at.

As you walk into the restaurant you first notice the mural of a Vietnamese jungle covering the entire east wall. You are then greeted with a smile and shown to a table.

The service, of course, depends on each particular visit and waitress, but generally the service is prompt and friendly.

Everything else notwithstanding, the food is why I chose this restaurant to review. The restaurant not only provides classic Vietnamese foods, but also other Asian foods like Pad Thai and Lo Mein noodles.

I love all Asian food, but especially Thai food, and

the Pad Thai at Noodle Bar is delectable and flavorful.

The appetizers are also affordable and quite delicious, which is very unusual for a casual dining restaurant.

The entrees cost from around \$5 to \$7 and the serving size is very plentiful; even a big guy like me is completely satisfied from an entrée at Noodle Bar.

Noodle Bar, as any Asian restaurant should be, is very vegetarian-friendly as well. The main features of their dishes are the noodles and sauces, so any dish can easily become a delicious vegetarian dish if desired.

All in all, visits to the Noodle Bar are scrumptious and affordable, and it is a great atmosphere for studying, casual meals, or even a date with a special someone. ■

7632 Campbell Road #315 - Dallas, TX 75248 - Phone: (972) 931-2267

This chain of restaurants local to the Dallas area was started in 1946 and the first restaurant was just off of Mockingbird east of I-75.

The name "Campisi's Egyptian Lounge" might give you one impression about the type of food offered there, but don't let it fool you - it's an actual Italian restaurant.

This casual dining restaurant has a location next to campus on Campbell and Coit, and features delicious food at a fairly reasonable price.

UTD students who dine at this location also get a discounted price.

Everything I have ever had at Campisi's has been delicious, and I highly recommend visiting this gem next door to campus.

From eggplant parmesan to pizza to ravioli this restaurant offers great Italian food with varying serving sizes and prices.

The chicken and eggplant parmesan is a little more expensive than the other dishes, but the serving size is significantly increased as well.

If you are going for value then splitting a pizza with friends is the way to go. The pizza sauce at Campisi's is delicious and vast amount of topping varieties allows you to create the perfect pizza for you.

The amount of possible pizza toppings really makes this restaurant stand out. You can adorn your pizza with classic toppings like pepperoni and mushrooms but you can also add more unusual toppings like salami, broccoli, or artichoke hearts. ■

Campisi's

Food tastiness - Excellent - 8
Appearance and Presentation - Excellent - 8
Service - Good - 6
Bang for your buck - Good - 6
Overall - 7.25

Best deal - Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan
Worst deal - Sandwiches
James's Choice - Pizza with Everything

A Modest Proposal

Food tastiness - Okay - 6
Appearance and Presentation - Awesome - 10
Service - Best - 10
Bang for your buck - No Contest - 10

Overall - 9.0
Best deal - Uranus
Worst deal -
These house ads (hint hint!)
James's Choice -
Paper with everything

What's Your Choice?

SEND IT IN:

amodestproposal@gmail.com



Best Live Act Not Named Muse: The Killers

Let me start by saying that I am a huge Muse fan, to the point that it's unhealthy. That being said, I needed to exclude them from this award because I do not trust my own judgment in any contest that they are an option. From what I hear, Arcade Fire probably should have won this award, but they just happened to be competing with the same time slot as Muse. The Killers, though, fit into my schedule quite nicely. Despite reports of them, at times, giving a lackluster set, I eagerly anticipated the start of their show along with about 50,000 other people. I really was curious how some of their singles like "Read My Mind" and "When You Were Young" would translate onto the stage. I had seen YouTube videos of the band live before, and they seemed narcissistic to John Mayer proportions. However, once they finally took the stage, they dispelled all the doubts that I had going in. From the antler-encrusted keyboard to the sheer energy of front man Brandon Flowers, The Killers electrified the stage, and after their set had the crowd clamoring for more. After hearing them tear through a mixture of old and new material, I came away convinced they're more than just pop fluff. - *Ryan*

The Best Times to Grab Something to Eat: Joss Stone & Augustana

These two really were the cream of the crappy crop. We walked over to Joss Stone to see exactly how her set was going after leaving Blonde Redhead, and approached I could feel the musical talent being sucked from the air. I think it is an absolute tragedy that the person who mangled The White Stripes' single "Fell in Love with a Girl" played on the same stage the Stripes were supposed to play on this year. Needless to say the best part of Joss Stone's set was the Mint Honey Sweet Leaf Tea and pizza I was eating during it. Augustana wasn't much better, with only one song creeping out of mediocrity. Not only was the music "bleh," but they also didn't put on a very good show, proving that they deserve low-attendance 1:30 p.m. set. It was actually a really tough decision to distinguish between the two, but since more people actually saw Joss Stone, that meant there were less people getting food--thus making it a better time to eat. - *A*



ryan henry

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the Best and Worst Austin City Limits



Futureman unleashes the Drumitar. Photo by Hannah Frank.

Coolest Invented Instrument: Béla Fleck and the Flecktones

Let's face it -- banjos are cool. Especially bright blue electric ones. But it takes someone with serious skill to rock out on the banjo, and Béla Fleck is one of the few people in this world who can pull it off. From classical to bluegrass to jazz, Fleck can make anything sound amazing on the banjo. Put Fleck on stage with the rest of the Flecktones and what you get is a redefinition of what their instruments can do. And who can resist dropping a jaw when you see the drummer Futureman's self-invented Drumitar, which makes it possible to play an entire set of drums with just a few fingers? And he's got a really cool pirate hat. Yes, they went there. My only beef with this set was Fleck's distinct lack of fun banter with the crowd. The huge plume of black smoke rising in the air as a result of a fire outside the festival grounds resulted in nary a comment. The only thing the microphones were used for was to introduce the band members and to inform us of their recent Grammy win. I guess you can't have everything, though. That mesmerizing banjo music was definitely enough for me. - *Hannah*

As I drove away from this year's

Austin City Limits Festival, now in its sixth year, evolved over the years. I've attended five of the downside of studying abroad. As a former resident of Austin, I look forward to each year, even if it does make life for the festival unique is the combination of vastly different styles for jazz, bluegrass, rock, or something in between, there's



A fire on the first day met with general disinterest by the bands.

Layout design by Luke McKenzie

Most Likely to Have Accidentally Harmed Members of the Audience with Ice Cream: Preservation Hall Jazz Band

There's nothing like good old New Orleans-style jazz bands, and nobody can satiate that craving like the guys from Preservation Hall. Even though their set was on the tiny WaMu tent stage way off by the food court, PHJB had quite a crowd, every one of them dancing or clapping or tapping their toes. Though

the music was awesome, as is to be expected from so well respected a band as the PHJB, the best part of their short set was when the clowns came and started hurling single-serving cups of Blue Bell at the crowd. It made perfect sense – really, how else can you perform "I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream?" – *Hannah*



hannah frank

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st of
mits

self thinking about how the festival has
ast year's inability to attend a definite
tal city, the ACL Fest is one of the things
ficult at times. Part of what makes this
all in one place. Whether you're looking
everyone. Therefore, in the spirit of this

amalgamation, Ryan and I
would like to present our
own Best and Worst
of ACL 2007...

In the midst of all the loud rock coming from all the other stages, Billy Joe Shaver seems glaringly out of place. But this wrinkled little old man with just three fingers on his right hand has been in the music business for decades, writing lyrics that you'll only hear in country music. One of my favorites, a song that Shaver never has trouble getting the crowd to sing along to, has a chorus that goes like this – "The devil made me do it the first time (the second time I done it on my own)." Shaver has led a wild and crazy life and won't let you forget it. His is one of those sets you just have to see, even when three other bands you like are playing at the same time. After all, contrary to what his song "I'm Gonna Live Forever" may lead some to believe, Shaver isn't always going to be around for us to see.

– Hannah

Best Old Dude: Billy Joe Shaver



Photo by Hannah Frank.

Best Random Instrument Changes: DeVotchKa

I had never heard of DeVotchKa until someone at another ACL set told me they did some of the music for Little Miss Sunshine, one of my favorite movies of the last year. With music sounding simultaneously like Eastern European gypsy songs and modern rock, I couldn't help getting up and dancing to many of their songs. DeVotchKa is comprised of a lead singer on a variety of strummed instruments, most notably an electric mandola (coolest instrument EVER), a bassist who also rocks out on the tuba every now and then, a violinist/accordion player, and a drummer who randomly busts out a trumpet for a few songs. With such a stellar combo, how could you go wrong? – *Hannah*

The Surprisingly Good Performance: Damien Rice

I was only at Damien Rice in order to get a good spot for Muse, and having listened to a few of his songs (read: "Cannonball" and "Blower's Daughter"), I was not sure exactly how well his music would transfer to a festival setting. That being said, Damien Rice was on fire. From the moment that he came out, the crowd was electric. He did play "Cannonball" and "Blower's Daughter", but in a way that I had never heard them before-- upbeat and more like a rock song instead of a borderline lounge song. In fact, throughout his entire set, instead of muttering through teenage angst, he gave the songs fire and drive, not allowing them to be swallowed by the sometimes-dreary lyrical material. The end to set was the best though, when he played a really good cover of "Bang Bang" by Nancy Sinatra. That's the second year in row that I've heard a cover of that song at ACL. Damien Rice overcame his greatest obstacle – making his generally mellow tunes thoroughly engaging. – *Ryan*

Why did I give out an award that had no competition? Because they deserve it. The only band to feature the cowbell prominently in their music, LCD Soundsystem moved the crowd to get up and dance. There were very few people who were able to resist the techno-pop sound and stand completely stationary. Looking around, I could see quite a few people doing the white man overbite dance. Even though I had never heard one of their songs (I was there off a recommendation from a friend), I was really glad that I was able to make it over to their set. The most inspiring part was when James Murphy, the lead singer and founder of dance-punk label DFA records, broke out a specially-made cowbell in a rousing solo during "Daft Punk Is Playing At My House." Playing many of their better songs like "Losing My Edge" and "Yeah," LCD Soundsystem showed that side projects can, and maybe should, be main projects. – *Ryan*

More Cowbell Award: LCD Soundsystem

So, Why Did We Invade Iraq, Anyway?

Thoughts on the war from a political-debate newcomer



by luke mckenzie
spartan.24601@gmail.com

Full disclaimer: I am by no means a political science major. Up until recently, I had no strong opinions about the Bush Administration or the war in Iraq. Having thought about it, this article is an attempt to prove to myself that, in fact, I do. (Apologies if you find it ill-informed or ill-reasoned — I welcome your comments on our website.)

So, Why Did We Invade, Anyway?

For me, there's no question about why American troops are in Iraq — they're defending their country's foreign interests. Or, at least, they were at first.

Foreign interests fall broadly into one of two categories. First: exports from other countries which we need and want to ensure *keep* coming. Second: exports from other countries which we don't need and want to ensure *stop* coming.

It so happens that we've identified Iraq as the foremost source (or likely source) of the most important things in both categories: in the former, oil; in the latter, terrorism. (You don't seem to hear about the oil from President Bush very often, do you?)

Naturally, then, the Administration wants to sway the future of this country, and the Bush Administration did it in a very big way: by deposing the country's oppressive dictator, Saddam Hussein, and trying to install a democracy in his place.

That's where the best-intentions theory breaks down. As you may know, there's a 1994 TV interview with Dick Cheney floating around the Internet (link on our website) in which he explains, quite eloquently, that removing the Iraqi people from the oppression of Hussein would release an explosion of sectarian violence between the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, who would rather not share the country.

Fast forward to today: surprise! It happened just as Cheney predicted a decade ago, and we seem unprepared—

while, ironically, committed—to handle it. That's what American troops are busy doing now—damage control.

Bush's Jihad

So why did we open the can of worms? (I believe, without knowing, that there might have been other, better ways of protecting those foreign interests.)

President Bush has sometimes painted the war almost as a religious crusade, as fundamental as the fight between good and evil, wherein the concept of freedom itself is at stake. So was it religiously motivated?

Now, I don't mean to put down the American people: they have the mental and moral capacity for good decisions. Yet, accurate information is a necessary ingredient, and if—as has been suggested—the Administration wasn't well-informed, surely the public isn't, either.

“Accurate information is a necessary ingredient [in decisionmaking], and if—as has been suggested—the administration wasn't well-informed, surely the public isn't, either. ... Perhaps [Bush] is trying to leverage our country's Christian leanings to justify our commitment to finish what we (unwisely?) started.”

So, in a sense, we are reduced to a travesty of a democracy: the Administration makes a “best guess” about what needs to be done, and does what it must to convince the public to back them up. (Unfortunately, in this case, it means treating the public like first-graders—and sadly, perhaps since we're mostly so ill-informed, it worked well enough.)

It may very well be that the “Bush's jihad” idea is mostly just an aspect of that. Perhaps he's trying to leverage our country's Christian leanings to justify our very real commitment to finish what we (unwisely?) started.

His speech on Thursday 13th September, which ignited this article, was nearly another instance of the same. The

only instance of the word “evil” was in a quotation—but the sentiments in that quote are all appeals Mr. Bush has made in the past.

“We believe this is a war of good and evil and we must win, even if it cost the life of our own son. Freedom is not free,” he said, quoting an email he received from grieving parents. He went on to comment, “[Our troops are] in a fight that is just, and right, and necessary. And now it falls to us to finish the work they have begun.”

Think about it. If our country wasn't so religious, would President Bush make the same kind of appeals?

“Our government makes no sense unless it is founded on a deeply felt religious faith,” said Dwight Eisenhower, “and I don't care what it is.” He knew that faith, if commonly shared, galvanizes a people and can motivate or justify action. Perhaps Bush is banking on the American people's reaction to his speeches to be positive on average.

— of predicated a war upon a purely religious agenda that isn't indicative of the will of the people.

Maybe it's my rose-colored glasses with respect to Mr. Bush, but I just don't think that's what's going on.

Moral Imperatives

So what else might it have been? Was it greed? Simple miscalculation, due to that questionable intel? A false sense of derring-do?

How about moralism? Few would deny that the war is being *justified* morally. “Our moral and strategic imperatives are one,” said President Bush. “We must help Iraq defeat those who threaten its future and also threaten ours.”

(Is he talking about Hussein or the terrorists?)

Of course, nobody wants humanitarian crises and persecution to persist. Still, there are certainly many worse ones in the world, to which we've sent nowhere near as many troops. I suppose resolution of the Iraq crisis is just a pleasant side effect of the invasion — a third bird to kill with the one stone of democracy, aside from the oil and terrorism issues. I have trouble buying moralism as a primary objective of the war.

What Happens Now?

Am I all caught up? Okay. Now I like to think that I can appreciate the confusion of the quagmire in which we have ensnared ourselves.

We can't stay in Iraq forever. But the question, for Bush, isn't about when we'll leave; in his speech, he intimated to us, in no uncertain terms, his iron resolve to stay until we are victorious.

So what, then, is victory? We're not, as far as I'm aware, waiting for anyone to wave white flags in our faces. Is there some kind of threshold of decreased sectarian violence we need to reach?

Given Bush's limited remaining time in office, it seems that's a question his successor will have to answer. ■

Luke McKenzie is hoping the AMP website isn't about to see a “comment jihad.”
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

A Color-Blind Eye on Education

How two court cases may limit the use of racial quotas in education



by charlie cliff
cac061000@utdallas.edu

With all of the excitement of an election year and the shenanigans that certain members of Congress may or may not have gotten up to in an airport bathroom, most Americans have focused their attention on the first two branches of government. But while we all turn on the television every day only to be bombarded by sarcastic pundits, the Jan Brady of American government has been up to her own brand of hootenanny.

In June, the Supreme Court handed down two rulings limiting public school's use of race as a factor in determining placement of students. In short, the ruling declared that using racial quotas to forcefully integrate schools is unconstitutional.

Up until these decisions, some public schools had given greater consideration to racial minorities in the admission of students. These rulings only apply to public schools, referring to any elementary or secondary school funded or operated primarily by the State; therefore, private schools, universities, businesses, and potential employers are unaffected. But some civil rights activists feel that this is a blow struck against affirmative action and the beginning of a return to racial segregation.

However, according to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "desegregation" means the assignment of children to public schools...without regard to their race". The current two rulings seem in line with this philosophy, and these decisions certainly serve as benchmarks against affirmative action. Affirmative action often employs racial quotas to enforce equality, which force schools to factor race into any bid made for admittance.

But the June rulings prohibited use

of racial quotas in either high school admittance (*Parents Involved in Community Schools Inc. v. Seattle School District*) or the transfer of students (*Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education*). America may now see a movement away from race regulation through government.

Those who approve of affirmative action base their decisions on the idea that without the extra help provided by the many government initiatives, minorities will not be afforded the same opportunities as affluent whites because of the economic and social environment minorities are trapped in. Racial quotas serve to compensate for this *de facto* segregation.

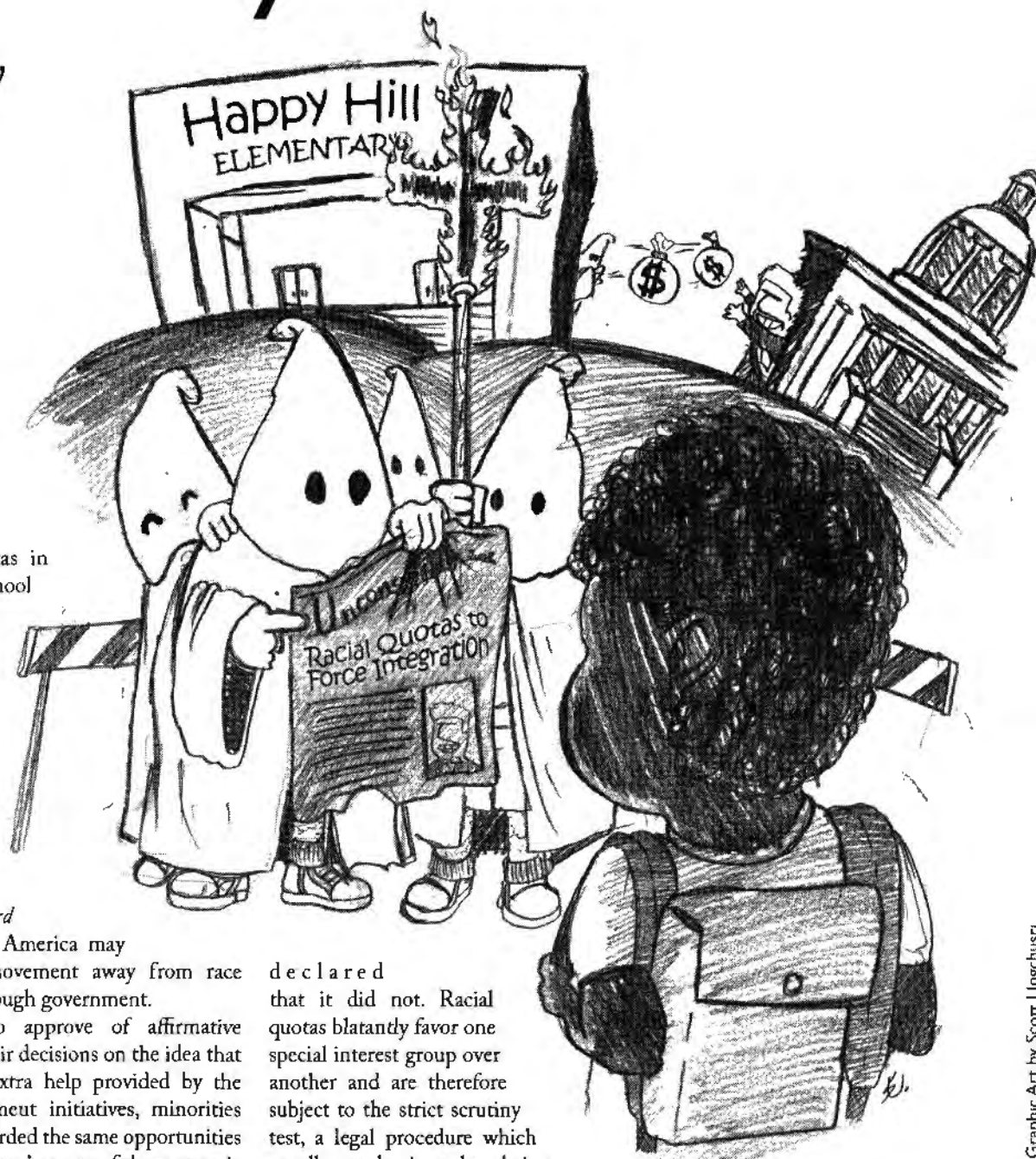
Personally, I disapprove of government interference in social affairs, preferring to be left alone rather than be dictated to from any so-called moral high ground; but, at the same time I recognize that some, if not all, people are innately fallible and can easily be prejudiced. But the idea of racial quotas seems contrary to the entire philosophy of race and gender equality, because race and gender become a factor in a competitive environment. The question is whether such social regulations compensate the natural tendency of people to discriminate and the socio-economic barriers that follow racial lines.

In the case of racial quotas, the courts

declared that it did not. Racial quotas blatantly favor one special interest group over another and are therefore subject to the strict scrutiny test, a legal procedure which usually results in a law being overturned. So we can conclude that the implementation of legal quotas is wrong in a constitutional sense, if not in a moral sense. But, did it work? Did it benefit society as a whole? What effect did affirmative action have on the American populace?

The scope of this case may seem small to most people at the moment, but it is upon precedents like this that the most important cases in American history are decided. Each case is built upon past cases and can thus be built upon by future rulings. So we must ask the question: What do these decisions lay the foundation for? Will our children attend schools made up of predominantly one race? Will they think nothing of this?

Many people wiser than I look back



Graphic Art by Scott Ungchusri

into history and cite certain rulings as the start of new eras in American politics. It takes no stretch of the imagination to see how these cases could serve as the platform to a host of new litigation both for and against modern integration efforts. Will this case mark a turning point in American life? The years ahead could prove most interesting, and if you feel strongly on these issues I suggest that you keep a watchful eye on the affairs of the state and the courts. ■

Charlie Cliff doesn't want to be color-blind... on the inside!
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

Home Is Where the Dirt Samples Are

Russia's claim of the North Pole brings up ideas of citizenship



by jordan youngblood
jry031000@utdallas.edu

Ask your average American about how they define a country. You'll probably get a conglomeration of answers: a system of government, a group of common people, a series of shared beliefs, or a language. However, as the Russian government recently reminded the world, there's one other key thing that defines a country—dirt.

Before a few weeks ago, each of the five countries bordering the North Pole owned a portion of the Arctic. However, after planting a flag at the bottom of the seabed under the North Pole, Russian officials have announced that samples of dirt from the area match those from the continental shelf that the Russian Federation owns.

Other than the potential to tap into the Pole's vast resources of polar bears and endearing Coca-Cola advertisements, there's the very real presence of mineral and energy deposits under the surface. So, thanks to the wonders of science, those stuck in that vast frozen wasteland will have to learn to get chummy with their fellow comrades if the United Nations approves the claim.

What's the significance of this? Well, from a strictly pragmatic perspective, any addition of energy resources to a country's arsenal never hurts, and Putin isn't going to turn down an opportunity to bolster Russia's already large oil reserves. While a geologist rightly pointed out that using soil as a barometer for ownership would allow Canada to lay claim to most of Eurasia, they're at least trying some sort of scientific rationale.

However, I'm interested in what this means in a world that already finds itself in flux about social and national identity. When the mere similarity of dirt is enough to claim an entire area as part of another country, those first few criteria of shared government and culture seem somewhat abstract. What ultimately does it mean to be Russian, American, or any such name?

Territory's always been at the heart of what it means to be a nation. Moses and the Israelites may have been a spiritual nation, but it's the very real pursuit of a specific area of land and the subsequent defense thereof that's been the most reported story for three thousand years. God's covenant dealt not only with descendants but a place to put them—a land of milk and honey that remains at the crux of the Israelite identity and the primary conflict between its neighbors.

Jump ahead to Martin Heidegger in 1940s Germany, and you find a similar theme: this specific land and our relationship to it make us great. And "America the Beautiful" knows exactly what it's doing when it stirs up images of the land to inspire patriotism. Citizens are distinctly linked to their dirt.

Yet in a world that continually moves closer to a global scale, the difference between countries at times seems to be only formed by a difference in dirt. Ideas flow from place to place, languages shift context,

and an increasingly mobile citizenry helps to create homogeneity in world culture that has never been encountered before. At least in terms of the middle class, people in places as disparate as South America and Japan are far more similar now than they've ever been in the past.

Technology and commerce have allowed us to stay connected no matter where we go, as now you can grab a bite to eat at the McDonalds next to the Pantheon in Rome. Moving abroad for this generation seems to come with much greater ease than before; I don't share my dad's trepidation about people overseas because I encounter them on a daily basis here at UTD or on the internet at home.

However, as anyone keeping up with the news here at home can tell you, once ideas stop existing in an abstract form and take root on your own dirt, it's much more difficult to make a harmonious relationship. The soil on one side of the Rio Grande isn't drastically

different from the other's, but thanks to an invisible line created by politics and war, it makes all the difference in the world.

When it comes down to ideas of economics or culture, dirt changes into a symbol for the things we consider central to our lives. If we sense these things are threatened, such as in the immigration issue, nothing matters more than who is supposed to be on one section of dirt or another. Send an e-mail to your Mexican friend in Guanajuato and we're all world citizens, but if he speaks another language or finds employment in your country, the situation changes.

As far as public relations, we find ourselves in a very different world climate now than in the past in terms of war and expansion. It's the moral issues and cultural differences that ostensibly spur us on to wars with others. Our current war was, on the surface, due to a need to instill one political system of government over another; we wanted to remove a repressive regime and create a more democratic one.

Yet ideals mean nothing without dirt: the immediate effect of any war, no matter what the reasoning, is almost always a redistribution of territory. From Nazism to Communism, it's not merely the ideal that causes worry, but how much space it occupies. And as far as both Iraq and the North Pole goes, it's not merely the dirt but what's underneath it that counts. Land, as always, means both physical and political wealth, no matter what Rousseau wanted.

One of Putin's biggest accomplishments as a politician has been to reawaken a sense of patriotism and pride in Mother Russia. It's no small thing that this has coincided with an attempt to gain more dirt, whether it is frozen tundra or not. It's this fusing of land and idea, the tie that forms between the two, that informs our sense of citizenship. No matter who is actually dwelling in the North Pole, the force of that expanse of land connected to a country's name changes its nature completely. And though we may continue to grow similar on certain things at the world level, inevitably the need for some dirt of one's own will arise.

Bring on the samples. ■

*Jordan's attempt to claim the entirety of Waterview by sprinkling the same dirt over every building fell on deaf ears. The U.N. is his only hope.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*



Illustration by Scott Ungchusri

Apocalypse Soon

Waste and misuse leave agents of destruction out and about



by **alice post**
apost@student.utdallas.edu

Some say cleanliness is next to godliness, probably because it is impossible to keep our surroundings clean all the time. The consequences of messiness usually involve creating booby traps that we miss until we stumble upon them. Legos on the floor, gum on the sidewalk, glass in the road... eventually, they all come back to bite us. So when world leaders lose track of nuclear warheads, vials of phosgene, or bird flu-ridden people, everyone on the planet starts treading lightly.

Take for instance what happened at the very end of August. A B-52 bomber was loaded with 5 nuclear warheads. Through some miscommunication, the tracking went into limbo for three hours until reappearing in Louisiana. Ok, technology has glitches all the time, right? Really, though, this glitch is too large to ignore.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), between 1991 and 2001, there were 175 cases of trafficking in nuclear material. Generally, we can think of this as sugar ants repositioning loose material in the kitchen, since most of those cases did not involve the transportation of enough of the enriched material to actually construct anything. Still,

even though sugar ants don't bite, we still call the exterminator to get rid of them.

Nuclear weapons are burdensome, tedious to make, and the fallout can be apocalyptic. Rather than playing with these dangerous toys, the bad guys or negligent good guys can amuse themselves with chemical weapons!

The Associated Press reported that vials of the chemical phosgene recovered from an Iraqi weapons facility in 1996 were recently found in a United Nations office in Manhattan in August of this year. Phosgene is a lung irritant that was developed as a chemical weapon during World War I. Several theories for this "misplacement" exist. My favorite is that these samples were kept as souvenirs by UN inspectors. Truly, it is amazing what you can find in a messy office!

The world has thrown its chemical laundry on the floor for so long that the Arms Control Association has compiled a table of reported stockpiles along with their due dates for destruction. Comforting? It gets better.

The United States has 27,777 metric tons of binary nerve agents, such as Lewisite, Mustard, Sarin, Soman, and VX[3]. Russia has even more.

But what we lack in quantity, we make up for in

procrastination. Instead of our original deadline of 2012, our cleanup date has been extended until 2023.

Luckily, chemical weapons have a short shelf life, so the longer the wait for disposal, the less there is to dispose. It's somewhat like letting that wet towel dry out in your room. The towel will probably be ok—as long as you like mildew.

Yet even if we lockdown our nukes and dispose of our chemical agents, the mortality rate could still be frighteningly large. Why, you ask? Well, let's consider our own bodies as agents of biological terror.

During the time of 2002 to 2004, the scary abbreviation was SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The total number of cases culminated at 346, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Today, the pandemic panic comes from avian flu. The CDC reports that since 2004 there have been 200 reported human cases of bird flu, and although the fear has relaxed a bit, retroactive reports of human cases of bird flu still pepper the World Health Organization's reports and the CDC's stats. So, as flu season rolls around here in the states, look out for extra reporting on viruses and infected bodies

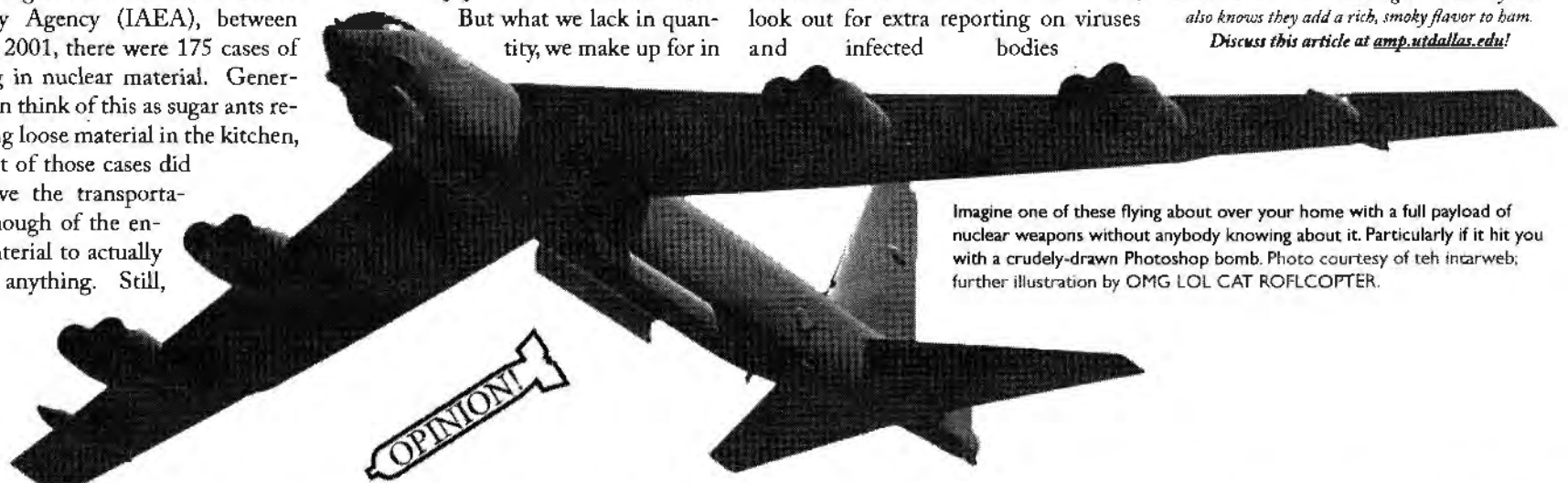
“ Yet even if we lock down our nukes and dispose of our chemical agents, the mortality rate [from an attack] could still be frighteningly high. ”

roaming around.

Take a look at the transport of humans with better-known diseases. In May, a certain Andrew Speaker boarded an international flight after being diagnosed with drug-resistant tuberculosis though doctors clearly told him not to travel. To add to this mess, in July eight passengers on the plane with Speaker sued him for exposure. Yay for more legalities surrounding a walking biohazard!

Looking at our world, our behaviors, and our methods of cleaning up, it seems that even big kids don't know how to put away their toys. ■

Alice Post knows that nerve agents are deadly. She also knows they add a rich, smoky flavor to ham. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!




Imagine one of these flying about over your home with a full payload of nuclear weapons without anybody knowing about it. Particularly if it hit you with a crudely-drawn Photoshop bomb. Photo courtesy of teh inarweb; further illustration by OMG LOL CAT ROFLCOPTER.

DROP AN OPINION BOMB ON YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS.

(Don't worry, they'll recover soon enough.)

Send your stories to amodestproposal@gmail.com.



From our Website

Catholicism, Protestantism, Orthodoxy, the overwhelming majority of Christendom -- they're all still united in one particularly important manner: Their acceptance of and insistence on a convoluted, contradictory definition of the very nature of the "Christian" God. The Trinity, defined as "the union of three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) in one Godhead," is not compatible with a rational understanding of monotheism. Early Christian attempts (Sabellianism, Modalism, Arianism, etc.) to explain the Christian God and His relationship to Christ and the Holy Spirit in a strictly monotheistic context were deemed heretical. This issue by itself has created an ongoing credibility gap between "Christians" and people of other world faiths, particularly other religions who really are monotheistic. I respect Catholics and other Trinity-based Christians for their devotion, their humanitarian works, and their general aspirations of Godliness. However, when a dysfunctional, intellectually disingenuous power structure shows signs of collapse, I have a difficult time seeing it as a bad thing.

Jamie, "Fundamentally Flawed", comment #26

The divide is too great. I don't want to become a Frat member (although I considered) because I don't want to be told to do push ups or hazed. I also don't want to be a part of a group that constantly pressures me to take up time to do things I don't want to do. Finally, I don't want to be a part of a group that hates another group (Frat) just because "Those guys are jerks." Frats stereotype one another and it's like a whole drama game I don't want to be involved in.

The campus is a bit depressing though, and people here aren't social enough. SUAAB (and I really appreciate how hard SUAAB works) has some fun activities, but all in all it's been lacking compared to what frats do. I'm at a loss.

Shat, "Is this Sparta?", comment #20

While I do think that this is an interesting idea, I wonder where this "freedom rock" fits inside of the bigger picture. If students are hardly utilizing the right to free speech now, what good is adding another outlet?

Ben Leamon, "Let Freedom Rock", comment #42

Why aren't more textbooks being supplied in digital format? Wouldn't it cost less for students?

Daniel Martinez, via email

Well stated. Bono has always been equally boorish and commendable; I've never been crazy about much of what he's had to say publicly -- outside of song lyrics -- about anything. However, Bono's humanitarian efforts are, to me, his most selfless, genuine and least politically disagreeable. There is no doubt that the man has been dutiful and self-sacrificing. Rather than trying to increase his celebrity status, the singer is using his existing (and ridiculously overdeveloped) fame, drawing on its inferred power, recognition and likeability to effect change. Most of his considerable administrative efforts are... ahem ... pro bono. Unlike many other charities, you don't have to worry as much about how much you're donating toward administrative salaries.

Jamie, "Why I'm Pro-BONO", comment #27

Kim, I love the work you did about the Waterview scandal, and I usually agree with what you have to say about campus issues, but I think you've got it wrong about the way Ana was elected as the new SG Vice President.

According to our constitution, in the case that the President either becomes unable to serve or resigns, the Vice President then becomes President, and the Senate must elect a new Vice President from among current senators. Attempting to run another campus-wide election in this situation would not only be extremely impractical, but it would also be going against the practices of much more important bodies of government than ourselves (for example, the US Government).

Ana and the senators who elected her are in the positions they are in because they were elected to be there by the student body. Because of our constitution, the responsibility of electing a new Vice President should this situation occur was also given to these senators by a majority vote of the student body.

Referring to this process as "Student Government's new version of democracy" is not only an unnecessary attempt to portray Student Government in a negative light, it is also inaccurate. We did not do anything that is not common practice within democratic governments.

Karen Hinkley, "Summer Lovin' on Campus", comment # 35

Maybe we should be working on getting Africa to become self-dependent instead of making Africa a permanent recipient of pity welfare money from slobs like Bono.

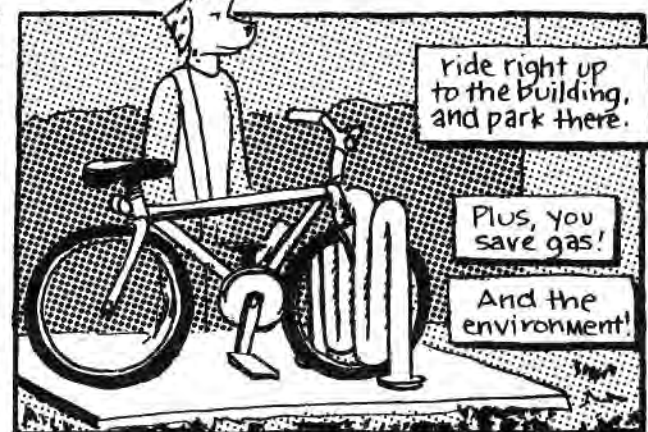
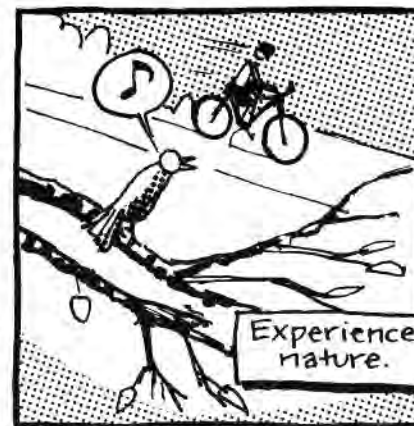
Osama bin Laden, "Why I'm Pro-BONO", comment #57

bwcartoon.com
by Luke McKenzie

BLACK

& WHITE

At first
I wasn't sure
about cycling
to campus.





by benedict voigt

benedict.voigt@student.utdallas.edu



and jessie harpham

jessica.harpham@student.utdallas.edu

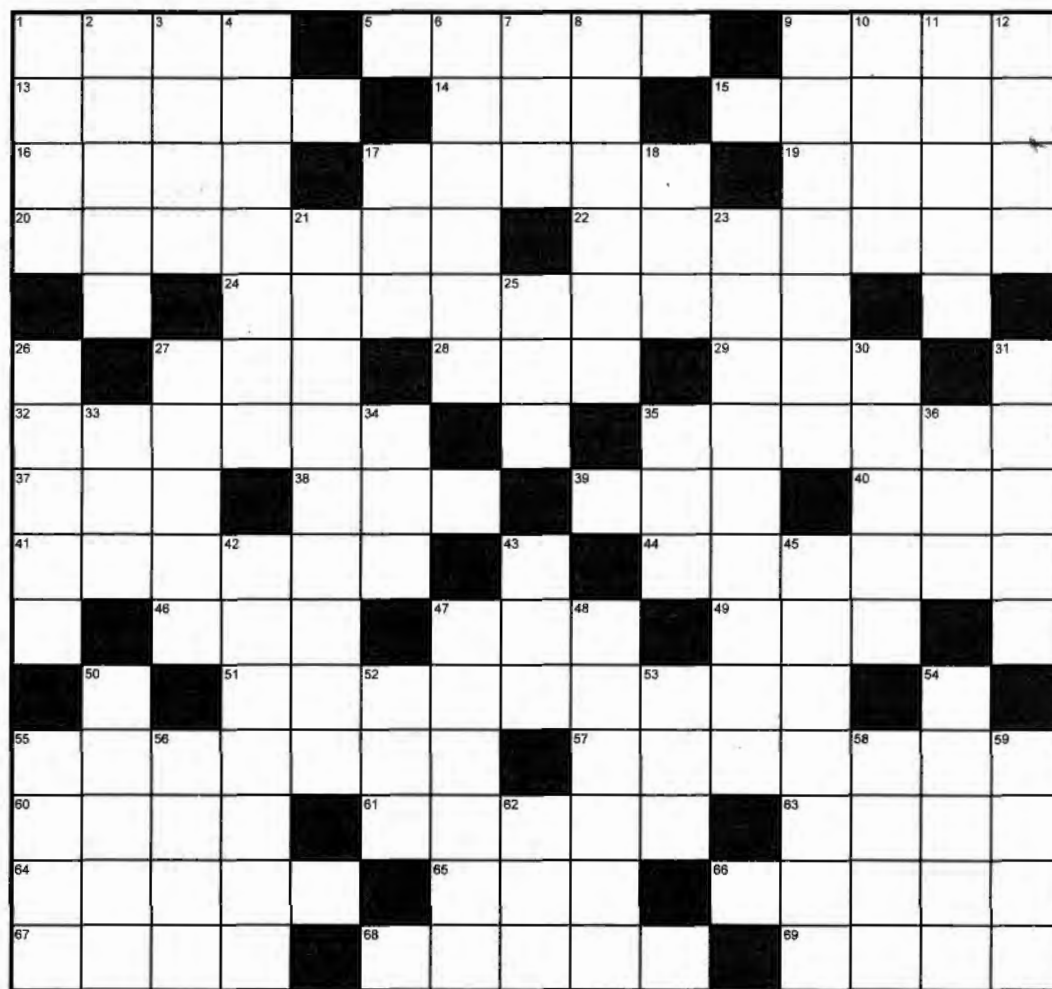
When September Ends

Across

1. Helps place-out of classes
5. Caesar's market
8. Do this for some religions
13. Speaker for Moses
14. Pistol Pete's home
15. Shared '94 Noble with Yitzhak and Shimon
16. Thin cut
17. A profanity that is dropped
19. An idyllic cloud
20. Bare Naked Ladies song
22. 41 cents, for example
24. What Uranus found in the community garden
27. Played 2,632 straight games
28. Vehicle racing propellant
29. Zone four hours behind Greenwich
32. Neo's chain-smoking helper
35. Furtively gaining information
37. Action underappreciated in kindergarten
38. Daniel Craig, for example
39. Not a liquid or a solid
40. Similar to an Initial Public Offering
41. Something done to a game, your back, a ball etc.
44. Polite two-word expression of disappointment
46. I like him
47. ___ Spot Run
49. OPEC product
51. Mild in climate
55. Deals with dead bodies
57. Prevailing mode of expression
60. Is at home in the Middle-East
61. Type of monkey
63. Gotten older
64. Goes with the Butcher and Candlestick-maker
65. 70% Nitrogen and 20.95% Oxygen
66. "All the leaves are ___"
67. A young-___
68. Often includes dinner and a movie (two words)
69. Took his fight for freedom to the Supreme Court

Down

1. Mi ___ es tu ___
2. ___-gag
3. Prince in the *Little Mermaid*
4. D.C. river
6. Evil creature of folklore
7. Juan's bear
8. Noisy or violent disturbance
9. Type of football
10. Claims nearly 4 billion people
11. It ain't over 'til the fat lady does this
12. Something to hug
17. Type of loop
18. Most popular constrictor
21. Eve of All Saint's Day
23. Quickly taken pictures
26. Currently, represented by the number 10
27. Type of women's pants
30. A massive wave
31. Opposes Ecstasy
33. A cheer or exclamation of approval
34. Long period of time
35. ___ Paulo, for example
36. Dallas' '90.1
42. Appropriate Fest for this month
43. Can be used on opening drives
45. Live Free?
47. Range between two points
48. Martin Luther's University city
50. Good clue... NOT!
52. Brooks or Gibson
53. Longest river entirely in Switzerland
54. A lion to Fritz, or the name of the old Regal Keystone (sort of)
55. Provide NYC with color
56. An autumn chore
58. Stravinsky, or a Young Frankenstein character
59. Possible state cheer in Bismark?
62. Status of a missing service member



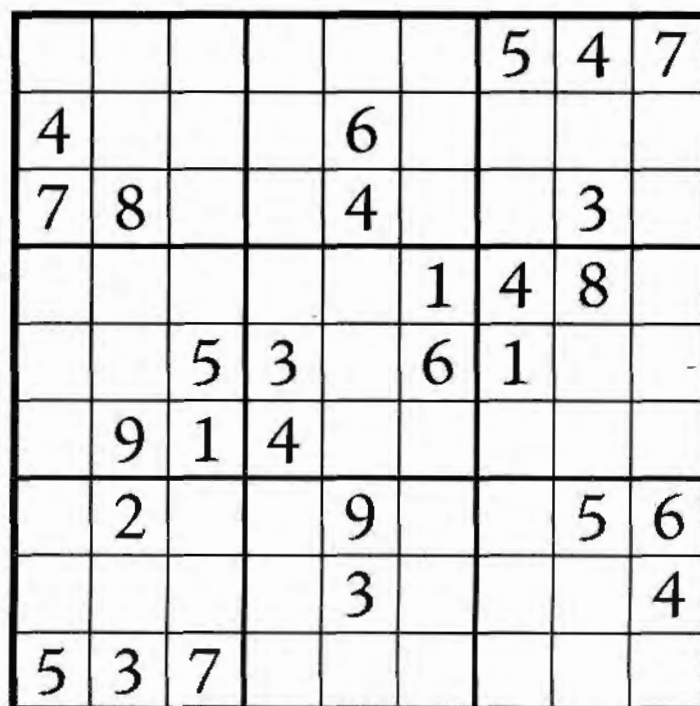
Don't find yourself puzzled? Paying too much attention in class? Send suggestions of other puzzles to amodestproposal@gmail.com, or check us out: <http://tamp.utdallas.edu>

Zip!

Crosswords >> Halo 3

Sudoku

Difficulty:
Heroic



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

Difficulty: Easy



Sudoku

Difficulty: Legendary



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

Borsenco

We at AMP are always looking to spice up our puzzle page and with the help of Ivan Borsenco and the Math Club we are bringing you a new game that will blow your mind!

Here are the rules:

Two players take turns placing X's and O's on the board until one player occupies all four corners of a square.

Once this happens the winning player *MUST* shout BORSENCO!!!

Squares must be true squares, no rectangles.

Try going first then try letting a friend go first.

O Wins!

X	O	X	
	O		O
		X	
X	O		O

X Wins!

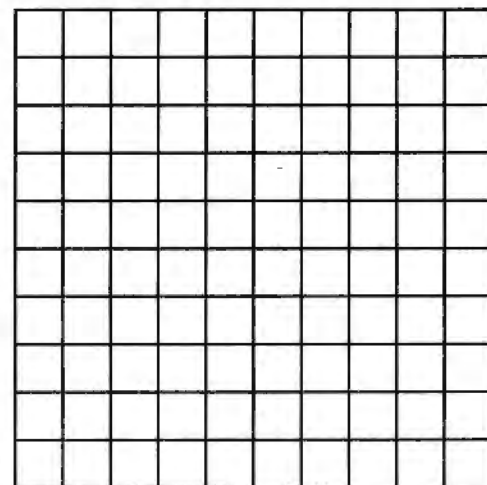
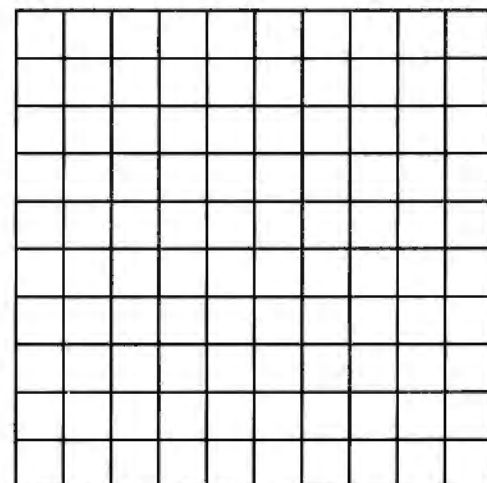
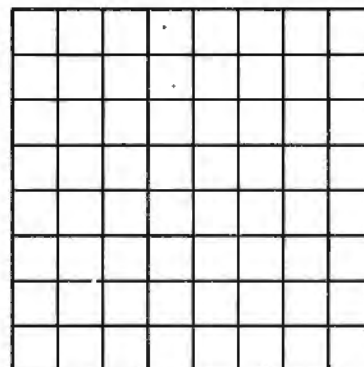
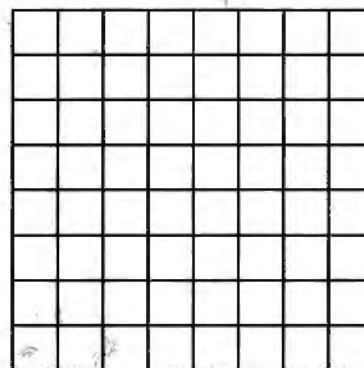
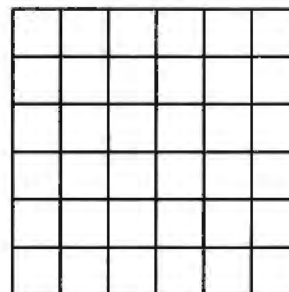
	O		O
	X	X	
	X	X	O

O Wins!

X			X
	O		O
		O	
X			X

Neither Wins

O		O	
	X		X
			X
O	X	O	



AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving, unless you are in EE - then we are really, really, really sorry.

Discuss these puzzles at amp.utdallas.edu/

TEMOC CAUGHT 'TAKING A WHIZ'

'I'd tap three times'

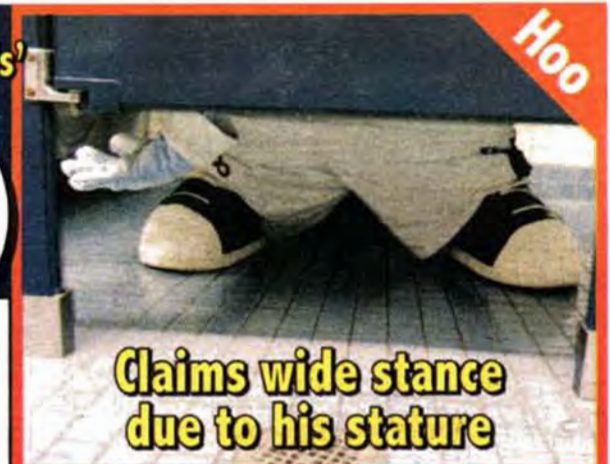


'A comet has needs'



THE MOST
TRUSTED NEWS
ON THE PLANET

URANUS



Hoo

Claims wide stance
due to his stature

MARY JANE FOUND IN COMMUNITY GARDEN

Cont'd
Page 3

■ 'Joint' venture
between faculty
and students

■ Police: 'We
have to test it—
anyone else hungry?'

■ Dean Coleman: 'Weed's in the Garden'



URANUS
EXCLUSIVE

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Notre Dame



GOD'S RESPONSE TO KATHY GRIFFIN:
'I made you *Kathy Griffin*. Suck THAT'

'HECK YEAH COMETS'

New
Fight
Song
'Too
Vulgar'



October 2007

\$0.00 US / \$0.01 Canada



A MODEST PROPOSAL

amodestproposal@gmail.com



LOL

U. S. Department of Education and McDonalds team up to distribute maps through Happy Meals

In an effort to fill the geographical gap, as well as the stomachs, of America's youth, the U.S. Department of Education and McDonald's are campaigning to teach the children of America where exactly America is. Based on the urgent issue brought up by Miss Teen USA South Carolina, the team is using Happy Meal boxes as a sort of "square globe," hoping that, within the year, all American children will be able to locate the United States, the Africa, and the Iraq. Whether or not the children will begin to think that the Earth is a cube is yet to be determined.

UTD Police anxious to put own tasers to use

In anticipation of the upcoming "Know Your Rights Day," UTD Police officers have been urgently training in the use of their new, top-of-the-line tasers. "We've been following the examples set by such schools as the University of Florida," said one officer. "In fact, we've got instructors from Florida coming in to hold seminars next week." So far, the force has practiced only with dummy targets but hopes to eventually have student volunteers from the community. "We're really just providing a service to keep everyone at UTD safe and secure. We hope one day to live up to the example set by UF." The UTD Police would like to say that any and all volunteers are welcome; no experience necessary. Free pizza will be provided by SUAAB.

Jedi Padawan Church offers a Force-ful alternative on campus

Following UTD's multicultural tradition, a new student organization has come to campus from a galaxy not so far, far away: the Jedi Church Padawan Council. While this upstart religion from Australia has caused near rioting from such "conventional" religious associations as the BSM and MSA, a number of EE and CS majors have found solace learning the ways of the light side of the Force. "Following the wisdom of Master Yoda, we are," croaked one light starved programmer going by the new name of Padawan Yet Narweld. "Peace, what we search is." He then waved his hands at us, trying to convince us that these weren't the droids we were looking for.

O.J. carries merchandise for 189 yards, 8 felonies

"I thought he was going to break for a big run," say witnesses



Simpson breaks free with some of his well-deserved sports memorabilia that was totally his to start with. We promise.

by Maultipaul Hommyside
Legal Sports Consultant

LAS VEGAS (AMP) - Former football legend and accused murderer O.J. Simpson showed flashes of his old athletic form over the past few days, breaking laws and hurdling over property violations with ease for a commanding 189-yard, 8-felony performance that has fans talking.

"I never thought I'd have a chance to hear about O.J. running again, whether from linebackers or from police. To hear that he was able to regain some of that old-time magic, even if only for a few stolen moments, makes me proud to be an O.J. fan," said a local sports memorabilia owner. He also noted that all of his O.J. merchandise was obtained legally and wanted the paper to specifically reassure O.J. of this fact.

The incident, which featured O.J. bursting through an opening in the Vegas hotel's defenses with help from a strong group of guys, set both the sports world and the legal world ablaze with debate. Could O.J. potentially have reclaimed the form of his early glory days?

"There's a lot of major highlights in Simpson's career: the Heisman from 1968, the 2,000-yard rushing season with the Bills, the heartpounding escape from justice with Al Cowling, and of course the two major trials. It remains to be seen where this one will slot into the legend's career, but I think it's safe to say that racking up that number of felonies so late in his career is pretty astonishing," said an analyst for Court TV.

Some speculate that O.J.'s return to the court system came to defend his legacy against such newcomers as Pacman Jones, whose six arrests and forays into professional wrestling threatened to oust O.J. in terms of nutcase football players.

"I can't help but think that O.J. felt a little threatened at some of these upstart sports/legal crossovers; he tried to get back into the ring with his book deal, but that didn't have quite the impact he wanted. Only with a commanding criminal performance like this could O.J. solidify his standing as the #1 whack job to carry a football," the analyst added.

O.J. failed to comment, having eluded our questions with gazelle-like grace. ■

Faculty members "High on Life"

Potted plants put the 'Community' in Community Garden

by D'Brickshaw
Cunningham
Marijuana Issues
Reporter

RICHARDSON (AMP) - Take a walk over near the Phase II soccer fields any afternoon and you'll find a flourishing new corner of campus: the student-formed Community Garden. But depending on when you go, you may not only find a growing set of plants; you may encounter some of your favorite faculty.

"I can't even say how glad I am this garden opened up here on campus. In fact, I really can't say -- I mean, it's like, a really big effort to put together my thoughts right now," said one senior member of the Arts and Technology department, rubbing his face with a soft piece of felt while listening to the Doors on his headphones. "I mean, when, like, God tried to put together the universe, I don't think he was all... just... wait.

"Do you guys have any chips?" the professor then asked.

The garden features a variety of different plants and herbs, including a group of suspicious-looking plants that a number of faculty members appear to have added in the past few weeks. The plants, somewhat concealed from normal vision, show signs of tender care—and apparently not from any student member of the organization.

"I really don't know what you're talking about. We don't do 'potted' plants; this is all supposed to be organically grown herbs and plants that we can use for cooking. And are those... oh God. Oh my God. We can't have that here," said a student tending the garden after being shown the faculty section.

Volunteers at the gardens had noticed a large increase in the amount of faculty interaction at



Two Nobel-Prize-winning UTD professors after visiting the Community Garden.

the garden, usually accompanied by giggling, numerous references to "weeds in the garden," copious amounts of food, and a general lack of timely working. Digging and hoeing usually were interrupted by cartwheels and questions about how long eternity really was. Of particular interest were the visits by a man in a long coat named "Groovy Scooby," who would immediately leave in a beat-up '86 Crown Victoria.

"I should've known something was up when one of the staff kept making the same joke about Spider-Man showing up to save Mary Jane in the garden. I kept thinking, 'What the hell is he talking about?' Now, it makes a lot more sense," said the student.

The remaining faculty scattered after hearing a siren going off, thinking the police had caught on. It turned out to be a malfunctioning Waterview fire alarm. ■

UTD Mobile Campus expands with new, "alternate" offers

Comets who signed up for UTD's "Mobile Campus" will get a pleasant surprise next week when they release the announcement of an expanded base of suppliers.

"Mobile Campus is here for the students," one recruiter noted. "We understand that different students have different preferences. We're here to help everyone."

AMP received a preview of several of the great new deals:

UTD MC Offer: FREE MAMMOGRAMS AT UTD. FEEL THE REASSURING TOUCH OF EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS. VISIT THE WHITE VAN WITH A LARGE DENT PARKED IN LOT H. IF NO ONE IS THERE, JUST TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR BOOBS AND PUT IT ON THE DOOR.

UTD MC Offer: *****TWO FREE TICKETS TO THE GUN SHOW!***** LADIES, COME TO THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICE AND ASK BEN DOWER TO SHOW YOU THE GOODS. ALL AGES ACCEPTED! EXP. 10/25.

UTD MC Offer: ***FREE SCALDING GREASE WITH THE PURCHASE OF A VALUE MEAL @ KFC. BRING BUCKET AND A LACK OF PERSONAL PRIDE IN YOURSELF.***

UTD MC Offer: ½ OFF ANY APPETIZER @ OUTBACK NOT CALLED AWESOME BLOSSOM. JUST ORDER ANYTHING ELSE. AND DON'T DO IT IN AN AUSTRALIAN ACCENT OR REFERENCE "CROCODILE DUNDEE" OR YOU WILL SEE WHAT A KNIFE REALLY IS. EXP. NEVER EVER EVER.