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A Modest Proposal, vol. 2, no. 5

Michael Seeligson, *et al.*

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Modest proposals

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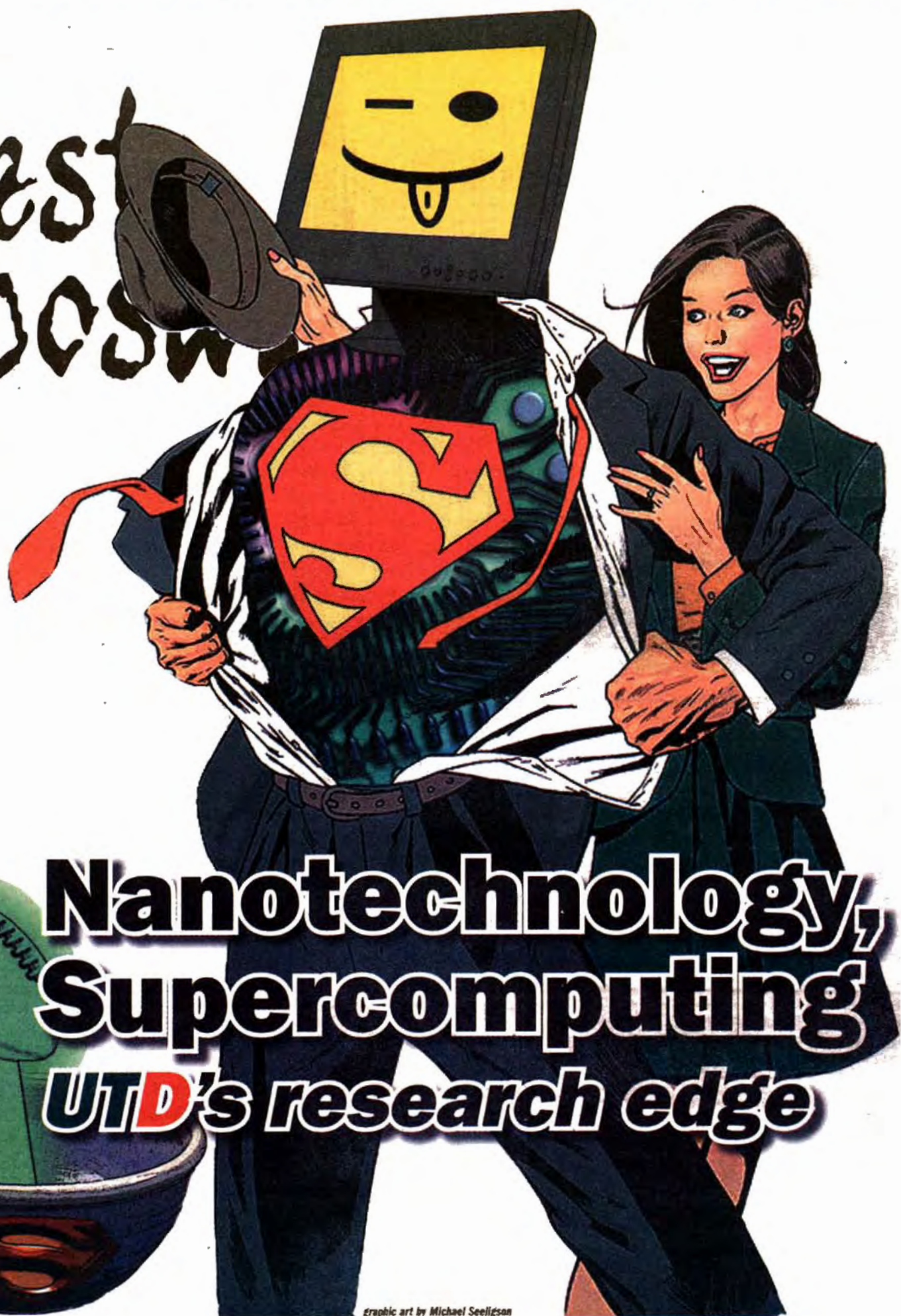
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Nanotechnology, Supercomputing

UTD's research edge

graphic art by Michael Seeligson

Editors' Note:

AMP chooses not to reprint Muhammad cartoons

To our readers:

We editors of *A Modest Proposal* acknowledge that we have every legal right to print or reprint depictions of the prophet Muhammad. However the legal right to do something is not a compelling reason to do it. We feel that respect and dignity can be preserved while still addressing the most fundamental questions that shape and govern our actions in everyday life.

Twelve cartoons depicting Muhammad were originally published by Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper, in September 2005. The depiction of Muhammad, or any prophet, in any form, is blasphemous to Muslims and these 12 cartoons have caused worldwide uproar.

The most notorious responses have been the burning of the Danish embassy in Damascus, Syria, and the burning of Western business establishments across the broader Middle East.

In response to these unwarranted acts of violence, some syndicated newspapers and college publications around the world have reprinted these cartoons as a message of solidarity to Jyllands-Posten and as a statement of free speech.

It is our mission at AMP to provide a forum for students and faculty to discuss relevant topics without fear of reprisal or censorship. We at AMP seek to encourage conversation surrounding issues that may lead to cultural misunderstanding or social conflict.

The Muslim community is a vital part of campus

and community life. In the case of the Mohammed cartoons, although we understand we have the right and protection through freedom of the press to reprint these images, we do not wish to alienate the Muslim community and sincerely want to encourage civil and intellectual debate.

In light of this sensitivity, we have chosen to create a graphic (page 3) which highlights the issue at hand and which we hope will not unduly provoke negative responses from valuable and respected members of our community. Furthermore, we hope the image will spark deep thought and conversation across campus and lead to a greater understanding among people with different beliefs from different backgrounds.

The original 12 cartoons are accessible on the internet; we encourage any reader wishing to analyze the cartoons to visit the Jyllands-Posten website or similar sites to gain a fuller understanding of the topic.

We at *A Modest Proposal* appreciate our readers, our campus and our community, and therefore hope that our decisions will not propagate hatred and cultural tension which surrounds this issue. In our continued attempt to highlight new ideas and foster dialogue, we ask for your thoughts and viewpoints.

If you are offended by our handling of this delicate matter, or have other comments or suggestions, we encourage you to write to us. Thank you for your time, your support, and most of all, your modest opinions.

**A
Modest
Proposal**

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The BURNING Issue of Free Speech



by Benedict Voit

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He has been a symbol of inspiration for many, many centuries. The way He lived His life is the symbol of perfection for millions upon millions of His dedicated followers. Blasphemy against His name is undeniably against religious code. And when great insults are made against Him, either through language, actions or even art, people are justifiably angry. That's why people were outraged when in 1987, Andres Serrano revealed his "Piss Christ," a crucifix submerged in the artist's urine.

The response? A lot of angry people arguing that taxpayer money that goes to the National Endowment for the Arts should not be funding such "artwork".

Statements were even made on the U.S. Senate floor criticizing the work. But in the end, people respected the right of freedom of expression and freedom of speech—even as much as it pained them to do so. And the controversy faded into the distance as more relevant topics of discussion arose.

What wasn't the response? Loss of property, loss of life and a great worldwide uprising against foreign governments that had no connection to Andres Serrano.

Those offended by the depiction did not turn to extremism and violence as an acceptable expression of their resentment.

Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper printed 12 original cartoons portraying the prophet Muhammad in varying negative lights for the first time in Sept. 2005.

The caricature that was possibly the most offensive featured Muhammad telling suicide bombers to stop their actions because heaven had run out of virgins.

The paper printed these cartoons knowing that they would offend Muslims; their intention was to highlight the fact that radical Muslims use religion, Muhammad

especially, to justify their egregious acts of violence.

One of the original Danish cartoons was captioned: "Relax folks, it is just a sketch made by a Dane from South-West Denmark." The actual response ironically justifies this remark.

Had Muslims throughout the world responded with indignant civility, perhaps it could have been argued that Jyllands-Posten's claims about Islam were not true.

But some Muslims became increasingly angry and refused to let the issue slide, or even bring it into focus in a civilized manner. Instead, a group of imams from a whole host of countries met in December of 2005 to discuss "appropriate" responses.

Their decisions and the resulting actions are a disgrace to the millions of moderate Muslims who peacefully follow the Qu'ran. The imams distributed the 12 cartoons; but they also added three of their own drawings, far more offensive than any of the originals. It was largely due to these new cartoons, drawn by the Muslim leaders, that massive uprisings have occurred all across the globe.

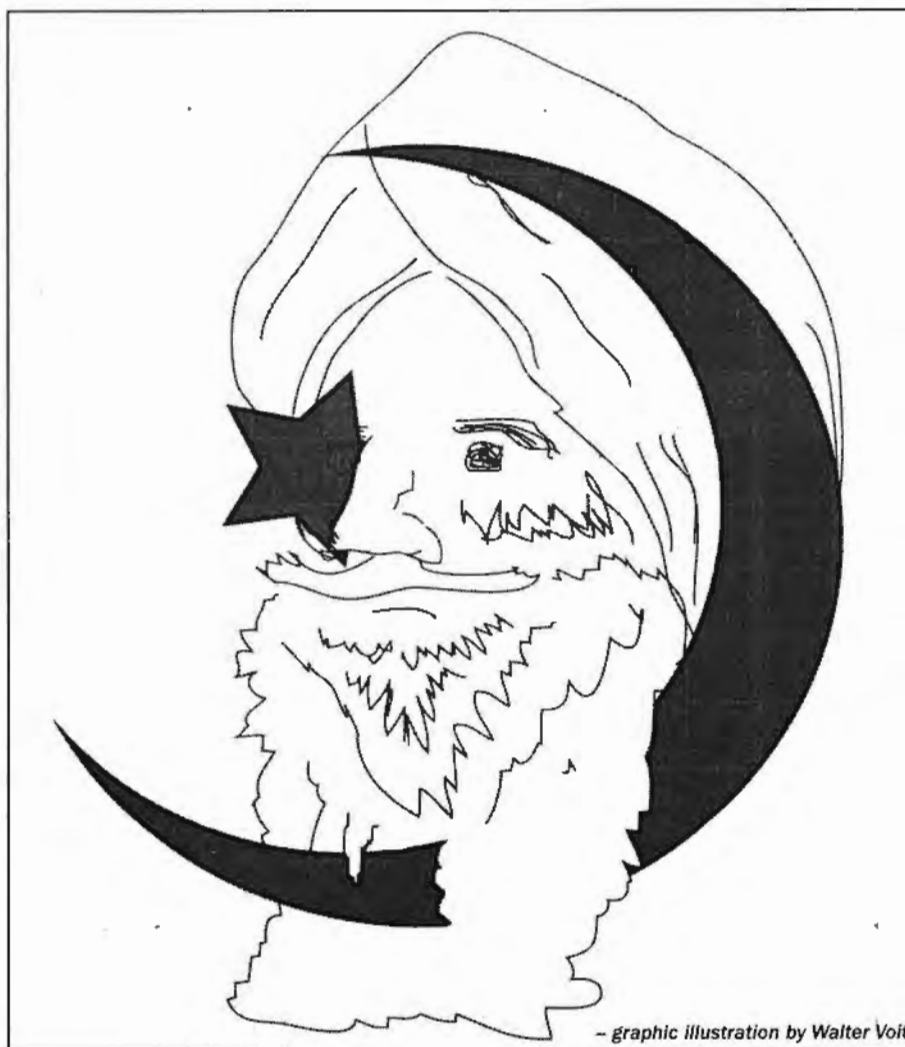
If millions of Muslims in Syria, Lebanon or Iran want to protest the cartoons, by all means they can and should. Speak out against them. Ban them. Even burn them. But they should do so in Syria, Lebanon and Iran.

The Danish Embassy is Danish soil. The people that were killed had no relation to the cartoons until such a connection was drawn by the radicals.

The Danish newspaper has a right to freedom of the press; the citizens have a right to freedom of speech. They exercised those rights, however controversial their methods may have been.

But no one, anywhere, has the right to impose personal moral beliefs on others that trump the defined laws of a nation. Carrying out vigilante "justice" or "morality" in the name of religion or fear or offense is not tolerable in any form.

Western nations must send a clear message that Political Correctness has gone far enough. A style of ice cream cone sold by Burger King was taken off the European market without a second thought



— graphic illustration by Walter Voit

This picture is an original work and does not depict Muhammad.

because the swirl looked like a representation of the written word for "Allah;" yet the preaching of determined destruction of all non-Muslims by extreme leaders is taken as "religious expression."

Double standards of this kind are not only extremely unfair and offensive, but also a serious threat to the future. If the citizens of the 21st century are to live together peacefully, they must treat and be treated equally, both in action, and in law.

By no means am I trying to impose ideals of free speech or free press upon foreign societies or governments. But if we are to respect others' rights not to have those freedoms, then they must respect our choice to have them.

The policies of foreign governments and their strongly held religious beliefs should have no effect on the rights that protect citizens of Denmark or any other nation—particularly when those rights are exercised within a country's borders and within the boundaries of its laws.

As the protests across Europe spread, activist Muslims proudly displayed signs including text such as "Europe. Take some lessons from 9/11," and "Freedom: Go to Hell."

Freedom may indeed start to die if these protests succeed in restricting basic tenets of Western democracy. But what would go to Hell would be those of us unwilling to fight in freedom's defense.

How the United States is betraying its principles by forcing democracy on the Middle East



by Liam Skoyles

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Since before the Cold War, the United States' clear foreign policy has been to free the oppressed and spread the democratic system of government across the globe. President Bush often dotes on the fact that the number of "democratic states" around the globe has doubled since the Berlin Wall fell and octupled since the end of WWII. The line of thinking has been that this democratic shift will allow the true goodness of human nature to shine through. When given a choice between tolerance and intolerance, the majority of a populace will choose a peaceful and tolerant way of life. Through years of nation building, the United States has created a sort of blueprint for creating democracies:

The United States would swoop into nations, often fresh from violent dictators or bloody civil strife, and offer a method of government that could end conflict and stabilize society. In its present state of confused and often ineffective government a nation would look to the United States as a relative model of peace and stability. The trick was to present two options—continued strife or peaceful toleration, giving the nation a simple and easily predictable choice. The more like the United States a nation could be, the more successful it would be on the global stage.

This school of thought, which steam rolled through fascism and communism, has run into a staunch wall. This wall is not what most would think; its bricks and mortar are not dogma, faith or religion. The democracy on which the United States rests its mighty global influence has been stopped in its tracks by incompetence, poor planning, and basic failures of government. The United States has set up democratic elections in two states in the Middle East recently—Iraq and Palestine. In both elections the populace produced ruling parties without a modicum of liberal virtue.

In both elections how did the populace fail to elect parties promising good schools, religious toleration, economic growth and global integration? How could such a thing happen? How would a logical and human populace choose something other than liberal values of inclusion and progress? The reason was that no such parties existed. The United States forced its way into these nations, demanded they convert to a government they are ill-prepared to exploit, and abandoned them in the political fire storm of the Middle East.

The majority of Iraq is comprised of Shi'a Muslims—it is this majority that Saddam (a Sunni) oppressed. When the first elections were brought to Iraq, the question on the minds of the population was not which party would provide for their children best, it was to which version of God they worshipped. The vast majority of Iraqis voted along religious lines, causing

a backlash by the Sunni group that almost destroyed the elections. "Them or us" politics is the death knell for democratic toleration.

Similar abandonment shined through in the recent elections in Palestine; the people were asked to choose between Fatah, an exceptionally corrupt and ultimately ineffective party, and the militant Hamas, known partly for providing for refugees. What self-respecting political analyst would not have foreseen a landslide victory for the terrorist group?

When a populace is asked whether they would like to see their taxes line the pockets of corrupt officials or be split between guns to attack Israel and schools for their children, their answer is clear. The Palestinian people did not vote outright for war with Israel; they voted against the corruption of Fatah. The people voted based on who they thought could provide for them best, not based on foreign policy. Democracy is designed for mothers and fathers to choose between guns and books, between clean running water and sending their sons to war. This is the question that the United States should seek to ask the people of the Middle East. If thousands of American lives have been lost without a country being able to answer a simple question, then some egregious error has been made.

For all who allege that this failure of democracy is a function of Islam itself, other nations in the region that are notoriously Muslim and violent have developed democratic governments and are now stable. Lebanon's highly publicized move to force Syrian troops from its lands has created a situation rather singular in the Middle East.

This nation which only 10 years ago struggled through a religious civil war between Christians and Muslims is now holding universal elections and prospering under a free and relatively tolerant society. It is clear that the people of Lebanon were given the choice of violence versus toleration.

Once presented with these options it is easy to see what a nation would choose. They found a way to overcome the religious tension in the region and work together for everyone's benefit. It is highly unlikely that President Bush would publicly praise or even recognize the nation's democratic steps given its history of conflict and continued border disputes with Israel; however, out of a religiously fueled civil war, invasions by two foreign powers and an assassination, Lebanon has created a government that could be seen as one of the most democratic and tolerant in the Middle East.

The only difference between the elections in Lebanon and Iraq or Palestine is the acknowledgement of a choice between strife and toleration. Each of these elections held a highly religious element, however in Iraq and Palestine this religious partisanship overshadowed the true elements of government. Undeniably these nations would overwhelmingly choose peace, tolerance and security if religion was not a part of the elections, and the United States did nothing to remove it.

It is the barrier of choice that stops Middle Eastern nations from fully taking advantage of democratic government, and the United States is almost heinously culpable for the lack of a tolerant, stable and viable choice in newly emerged democracies.

Democracy's
Losing
Battle

Hamas:



Militant Terrorists



by Ben Dower

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Not, as commonly believed, a popular dipping food from the Mediterranean, Hamas has made a big news splash all across the world with its election victory this January. Considered by many to be a terrorist organization, Hamas won 76 of 132 seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council, defeating the ruling Fatah party. It is the first election there since 1996.

Hamas is a helpful, charitable organization that has been responsible for numerous relief and educational programs, providing much needed aid to the people of Palestine. It is also a radical Sunni Islamic organization notable for its anti-Israel rallying cry and devastating suicide bombings against Israeli civilian and military targets. While its civilian wing helps raise literacy and combat the devastating effects of absolute poverty, its military side is responsible for several large-scale suicide bombings against Israeli civilian and military targets killing hundreds in the last four years alone.

The long-standing Fatah party's defeat can largely be attributed to internal divisions and a dissatisfied populace. Beyond being an aggressive militant faction, Hamas has provided much needed aid to the poor of Palestine, help that Fatah has failed to provide.

Many leaders see the political success of Hamas as nothing more than an outcry against the existing party. Yet there is a widespread fear in the international community. After all, Hamas's charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, as well as of any secular Palestinian



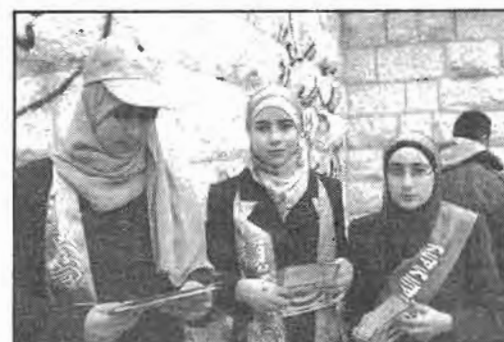
government. However slow and painful the Israeli-Palestinian peace process may have been under Arafat, negotiations can only go down hill with a party whose mission statement includes your demise.

Now that we're all on the same proverbial page I can stop giving the facts and get to the fun part of the editorial. It is this writer's opinion that winning the election was the worst thing that could have happened to Hamas. As long as they were a powerful minority they had virtually every advantage of the ruling party but without any of the responsibility. Now that Hamas is in office, they have to start taking blame both on a national and international scale.

The United States and the European Union have already threatened to freeze the much-needed financial aid to Palestine unless the group agrees to renounce violence, disarm militants and recognize Israel's right to exist. According to an opinion poll released by the Ram Allah-based Near East Consulting Institute, three-quarters of Palestinians want Hamas to drop its call for the destruction of Israel. The survey also found that 84% of those surveyed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip want a peace agreement with Israel while 86% want Muhammed Abbas, the moderate Palestinian Authority president, to remain in his post. The survey size was 1,200 and although it's hard to say how reflective those numbers are of the general populace, they certainly are encouraging.

If Hamas agrees to the terms of the US and EU, it will be an important step towards moderating the party and will hopefully discourage many of the more extremist members. Hopefully such a major concession will go a long way to creating internal discord and isolating the more extremist members, neutralizing the very thing that makes Hamas so alarming. If Hamas doesn't agree to the terms, then they will cause much of the populace to become extremely dissatisfied.

The extent to which Palestinians become disgruntled with their new ruling party largely depends on how effective



Altruistic Society

tive Hamas is at shifting the blame to the international community rather than its own political platform. Still, we have cause to be hopeful; history has shown us that desire for bread often triumphs all other values. With so many people supporting at least recognition of Israel, Hamas may well take the blame.

This brings us to another question- should the U.S. place contingents on its aid? There are some people that argue that part of democracy is accepting the results, whether we like them or not. This is a perfectly valid point, however when the government is responsible for terrorist suicide attacks and is committed to acts of war, I think our obligation to provide aid is sufficiently nullified. It isn't Hamas we are boycotting; it's their violent actions and intentions.

There are other reasons that winning the election has made Hamas more vulnerable. As a shadow organization directing attacks from behind the scenes, Hamas leaders were in a better position to both escape blame and retaliation for their attacks. As a ruling party, however, the blame game is much easier. Further violence towards Israel by Hamas members now has direct repercussions. Legitimacy means accountability. Hopefully this will not entail direct military force, but without Fatah to hide behind, the increased exposure and public presence may cause Hamas to be more hesitant in order to avoid attacks.

There is still a chance that things might work out for the better for everyone. If internal and external pressures can push Hamas to moderate and alienate their extremist following, then perhaps the charitable, domestic side of the party will be balanced by a less aggressive foreign policy. If not, I think we can expect Hamas to gradually lose more and more support at home as time goes on.

One thing is for certain, now that they can no longer rely sit behind the scenes complaining about Fatah and the peace process, Hamas had better be ready to do some compromising if they want to play the international game.

日本 女の子力 No wo-man's land

Japanese conservatives want men to retain rule, but are quickly running out of options



by Kimberley Allen

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It is a well-established fact that humankind actively resists change of any sort unless necessarily compelled by some resolute outside force. Such was the case when America entered World War II. Faced with a booming economy and a declining male work force, women were finally invited into at least part of man's privileged domain as a function of their patriotic duty.

And when America won the war and the survivors came home, it was also women's patriotic duty to step aside and resume whatever delicate matters they had previously preoccupied themselves with. The only problem—the war had cast off the myth that women were only fit for nursing and teaching positions. The face of the American work force was forever altered by this obstinate thing called 'necessity' which inevitably sends us snowballing down a mountain of transformation.

Now, 50 years on, the same thing is happening in Japan. Japan's monarchy, though no longer powerful like it once was, is still regarded as the unifying force of the nation. With few exceptions, Japan has been ruled for 26 centuries by men. Laws have been in place for nearly sixty years that prevent a woman from succeeding to the throne, though even the Japanese are beginning to admit its policy is slightly one-sided.

Since the Japanese have a high regard for tradition, few are willing to change a law that has been so funda-

mental to the nation's culture. Yet fate would have it that no men have been born into the royal family since 1965. The current emperor has two sons but no grandsons. Although one might hope that a progressive society like the Japanese would have figured out by now that a woman can lead a country just as well as a man, gender equality in Japan's monarchy may ultimately be the invention of necessity and not the genuine reform sought by its people.

Under immense pressure to have a son, the wife of Crown Prince Naruhito gave birth in 2001 to a daughter, Aiko, which sparked debates over succession laws. Many believe that if laws are not changed to allow for an empress, the dynasty will die out entirely.

Japanese conservatives, however, insist there must be some other way. Rather than selecting an empress from the current three royal families, conservatives want to expand the royalty to 14 families, restoring the eligibility pool to its pre-war size and retaining the superior status of males. One elderly conservative, Prince Tomohito of Mikasa, exemplified the staunch opposition to reform by suggesting last year that the practice of using

concubines be revived. How's that for gender equality?

Princess Kiko, the wife of the emperor's second son, recently announced that she is pregnant, which further complicates the issue. Previously, polls in Japan showed support as high as 90 percent for a female empress. Now, polls indicate that 63 percent favor the idea. Should the princess have a son, it would lessen the urgency for reform but would not solve the problem.

The real problem has not been addressed, and it has nothing to do with a shortage of male heirs. Many in Japan do not believe a woman is capable of holding a position of ceremonial importance despite persuasive examples to the contrary. Their belief deprives the Japanese of the talent in half the gene pool. The policies of the government eventually filter down into the lives of everyday people.



Japanese Princess Kiko (right) stands in the shadows of her husband Prince Fumihito. With no male heir to the throne since 1965, the Japanese are being forced to rethink long-held gender roles.

Japan Quick Facts

Area: 377,835 km²

(slightly smaller than California)

Population: 127.4 million

GDP: \$4.955 trillion

Religion: 84% Buddhist

When a young girl reads about this, what motivation does she have to stay in school? To be a doctor? To accomplish goals as lofty as her male classmates? Her dreams are as good as theirs and she should feel confident that her place in the world is just as valid as theirs.

While it is easy to appreciate Japan's history and traditions, it is also easy to see the injustice being done to women like Princess Kiko, who gave up a promising diplomatic career after graduating from Harvard in order to marry Prince Fumihito, and to Princess Masako, who is suffering from Adjustment Disorder because of the overwhelming expectation of palace officials that she have a son (never mind that only males can contribute the Y-chromosome).

Fortunately, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's advisory panel has recommended that the law be changed. This panel will decide, and although it is waiting for more news of Princess Kiko's pregnancy, the panel said it will base its decision on public opinion as well as tradition and likely stability of the system under an empress. If the law does change, it will be an unprecedented step towards the equality of women in every sphere.

Many in Japan do not believe a woman is capable of holding a position of ceremonial importance despite persuasive examples to the contrary.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Bush backs ethanol as potential energy source

STATE OF THE UNION

"Keeping America competitive requires affordable energy. And here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world.

The best way to break this addiction is through technology. Since 2001, we have spent nearly \$10 billion to develop cleaner, cheaper and more reliable alternative energy sources. And we are on the threshold of incredible advances.

So tonight I announce the Advanced Energy Initiative -- a 22 percent increase in clean-energy research at the Department of Energy to push for breakthroughs in two vital areas. To change how we power our homes and offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants; revolutionary solar and wind technologies; and clean, safe nuclear energy.

We must also change how we power our automobiles.

We will increase our research in better batteries for hybrid and electric cars and in pollution-free cars that run on hydrogen.

We will also fund additional research in cutting-edge methods of producing ethanol, not just from corn but from wood chips and stalks or switch grass.

Our goal is to make this new kind of ethanol practical and competitive within six years.

Breakthroughs on this and other new technologies will help us reach another great goal: to replace more than 75 percent of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025.

By applying the talent and technology of America, this country can dramatically improve our environment, move beyond a petroleum-based economy and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past."

—President George W. Bush
31 January 2006



by Walter Voit

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Ethyl alcohol: Relax ZBT — SAE didn't beat you to the punch...George W. Bush did.

Ethanol, also called ethyl alcohol, is obtained by fermenting and distilling simple sugars from corn. In near pure forms, ethanol can be used to power vehicles with slightly modified engines, and I'm not talking about college students with beer guts.

When combined with gasoline, ethanol can help decrease the cost, raise the octane levels and decrease the numbers of harmful emissions in motor fuels, according to the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE), a group organized around the promotion of ethanol-based fuels and products.

According to the ACE statistics, E10 which is 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline is already approved for use in any automobile sold in America and used in roughly a third of commercial gasoline types on the market.

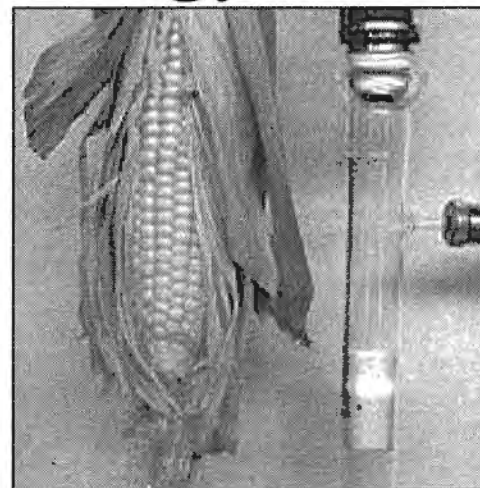
In mid 2004 General Motors Corp. and the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition announced a campaign to raise awareness toward the use of E85, a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. According to GM, 3 million flexible fuel vehicles on the road in 2004 were equipped to run on E85 fuel and ACE pins that number at more than 4 million today.

With such broad market penetration, scientific breakthroughs could have a rapid impact on society, but ethanol-based fuels still have their critics.

According to a press release from Cornell University in 2001, Roger Segelken called ethanol fuel "unsustainable subsidized food burning." Mr. Segelken went through a simple series of calculations to show how inefficient ethanol really is. The argument is as follows:

Ethanol costs \$1.74 per gallon to make compared to \$0.95 of gasoline. 131,000 BTUs are needed to make 1 gallon of ethanol which has an energy value of only 77,000 BTU, a waste of 54,000 BTU per gallon of ethanol made.

The average automobile which consumes 852 gallons of gasoline would require 11 acres of farmland were the



energy to come solely from ethanol. Extrapolating this further, Segelken showed that to power every automobile in the country would require some 97 percent of the land area in the United States.

Fast forward to 2006.

Cognizant of Mr. Segelken's criticisms, I still maintain a deep trust in the ability of new technology to, over the next six years, address each of the problems he enumerated.

According to a report prepared by the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security in March 2004, future production of ethanol could additionally come from biomass such as corn and wheat stalks, forestry waste and municipal waste.

As a renewable resource, ethanol based fuels will not deplete petroleum energy supplies and could provide a long term solution to some energy concerns that face the country.

When coupled with advances in solar energy harvesting, and emerging technologies beyond the radar today, I am certain that my generation will live in a fully powered world not addicted to oil.

I applaud the Bush White House for its recognition of a situation that will develop into a crisis as my generation matures.

I am still leery as to how such grandiose plans (such as the Advanced Energy Initiative) will be funded at the federal level, however, I have faith that by setting a course toward innovation, propelled by research and technology, the president can inspire more members of the up-and-coming generations. He can inspire us towards careers in the physical and numerical sciences. He can inspire us to help solve the next generation of the world's problems. He can inspire us use our brains rather than our stomachs to find novel ways to make and process ethyl alcohol.

NANOTECHNOLOGY

UTD already pioneer in nano sciences



by Austin Edmiston

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More than 200 people packed into the TI auditorium Feb. 7 to find out what nanotechnology is all about. Apparently they had all heard President Bush mention it a week prior and didn't want to miss the action.

The conference called the *Commercialization of Nanotechnology in Texas* housed panelists Jim Von Ehr from Zyvex, Mark Ellison from Governor Perry's office, President David Daniel and Ray Baughman, Director of the Nanotech Institute at UTD.

Sponsored by the Law Firm Haynes and Boone, the afternoon was an open forum designed to increase awareness about the

commercializability of nanotechnology breakthroughs.

Sponsored by the Metroplex Technology Business Council, the Nanotechnology focus group is a collection of investors, venture capitalists, incubators, lawyers and scientists who want to get on the same page as Dr. Baughman and other members of UTD Nanotech Institute.

What is nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is defined by the US National Nanotechnology Initiative to be, "the understanding and control of matter at dimensions of roughly one to 100 nanometers, where unique phenomena enable novel applications."

The versatility of nanotechnology lies in its potential to create molecules atom by atom, a feat previously considered to be confined to the mysterious world of intracellular biology.

Since many properties of matter are defined by the capabilities of their smallest units, controlling the creation of a product from the molecular level upward directly allows the larger, complete material to be hand-tailored for whatever task it is to perform. Though a thorough understanding of the complexities of the chemistry and physics behind nanotechnological advances requires several years of training and education, its applications are easy to comprehend.

For example, based on the premise of building from a controlled small unit, nanotechnology is being used to design organic light-emitting diodes which allow for brighter and more efficient screens on TVs and monitors, saving millions in this computer-ubiquitous world. Stronger, tougher, and less dense construction materials are being developed along with circuits for computer boards that are only a few nanometers in length, allowing for more efficient and numerous dispersion.

The field of nanotechnology also allowed the discovery of carbon nanotubes, a new spacial arrangement of carbon that exhibits unique properties.

A carbon nanotube, classified as a type

of quantum wire, or quantum dot (see inset), can be conceptually thought of as graphite sheet rolled up into a hollow cylinder, much in the way a paper towel center is constructed. Depending on the manufacturing technique used to make them, they can be either metallic or semiconducting, with all of their electrons floating on the outer surface of the tube.

This configuration allows nanotubes to possess amazing properties, such as being pound-for-pound 100 times stronger than stainless steel, possessing an electrical current density more than 1,000 times stronger than metals such as silver and copper, and being excellent thermal conductors along the tube's length while remaining excellent insulators laterally.

Additionally, it has been demonstrated that when the tubes are mixed with other compounds, some new properties emerge, such as the production of the toughest material known to man, created here at UTD's Nanotech Institute. This combination of carbon nanotubes and polyvinyl alcohol, proves to be four times tougher than the previous record holder, nature's own spider silk, and is stronger than the commonly known bullet-resistant fiber, Kevlar, by a factor of 22. In mid-2005, the Institute developed a production method for carbon nanotube sheets which are 1/1000th the thickness of a human hair and yet still capable of supporting 50,000 times their own weight. The Institute can produce these sheets at up to seven meters per minute, making them commercially viable. These developments are only two among the wide variety of research projects at the Nanotech Institute. Others include creating and improving organic solar cells, targeted drug delivery by the functionalization of carbon nanotubes, molecular capacitors, fuel cells and even artificial muscles. These muscles may one day be integrated into a person's body by linking up the neurons at the exposed site with a small computer that directs the action of the muscle.

These various projects touch upon every subject from chemistry to EE and back

STATE OF THE UNION

"And to keep America competitive, one commitment is necessary above all: We must continue to lead the world in human talent and creativity. Our greatest advantage in the world has always been our educated, hardworking, ambitious people—and we're going to keep that edge."

"Tonight I announce an American Competitiveness Initiative, to encourage innovation throughout our economy, and to give our nation's children a firm grounding in math and science."

*-- President George W. Bush
31 January 2006*

bio- and neuroscience, demonstrating the extreme breadth of the research field dubbed nanotechnology. Perhaps most importantly, many other applications of nanotechnology are out there waiting to be created and tested, and UTD is continuing its tradition of leading research in this field. As part of the effort to attract and educate the best researchers of the future, there has begun an effort to create a Nanotechnology Minor at UTD. The minor will provide certification that students have received an in-depth understanding of, and hands-on experience in, the field of nanotechnology.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in the prospect of such a minor at UTD, please visit: www.theszygy.com/nano to fill out a survey that will help the effort leaders better design the program and to show student support for such a program. For more information on the burgeoning field of nanotechnology, visit: nanotech.utdallas.edu, www.zyvex.com/nano, or search the amazing public knowledge database on Wikipedia.org.

Key nano terms

buckminsterfullerenes – buckyballs, or 60-atom carbon molecules arranged in a soccer ball shape

carbon nanotubes (CNTs) – unique configurations of carbon atoms that come in two flavors: single-walled or multi-walled

functionalization – the attachment of groups of non-carbon materials to CNTs

quantum dot/wire/well – structures that have 3/2/1 dimensions on the scale from 1-100 nm and are used in bio-sensing and detection

SUPERCOMPUTING

STATE OF THE UNION

First, I propose to double the federal commitment to the most critical basic research programs in the physical sciences over the next 10 years. This funding will support the work of America's most creative minds as they explore promising areas such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, and alternative energy sources.

Second, I propose to make permanent the research and development tax credit to encourage bolder private-sector initiatives in technology. With more research in both the public and private sectors, we will improve our quality of life—and ensure that America will lead the world in opportunity and innovation for decades to come.”

— President George W. Bush
31 January 2006

Thoughts on the American Competitiveness Initiative

The tax-credit to encourage private-sector initiatives will make it more cost-beneficial for companies to increase efficiency, and will preclude any possible brain-drain when it comes to the sources of supercomputing leaving for the foreign sector. Being home to the world's fastest computer ranks among being the only nation to have a man on the moon, we should not shove it aside as something that ol' funny-looking guy said on TV.

Superheroes need supercomputers



by Bradley Wallace

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I have toured Xavier Mansion, the Batcave, and the Fortress of Solitude. I've recently started searching the rights sections of department stores. It's official. I've changed my major. Orange and green just scream super suit.

And as we turn to superherodom to save the world, superheroes turn to supercomputers.

Except Aquaman, he's just a freak.

Supercomputing covers a variety of fields. Historically, research in these fields rooted in the national labs has centered on crypto-analysis, nuclear weaponry and other defense applications. In the past decade, these old topics and new, computationally intensive problems, sequencing the genome, for example, have prompted universities and even the president to look toward supercomputing. In his 2006 State of the Union Address, President Bush called for expanded research and tax breaks in supercomputing-related fields. This is good news for us at UTD.

UTD and neighboring UTSW need extremely precise mapping on the molecular level (genes, proteins, biochemical pathways). There also exists a demand for modeling in the geosciences (lithospheric studies, seismic activities and weather patterns). We have a demand for compute cycles in problems concerning cyber terrorism, cyber security and Monte Carlo simulations.

And last year we had more computer science graduates at UTD than any other university in the country; to keep this statistic in the next years, new waves of

students need engaging, compelling topics on which to write theses and do graduate research.

This February, UTD released its strategic plan which can be summed up in three words: "Be the Best." Applied to academics or online gaming, this motto is written on the heart of our institution; it's time we start making giant leaps for Comet-kind.

One such leap is the establishment of a centralized supercomputing initiative at UTD.

The end beneficiaries of such an initiative would be everyone: professors, students, companies and the community at large. An increase in national recognition of UTD, coupled with the ability to obtain bigger federal grants to tackle the largest problems that face the world today, would come in tandem with a properly managed, well-utilized, high-performance computing center on campus.

What is supercomputing?

For starters, to answer that question keeping you up at night: Yes, Seymour Cray is the father of supercomputing.

Supercomputing efforts began as scientists focused on ever-faster processors and then found that there were limitations on the speed of a single silicon-based processor. When Intel began hitting quantum limits in the manufacture of their chips, they had to turn to networking and parallelism to continue upping speeds. This trend evolved into supercomputing solutions.

There are three primary performance limits in supercomputing: individual processor speed, the overhead involved in intertwining many processors to work together on a single task and the input/output (I/O) communication speed among processors and between processors and memory.

No matter how fast "fast" is for a computer, all of these obstacles seem dwarfed when it comes to that annoying limitation of the speed of light.

Supercomputing is a fluid term, and definitions range from any computer costing more than ten million dollars to any computer whose performance is limited by I/O, rather than by the CPU.

Supercomputers are actually a collection of computers that work closely together in a tightly coupled network called a cluster. There are two main types of cluster architectures: high performance clusters and grid clusters. High-performance clusters are like a commune: tasks are split up among the nodes, and everyone shares the credit.

Grid clusters, however, are like a bad break up: they favor independent jobs where work can be split up and the clusters never have to talk to one another again. Through pipelining, computer clusters work together in an assembly line approach, farming out data to various nodes for computation.

When you talk about how fast information is processed, latency and throughput are the meaningful benchmarks. Latency is the time it takes for a guy to respond when a woman asks if this makes her look fat, while throughput is the amount of information the woman can read from the guys simple answer of "Of course not honey," or "Compared to what?"

Supercomputers run on a RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) architecture: basically the same smaller, simpler set of instructions that normal computers use. Each node also has shared memory, global memory (shared memory for everyone), and distributed memory to use for itself.

Each node communicates with the others through its Network Interface Cards, and this talkative technology follows a topology network such as a star, ring, bus or hybrid of several types.

So how fast is fast? Blue Gene, the world's "fastest supercomputer" can currently perform 280.6 trillion floating point operations per second. And that is definitely faster than a speeding bullet.



*Our reporters
face fanny
friction to bring
you their top
(and bottom)
picks for best
toilet papers*

A Modest Proposal again brings you our resident consumer experts to ask the tough questions so you don't have to. Providing everything you need to make an educated decision at the checkout line, Messrs. Janecka and Lee employ their expertise of toilets and paper to bring you this valuable report.

For the purpose of this market comparison we ranked five different samples of toilet paper on the basis of texture, absorbency and taste. Up for consideration were Quilted Northern, Charmin, Charmin Ultra, Soft'n Gentle, the generic demon brand used by UTD in their campus restrooms and *The UTD Mercury*.

We wished to also compare each sample on the basis of durability, but under our current testing standards, not a single one of them passed the test. Needless to say, the injuries Cheng sustained from the falls were quite minimal, and he hopes to recover. We do not plan on swinging from the balcony on toilet paper ropes again. Ever.

The quantity listed under each sample name was the amount absorbed from a cup of water by 20 sheets or the equivalent of the sample fully submerged and then removed.



Charmin Ultra

Absorbed ½ cup

BJ: This roll just leaves me speechless. The softness and cuddly nature by far surpasses anything else we have seen. I'm almost tempted to replace my mattress with rows of Charmin Ultra. The double-ply again begins to fall apart in the mouth, but this does so far less than the Quilted Northern. Unlike the other papers, however, this one turns immediately into a firm chewy wad. Most unfortunately, this roll just seems to lack any discernible taste, and while it would be pleasant to chew it for hours, the bland flavor is sadly disappointing.

CL: The difference in quality is immediately noticeable; this is certainly a must-have for chronic sufferers of hemorrhoids. It just caresses you all around. I'm glad this is just a roll of toilet paper, and not a child, because I can't keep my hands off it. This tastes like security blanket on laundry day – clean linen just springs to mind. The crisp freshness extends right past the texture into the mouth and cuddles the tongue.



Charmin

Absorbed: 3/8 cup

BJ: The single-ply is surprisingly strong and the unique grip-texture stands out among other brands. This is untested, but perhaps the greater surface area would greatly increase the amount of poo collected with each wipe. Taste is almost bitter, resembling notebook paper far more than any other.

CL: Smells like campground bathroom. This is probably more appropriate in price and physical attribute for a late-night toilet papering than in a bathroom. Taste seems almost alarmingly salty, and the odd smell—now more akin to raw meat than any stale bathroom—just prevents you from truly enjoying the experience.



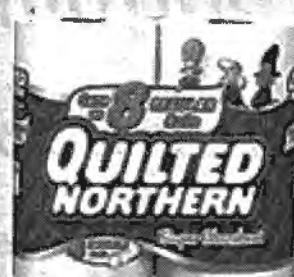
Soft'n Gentle

Absorbed: 1/3 cup

BJ: Another noticeable quilted pattern, however this does little to cover the fact that it hardly lives up to its name. Soft does not come to mind in describing its feel. The first thing that comes to mind is frozen burrito. Perhaps Cheng is on to something in his thoughts of the freezer aisle. That said, it does have a surprisingly pleasant aftertaste, although

there are distinct hints of soap.

CL: The name gives it far too much credit, this brand is, in fact, neither soft nor gentle. It does smell quite crisp and pleasant, perhaps hinting of Freon and frozen food. There is a distinct refreshing rush, almost like sucking on an ice cube; perhaps this just resembles a refrigerator far too much.



Quilted Northern

Absorbed: 1/3 cup

BJ: Supple and cushy but perhaps not as soft as one would hope. The bold quilted pattern certainly does stand out among contenders, but as our eyes are (usually) situated quite far from our nether region, visual enjoyment is limited, at best. The double-ply comes apart far too easily, and while the scent might be nice to the nose, it merely urges the stomach to do nauseous flips.

CL: Smells like lilacs and spring time, but the scent is fleeting. First impression as far as taste goes is that it utterly disintegrates in my mouth. Taste is hard to pin down, though still quite distinct. Hints of fruit and fresh flowers, perhaps the smell is just best revealed in the mouth.

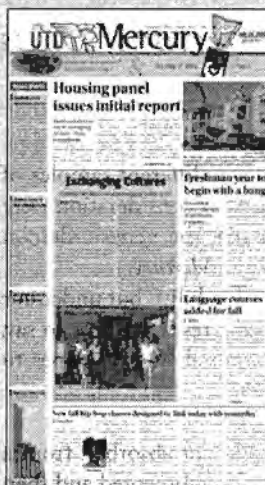


Generic Demon Brand from UTD

Absorbed: 1/4 cup

BJ: Somewhat grainy, elementary school construction paper comes to mind. On a sensitive bum, this might burn like the demon fires of Hades itself. Fairly unsatisfying, as it falls apart so easily on the tongue. The taste itself is not unpleasant at all, however, with a uniquely unexpected smoky body. Past the unpleasant immediate jolt to the mouth, it is actually quite enjoyable, with hints of wood and beach.

CL: Reminiscent of theatrical flash paper, complemented by a woody scent. It's a far cry from sand paper, but I really wouldn't trust this around my bum. Very bland, the use of salt and pepper is strongly recommended.



The UTD Mercury

Absorbed: 1/5 cup

BJ: It's hard to imagine something less skin-friendly than the demonic mystery brand, but this one-ply paper does seem to sit in a class of its own. As far as taste is concerned, the alarmingly bold taste certainly begs for notice in such a subtle package. Bold, but unfortunately not necessarily good. This particular sample literally triggered my gag reflex. I can hardly imagine enjoying a few sheets while sitting on the john.

CL: The texture is admittedly smooth, but the ink could certainly get in the way. That's not to mention that the crinkling noise could get annoying. It smells like ass.

	Quilted Northern	Charmin Regular	Charmin Ultra	Soft'n Gentle	Generic Demon	The UTD Mercury
Bobby's Ranking						
Texture	5	4	6	3	2	1
Taste	2	3	5	4	6	1
Subtotal	7	7	11	7	8	2
Cheng's Ranking						
Texture	5	4	6	3	2	1
Taste	4	2	6	5	3	1
Subtotal	9	6	12	8	5	2
Absorbance	3	5	6	3	1	1
Total	19	18	29	18	14	5

6 - best, 1 - worst; total - cumulative points earned for combined satisfaction

The Grammy Awards: Study of a *DOWNward* Spiral

Every year, the Grammy Awards are held to highlight the idiocy of the music industry and to inflate some egos just a little more. Because I'm sure most people didn't bother watching this showcase of narcissism, I decided to take one for the team and watch the full production. So, without further ado, here are my thoughts from the evening:



by Jonathan Lane

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7:00 – The show opens with one of my favorite bands, the Gorillaz, giving a holographic performance of their song "Feel Good Inc." Because she can't leave well enough alone (remember what she did to "American Pie"), Madonna comes onto the stage and launches into her latest single. The one

redeeming quality of the 47 year-old's performance is that her skin-tight leotard reminds me to never become an aerobics instructor at a nursing home.

7:12 – The first award of the night is given out to Kelly Clarkson, beating out a very leathery Sheryl Crow and demon-spawn Gwen Stefani for Best Female Pop Performance. If Gwen manages to win anything tonight, I'll have lost what little faith I have left in the music industry.

7:16 – Coldplay comes out to give a performance of "Talk" that would only be considered good by drunken karaoke standards. Chris Martin was sporting a fantastic white-boy afro, so bonus points there, I suppose.

7:25 – John Legend, the odds-on favorite for best new artist and someone I've never heard of before tonight, plays his acclaimed song, "Ordinary People." After watching his performance, I can see him going down the Norah Jones career path, making listenable and uninteresting music for years to come. This also pretty much insures that he is going to win several

times tonight.

7:29 – Sugarland, apparently a hot, new country group, performs one of their songs and finally answers my question: what would happen if a cowboy was also a metrosexual? The answer lies in well-groomed facial hair, blouses, and leather hats. Thanks, Sugarland, I'll be able to get some sleep tonight.

7:40 – In an interview as Time Magazine's Man of the Year, Bono says that he doesn't think of U2 as a rock band but as a folk band. To prove his point, U2 performs last year's winner for Best Rock Song, "Vertigo." They have me convinced.

7:56 – Ben Roethlisberger shows up to rub the Seahawk's Super Bowl loss in my face one last time. Oh, and he also was there to introduce Kelly Clarkson's performance.

8:02 – U2 wins for Best Rock Album. Apparently the awards committee didn't get the memo about U2's folk heritage. It's just as well; if any of

the other nominees had won, I probably would have slapped someone.

8:09 – Paul McCartney rocks the joint with an old Beatles song and one of his new ones, fulfilling his promise to "rock a bit." After seeing the Rolling Stones at the Super Bowl, even Sir Paul looks youthful.

8:16 – Before announcing an award, the Black Eyed Peas reveal that they won a Grammy earlier in the day. I'm eagerly awaiting the coming apocalypse. I really am not sure I can live in a world where it's possible to say "The Grammy Award-winning Group, the Black Eyed Peas!"

8:19 – My prediction is coming true, as John Legend snags the award for best male R&B performance. The person who seems most ecstatic about the award is Kanye West. He must not have wanted to see Jamie Foxx win either.

8:21 – While a list of the winners runs at the bottom of the screen, I notice that U2 didn't



**"Star of the show:
Mariah's low cut dress"**



The Grammy music scene is heading down the toilet tubes, says Jonathan Lane.



win for Best Traditional or Best Contemporary Folk album. There must have been some tough competition.

8:26 – Mariah Carey sings a couple of selections from her catalogue of a hundred songs that all sound the same. The performance was a little bit preachy, featuring a choir and cameos from a minister, but the star of the show was clearly Mariah's low cut dress. It's a new form of ministry: Cleavage for Christ.

8:41 – Faith Hill and Keith Urban come out on stage to give a performance, prompting me to go and grab a snack. I'm a man of principles.

8:48 – Jay-Z and Linkin Park pick up the award for best Rap/Sung Collaboration. This really wouldn't be noteworthy except that it means that Gwen Stefani is now 0 for 3 for the night. There is a God.

8:58 – A whole mess of people come together to pay tribute to Sly and the Family Stone. I was dumbfounded by the assortment of people. Everyone from Joss Stone to Will I. Am. to Maroon 5 to Steven Tyler was out there. It's like they took every performer who they couldn't justify giving a solo performance and forced them to sing "Everyday People." Sly Stone came out at the very end to join this conglomerate while sporting the greatest mohawk ever known to man. His hair was

by far the highlight of the evening.

9:10 – CBS needs to realize that if commercial breaks require an intermission, they are too long. This is getting ridiculous.

9:14 – Jay-Z and Linkin Park do their best to confuse me as they play "Numb/Encore" in front of images of spaceships, John Lennon, and Richard Nixon. I'm still trying to figure that connection out. Luckily, once again Sir Paul McCartney comes out to save the day, segueing to the classic tune, "Yesterday." Although this was pretty bearable, I bet that everyone would have preferred Paul to do it on his own. Except maybe Gwen Stefani, but I don't really respect her opinion.

9:25 – Not satisfied with being a legend in his own right, Bruce Springsteen decides to do his best Bob Dylan impression, singing a protest song complete with unintelligible lyrics and harmonica.

9:31 – U2 wins the award for Song of the Year, and Bono goes up onto the stage wearing a cowboy hat. He will convince people about this whole "folk" thing, no matter the cost. It's good to finally see the man campaigning for something.

9:38 – Kanye West and Jamie Foxx perform the marching band remix of "Golddigger." I discover that

I hadn't known true beauty until I saw a man in a band uniform dry-humping the air. I'm not ashamed to say that I wept.

9:49 – Green Day wins Record of the Year, apparently something different than Song of the Year, for "Boulevard of Broken Dreams." I know that this song came out in 2004, but that's fine by me. Even if we have to cheat for Gwen Stefani to not win an award, I'm all for it.

10:05 – Sure enough, John Legend wins Best New Artist, joining the ranks of such greats as Hootie and the Blowfish, Paula Cole, and Shelby Lynne. Being part of that elite company is what dreams are made of.

10:20 – Our merry band of folk artists, U2, pulls through in the clutch to win the Album of the Year and complete the shutout of Gwen Stefani. Kanye West looks absolutely stunned, but it really shouldn't come as such a surprise. No one likes a marching band nerd.

10:24 – To finish the night off and to make sure that the ceremony runs the full three and a half hours, a nice tribute to New Orleans is performed. At least, I think that was the idea. I decide to change the channel to make sure I didn't miss any of the Covert Report. Again, I'm a man of principles.

"Disregaurding the Birricade"

The UTD police waste taxpayer money by enforcing meaningless requirements in a crude and insincere way



by Micheal Donaldson

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At other schools, most students would probably tell you that their campus police is there to make their campus safe or make sure their parties don't get too crazy. This isn't the impression I have of the UTD police. I can't remember the last day I spent here on campus that I didn't see someone pulled over, and to me, that seems a bit extreme.

The times I have spoken to an officer here, I have witnessed an attitude reminiscent of elementary school bullies and the patronizing tone my mother used when she tried to get me to eat my vegetables. Now it seems that UTD Security has decided to join its brother, UTD Police, in giving swirlies to the other kids.

The other day, one of my friends asked me to drop him off by Jonsson for his class.

As I made the turn between Berkner and the art barn, I noticed a barricade off on the right side of the road, partially blocking it. They were doing some construction a few days earlier so I assumed that the barricade was left behind. I dropped off my friend and headed back to the road.

On the way, a security truck pulls onto the road and flashes his high-beams. I stop, and this guy parks his truck about two feet away, directly in front of me. Apparently my earlier speed of five mile per hour and compliant stop suggested that I was about to speed off. The guy walks over. No "How are you, sir?" or "Hi, I'm Mr. So-and-so" or even "Just letting you know that you shouldn't be back here."

He just demands "What are you doing back here?" in a way that makes me wonder whether giving a friend a ride was a capital offense.

"Dropping a friend off for class."

"Uh huh" Likely story,

trouble-maker. "You see that barricade right there?"

Actually, I couldn't because though it was only 20 feet away, there was a truck blocking my view. But I played along.

"Yeah."

"What do you think that means?"

Alright, jerk. "Well, if it were blocking the road, I'd think it meant that people weren't allowed back here, but since it wasn't, I didn't think it meant anything. I assumed that it meant it hadn't been put away yet." Take that.

"So you drove on the wrong side of the road to go around it?"

No, genius, I had a Warlock do a Ritual of Summoning to get me back here; I was about to have him get me out, but some Tauren chased him away just before you got here.

"Where did you say you were dropping your friend off?"

Oh, so now I'm lying? You got me; I was doing donuts next to the classroom building 'cause I can't think of anything better to do at seven o'clock. "Jonsson."

"Uh huh, wait here." Like I can go anywhere with his truck

there. He walks back to check my plates, and I look over at my buddy.

He can't even talk; he's speechless.

The guy comes back and gives me a ticket for disregarding the barricade and a warning for ignoring a sign that says "security vehicles only." I've been going to school here for years, and I haven't seen that sign before, leading me to believe that it has been up for about a day. He gets in his truck and drives away.

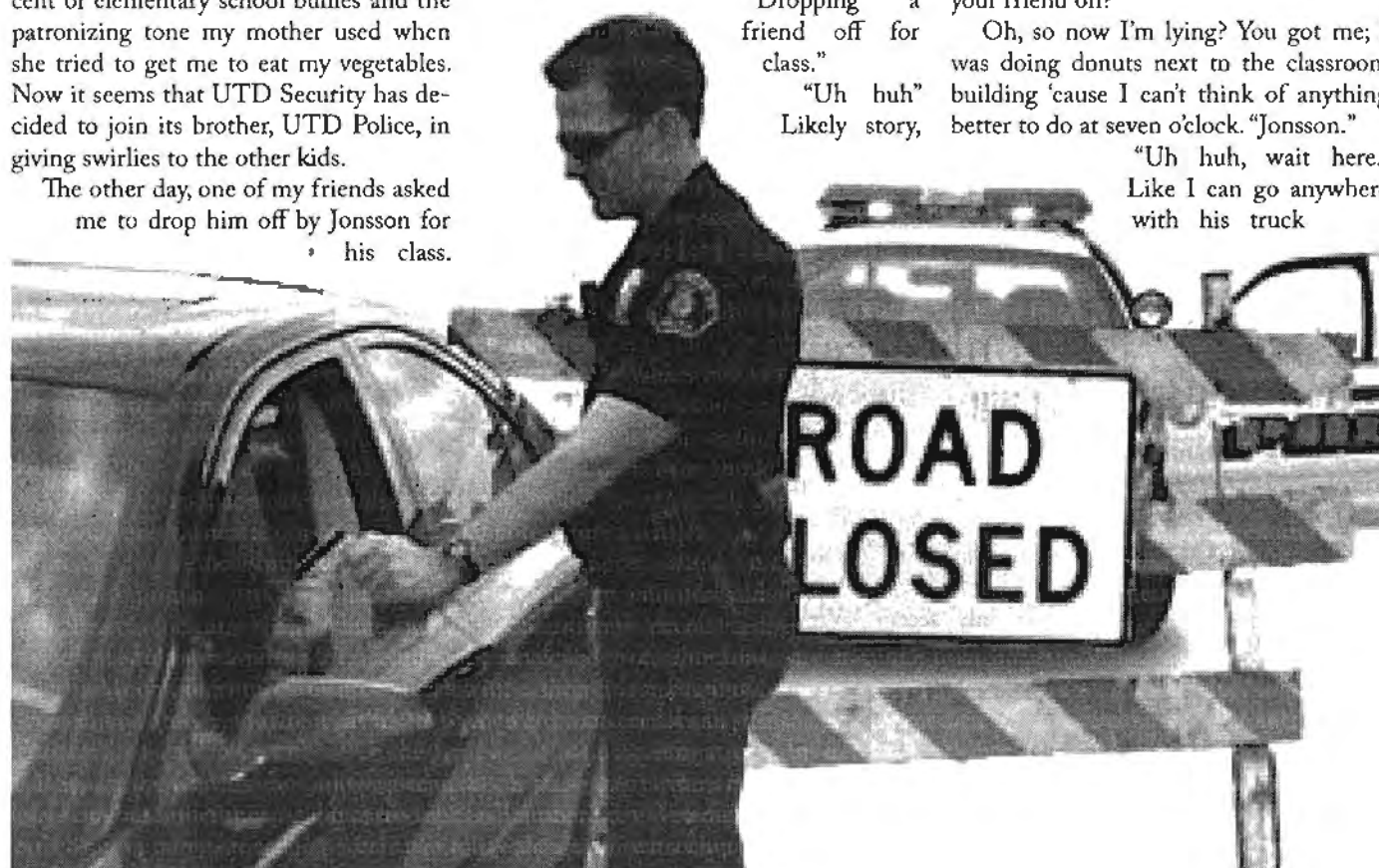
Not surprisingly, he didn't say anything like "drive safely" or "have a good evening."

I look down at the ticket in my hand. There is an 'X' in the circle next to "Other campus violation." Written next to that, in clear handwriting, are the words "disregaurding birricade."

...I'm speechless. Even as I sit here, I have to turn off auto-correct because my computer can't believe I actually mean to type "birricade." Ok, "disregarding" doesn't have a 'u'; even if it had "guard" as its root, he still wouldn't have spelled it correctly which is ridiculous since the word "guard" was written on his truck. Then we have "birricade." I don't even know what to say about this. Since this is the way he pronounced it, I guess I can understand his mistake. I guess. And the man works for a university.

This whole incident is absurd. When I first started here, I remember officers would give my friends and me a ride back to our apartments at night. Or one would walk a drunken freshman back to her apartment so she wouldn't be assaulted in the dark. Now the stories are about friends who get tickets for parking in empty parking lots at one a.m. or officers arguing over who gets to kick open someone's door ("C'mon, you got to do the last one!").

When it comes to campus security, I want someone who will make sure that my friends don't get assaulted rather than someone who waits, hoping to catch someone speeding after they lower the limit on Rutford.



the UTD Uranus

The University of Texas at Dallas

February 2006

Vol. II, No. 5

Bono to surgically weld sunglasses onto head

Bono, lead singer of rock band U2, has decided to surgically weld a pair of blue sunglasses to his forehead, making it more convenient for him to go from place to place clad in them.

"The question is, as the greatest rock star of all time, how can I possibly be any better than I already am? Because, if you saw the Grammys, you know that I am a magnificent specimen. The only way I could possibly be any more attractive would be if I couldn't ever remove these sunglasses. I never do, but this would prevent the possibility altogether," said Bono.

He proceeded to look at a mirror for 45 minutes and then crashed his car into a large tree, as his sunglasses prevented him from seeing anything at night.

Cupid's ass dumped for Singles' Awareness Day

Aphrodite, pale-golden goddess of love and other stuff, ends her 3000 year fling with Cupid, hung and handsome, to attend Apollo's Singles' Awareness Day jubilee. Curiously enough, Aphrodite did not cite pedophilia or incest as grounds for ditching her angelic son after millennia of god-like lovin'.

Chuck Norris pregnant with Aphrodite love-child

Chuck Norris, on whom oxygen relies to live, proves yet again that there is in fact nothing Chuck Norris cannot do. Aphrodite, pale-golden goddess of love and other stuff, was drawn to Mr. Norris at a Single's Awareness Day bash, and afterwards, the two slipped out for a bottle of ambrosia on Cloud Nine.

"I knew nothing could take away from my masculinity," Norris said, "so I simply grew a uterus to show I am more powerful than Zeus."

Moments later he was struck by a lightning bolt and, unfazed, filmed three episodes of Walker, Texas Ranger.

Arts and Humanities department enthusiastically buys ECS building

Unfortunate sign mixup leaves EE, CS homeless

by Demo Kratz

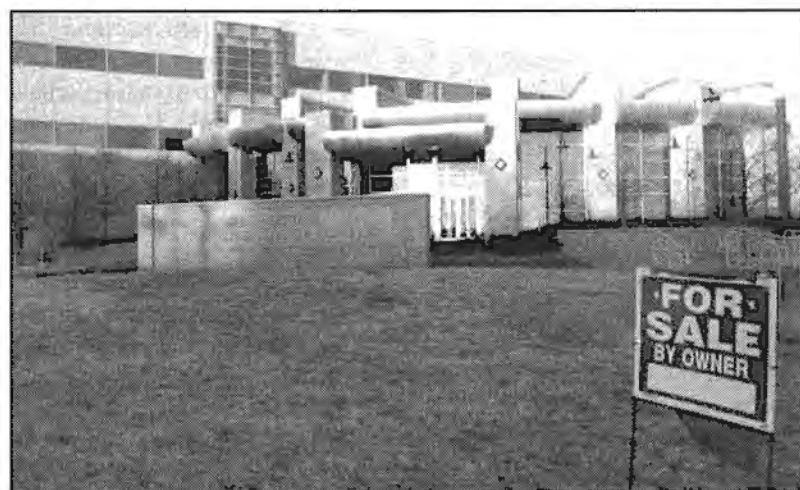
kratz@iheartliterature.com

RICHARDSON (AMP) - The computer science department has taken a giant hit after the A&H department wrote a check for \$16, effectively purchasing the building. It was the last remaining funds in the A&H budget.

"I was talking to Greg earlier, and then these guys start walking into our classrooms and removing all the computers," said a TA in the building at the time.

"I of course ask what's going on, and they inform me that new management has taken over the building. They then started running around and quoting some sort of moon-man language while putting Hamlet posters on everything. I knew then there'd been a terrible mistake," he said.

Other disgruntled engineering students complained about exposure to sunlight as they erected a new building over the next two days.



actual photo by Benedict Voit

Upset that they were wasting time that could have otherwise been spent in front of a computer, the organized, industrious fellows nonetheless were fully operational again in 48 hours.

"It was time for a new building anyway," one CS student said.

The A&H department has begun selling the computers in the building on street corners and eBay, occasionally using them to look up nude paintings on Google. Classes have consisted of students rolling about in comfortable chairs, stretching their

arms to enjoy the concept of space, and incoherent weeping about "no trailer sheds".

The CS students who hadn't been busily erecting the new EE building called FU-AH, pronounced Foo-ahhh, moved to the new South-by-Southwesterly Classroom Building where students are drawing pictures of what they imagine their programs would look like on the chalkboard. Other students are making humming noises to emulate the sound of computers running.

UTD now only accepts Wells Fargo checks for tuition

by Harold Hill

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RICHARDSON (AMP) - In a unanimous vote, the governing board of the university decided to change the tuition system to only accept checks from Wells Fargo banks, and explicitly those with the Wells Fargo wagon portrayed on them.

"In these times of trouble, it's sometimes hard to know where to turn. Who can protect your money? Who will be honest with you about

your savings, and your future? For more than 200 years, people have trusted the Wells Fargo name.

They know what it symbolizes to the business world and to the common man. We here at UTD want to be part of the Wells Fargo tradition. We're also going to make it mandatory that everyone else is too," said a high-ranking official. He was then handed a large wad of bills by a Wells Fargo associate who then claimed that "this never happened".

Wells Fargo will also be taking over any and all monetary transac-

tions on campus.

The bookstore and Comet Café will only accept Wells Fargo credit cards and checks, and all sites on campus that accept cash will be equipped with special machines that will check if the bills came from a Wells Fargo location.

If not, they will be promptly burned. Wells Fargo secret police will also make sure that all student-to-student loans of anything from next month's rent to a burger at McDonalds will be done with Wells Fargo currency.

Olympics add three-legged figure skating to Games

Three-legged figure-skating has become a crowd favorite since its addition to Olympic competition this year.

The spectacle involves all of the jumps and spins in conventional pairs skating with one additional twist—each participant must have one leg tied to the leg of his or her partner.

The sport is expected to greatly increase the demand for medical personnel and duct tape at the games.

Through a loophole in the international rules, a single contestant from Russia, Ivan Xtraleg, has entered the competition alone. He hails from a potato farm in Glowin Urinesky, just north of Chernobyl.

Bulgarian competitors Weel Barorace and Egg Thoreau are the early favorites for the gold, due to their expertise in the spread-eagle and their exclusive signature move, the couple's ice-cartwheel. But the couple fears the Russian has an unfair "leg-up" on the competition.

Chuck Norris has also entered the three-legged competition, but for other reasons.

Ice chess also on docket of new Olympic events

The 2006 Games has been a fanfare for firsts as ice chess made its debut earlier this month.

Players compete in a version of chess similar to speed chess except that the pieces are made out of ice and continue to melt until a king dies by checkmate or the aptly named Wicked Witch syndrome ends the game.

The unique board was designed integrated with a chess clock and tracking system: as a player finished his move, the squares under his pieces suddenly freeze up, punishing players who deliberate at length by forcing an early melt and thus early exit.

Members from the UTD chess team said they have been amazed at the combination of strategy and speed that the game combines.

The game has made popular souvenirs such as the ice chess ice chests.

UTD becomes blue-light district

Former K-Mart shoppers drawn by number of blue lights on campus

by Martha Stewart

jailbird@utdallas.edu

RICHARDSON (AMP) – Bargain seekers around the DFW area have flocked to the UTD campus in the past few weeks, expecting to find bargains from the deceased K-Mart superstore chain near the large, flashing blue lights now installed for the police.

"Where are the deals? I was hoping to get socks on sale this week! My Jimmy, he needs socks. His feet are just a-growin' so fast!" said Marsha Stahl, a local housewife. She then proceeded to get into a fight with

a female student over the notebooks she was carrying, declaring that no one could hog all of them for such a low price.

The fabulously infamous K-Mart "blue light" special, where fabulous items would suddenly drop in price whenever the fabulous blue lights located around the fabulous store went off, has absolutely nothing to do with the fabulous violence-deterrence system now in place on our fabulous campus.

However, visitors did complement Waterview on the beautiful "fountain system" lining Drive A and parts of the Phase III apartments. Waterview accepted the accidental compliment and proceeded to go back to draining student money.



FedEx wins Superbowl for second year in a row

by Cave Man

trexeater@utdallas.edu

The mail certainly came on a Sunday this February as viewers nationwide gave an overwhelming "Good Sir, they made a funny!" to FedEx's Caveman masterpiece.

All 130 million viewers texted in their votes for the winner and the results:

FedEx came in first with a resounding 70 million votes of "My Man's the Caveman,"

Anheuser-Busch's "Cute Clydesdales" trotted in with a close second at 50 million.

The remaining 10 million votes all went to Clay Aiken, and all viewers commented that they were severely disturbed by that H3 commercial. "Godzilla can do so much better than the Iron Giant," said the token Japanese football fan.

Advertisers from every creed and company united under the common slapstick humor technique, showcased first in the famous "Terry Tate Office Linebacker" of Super Bowl 2003, but loyalties still lie with the classics.

"The Budweiser frogs are still unbeatable," one die hard armchair ad expert remarked. "Bud belongs on a Wheaties box, and Err should run for president."

Despite their overwhelming success, there are whisperings afoot that the media is trying to take the focus off the commercials.

"There was too much football in between. We could have done with more timeouts, overtime and call reviews," Duncan Doenutts exclaimed. And the facts back him up. Google reports more searching for the Go

Daddy Dot Com Girl than Hines Ward, B Cowher and Vince Lombardi combined.

Yet the big question still remains. Who will the Taco Bell Dog return to reclaim his rightful throne?



"What is Sex?"

Main question asked on Sex Day at UTD

by Eve Adams

notbiblical@utdallas.edu

RICHARDSON (AMP) – At the recent Sex Day held in the Student Union, organizers found that one question seemed to dominate the proceedings.

"We came in prepared to discuss things like the proper way to put on a condom, or maybe the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases, or ways to talk about sex with your partner.

However, the main question most people had was exactly what sex is, said a nurse from

the university health department working at the event.

"I once saw a guy's handle on Halo 2 online that was called 'SexMagnet'. I asked him what the polarization of sex was, so that if I built my own sex magnet, I would know which part of the magnet to use. He insulted me in many derogatory words. I came here today to find out in an honest environment the answer to my question," said one male CS major.

"I have often wondered what the large outcroppings of flesh on the chests of female bodies meant. I think this could lead to

some understanding," another male student stated.

A detriment to the educational mood was the liberal arts majors, who walked by with large pictures of naked women and books filled with filth.

They did not stay for long, saying that they had something called "a crack orgy" to attend and gallivanted away, talking of words not printable in family establishments. The math and science majors were assured that they were very handsome and that their mothers thought they were very "hip" and "cool" indeed.

Rolling Stones now 85% cyborg, still ancient, touring

DETROIT (AMP) – The Rolling Stones, claimed by many as the greatest rock band of all time, have confirmed that they are now officially 85% cyborg, having replaced most of the human parts of their body with lifelike machinery that gives them unnaturally long life.

"My pelvis would have shattered into fragments long ago had it not been replaced with a titanium model that also gives off a GPS tracking system in case I must be located at any time by the nursing home staff. Also, my lips are completely silicon. Not injections, not implants. It was time to just let the whole thing go," said lead singer Mick Jagger. He then paused to refill with gasoline and was plugged into a wall socket.

Their Super Bowl performance was marred only one time, when a cell phone in the audience disrupted the signals in Jagger's brain, causing him to move his hips in an odd, jerky manner while twitching about. The malfunction was played off as "sexy dancing" and seemed to be accepted by the general public.

In exchange for the secret technology, the Stones agreed to appear unnaturally creepy for the remainder of their days, which will continue on an exponential scale. By the year 2011, the face of Keith Richards will literally place the fear of God into any living mortal, and by 2016 the gyrations of Jagger will be placed on the Geneva list of cruel and unusual punishments in torture. The Stones will continue to tour, however.

Olympics less popular than NHL

Fewer fights, even more Canadians proven the ultimate disaster for sports

by Bob Costas

ilovenyself@utdallas.edu

The Winter Olympics, a cheap knockoff of the original games in Greece, has found itself in a quandary this year, garnering less television attention than the dreaded red-headed stepchild of national sports: hockey.

"I don't understand it. I surely would have thought more than 300 variations of going down a hill on small wooden sticks and poles would fascinate and intrigue the American people," said an Olympics official from Turin.

"However, it seems they have more important things to watch, such as reruns of

'Matlock' and infomercials about knives. Hopefully, with an added marketing push, the 300m snow shovel will beat the ratings of the Avalanches-Kings game on ESPN3," said the official.

He did also comment, however, that there was "no better place than the tres" to find intense hockey action.

The Olympic hockey games are said to be watched by negative people: that is, either family members of the athletes or people paid money to watch them. Speed skating found itself pummeled by the one-two punch of a Lifetime made-for-television event called "My Ex-Husband Police Officer Who Is An Alcoholic Stole My Daughter Who Used To

Be Mine Until The Court System Stole Her From Me While I Watched Oprah" and the Food Network's "Hola, Flavor!" marathon.

Canadians have found the games a source of national pride, allowing them to be distracted from the fact they have produced both Bryan Adams and Nickelback.

Nations such as Sweden and Norway have found a chance to be remembered as more than occasional sources of blonde women; however, 98% of the coverage on both teams has revolved around the blonde women on the team, both of whom do not actually compete. The Kenyan team basically just started laughing the moment they were invited and haven't stopped since.

Don't like what we write? Like telling funny stories? All Student Submissions accepted but not considered.

Email: amodestproposal@gmail.com with story ideas

dictated but not read

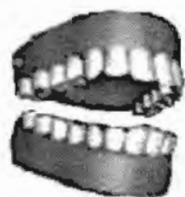
The Chronicle is Brought to You by:

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Micheal Donaldson
Molly Wurzer

Michael Seeligson
Juliann Peterson
Walter Voit



Quote Board



What did you like best about this year's Superbowl?

"THE COMMERCIALS. OF COURSE. BUT THEY WEREN'T AS GOOD AS USUAL."

- ISSAC HERNANDEZ, FRESHMAN
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & BUSINESS

"THE FOOD AND THE PHASE VIII PROGRAM FOR THE FRESHMAN."

- DANIEL WARD, FRESHMAN
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

"The Superbowl was boring. It was the most boring that I can recall."

- Christian Danewood, Freshman
Government and Politics

"I didn't like it because the Seahawks didn't win. But the little horse commercial with the carriage was cute."

- Julie Harbin, Junior
Psychology

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What is the most annoying part of Valentine's Day?

"I don't understand the purpose behind it. Obviously, I'm single."

- Raymi Moore, Junior
Psychology & EC-4

"PROBABLY ALL THE MUSHINESS, EVEN THOUGH I'M PART OF IT."

- RACHEL SHRONTZ, SENIOR
PSYCHOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY

"The costs."

- Anita Joseph, Sophomore Biochemistry

"That they already sell Easter stuff at Wal-Mart."

- Rusty Anderson, Freshman CS

"THE FACT THAT IT IS SUCH A BIG EVENT...I'D RATHER IGNORE THE WHOLE THING."

- SOPHIE RUTENBAR, SENIOR
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

What is the best part about the Winter Olympics?

"It's not live at all, and it's all edited out."

- Nick Cates, Freshman CS

"The lighting of the torch. That's the only part I've seen...Also, ice skating"

- Natalie Price, freshman
Mathematics

"HOCKEY!"

- NEHA FIROZE, SOPHOMORE
NEUROSCIENCE

When dinner can kill...

The most dangerous foods around could be on your evening menu



by Paul Ingram

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Living in college brings numerous dangers, against most of which we can protect ourselves. We buy insurance policies to cover car accidents and lost items. We purchase virus protection to prevent irreparable damage to our computers. With this in mind, it is necessary to become informed of one of the foremost and least discussed dangers of all: food. Here is a list of the five most dangerous foods, presented with methods to identify them and stories that illustrate what will occur when one throws caution to the wind while eating them.

Hot Pockets:

This product consists of plastic packaging in which the Hot Pocket itself is found. In addition to the food item, a cardboard heating cover is packaged along side it, upon which the words "Caution: Hot" are emblazoned. These words should be heeded.

Though innocent in appearance, the hot pocket is a dangerous item which should be treated with care. While stable and unassuming in its frozen form, the hot pocket is likely to cause undue pain once heated up to the point of boiling. I interviewed an anonymous source concerning a situation in which they met their match at the opening of a hot pocket. "I was late for class, trying to rush through the hot pocket, and the pepperoni fell out, unfortunately right on my lip. Burned pretty bad... Don't know what hurt more, my lip or my pride."

Bananas:

A fruit of the species *Abyssinian Banana*, it is elongated and yellow, often times composing a fair portion of the staple food of most primates and some humans who are closer to primates on the evolutionary scale. The color of the banana indicates the preparatory stage of the fruit in reference to its consumption. According to renowned botanist Mitch Hedberg, "Green means slow down, yellow means go ahead and red means where the hell did you get that banana at."

It is not the consumption of the banana itself that is dangerous but rather the method of its disposal. I relate to you a cautioning tale that might alert you to the dangers

of the incorrect disposal of the fruit and its remains.

My father once had a friend in Iceland who often times would consume one of the pernicious little fruits on his way to work. One day as he was alone in the car, in an attempt to get fancy and show off to perhaps the passers-by, he decided to eat the banana and dispose of it in an altogether new manner; instead of placing the skin into a waste basket, he decided to toss it in a neat arc over the car. In the process of tossing the banana skin, he turned the wheel at the exact moment, causing his car to roll off the road, wrecking it.

Pizza Rolls:

Frozen pillow-like pockets filled with the heavenly goodness of marina sauce and ground beef. When exposed to heat for extended periods of time, these blissful pouches can yield devastating results to the consumer's lips and exposed tissue.

The hot interior has a high heat capacity, causing the sauce to rise to an unsafe temperature and resulting in injuries that can hurt both physically and emotionally.

Take the following story for example: I was downstairs at a friend's apartment for a little evening get-together. Okay, okay, it was more like an early morning reception - the time of which may have delayed my reactions and in turn have been partially responsible for my accident. Our host so kindly set before me a tray of fresh pizza rolls.

Little did I know I was just moments from a terrible misfortune. The rolls were hot, but I chose to ignore this fact, and I proceeded to pick up one and eat it. The moment I bit into the roll, I realized my mistake. A small, dime sized amount of the filling escape my gaping maw and landed upon my top lip. The pain was excruciating, but the aftermath was worse. Incapable of wiping the burning mass off in time, I stood for a good ten seconds not moving, allowing my lip to be thoroughly irradiated with scalding heat.

As a result, I walked around with an obscene blister on my upper lip, giving the appearance that I had tried shaving my lip and lost the fight with my razor badly.

Chips:

Often times composed of corn or flour, chips in general pose a definite threat to the roving consumer. Their triangular appearance and rigid composition leaves a lot of room for injury and little room for error. These are by far the most common of the dangerous foods, found at nearly all parties and in all homes.

Great care must be taken when consuming a chip, starting from the moment it is removed from the bag until the moment you swallow it. The majority of accidents with chips occur during the mastication process, when



image by Benedict Voit

Such dangerous foods have caused numerous injuries to the unsuspecting consumer. So beware. Danger may be only a bite away.

careless chewing practices causes the already sharp edges to embed themselves in the gums. "Oww," my anonymous source reports, "Those were my only words when I cut myself. I just wish I had used protection..."

Pickles:

Shriveled cucumber salted to the point of dehydration and re-saturated with alum, vinegar and other pickling liquids, excluding formaldehyde.

The consumption of a pickle is not in itself dangerous but should not be undertaken casually. Choosing to eat a pickle at the wrong time can cause suffering equivalent to that of pouring rubbing alcohol on a fresh cut. Wise advisors say "it will sting any cuts on the face" and "chapped lips when you eat a pickle... not fun." Pickle seeds can also cause damage, inadvertently launching and causing damage to exposed soft tissue. An anonymous subject summarizes his pickle experience: "Seeds may eject into your eye."

Say goodbye to squeaking by

Plus and minus grades in grad school will increase competitiveness



by Aidan Skoyles

skoyles@student.utdallas.edu

The Erik Jonsson ECS School faculty has unanimously approved a motion to institute plus and minus letter grades at the graduate level. I support the proposal.

Currently only undergrads can receive the maddening A-, B+, B, B- and so on grades on their transcripts and appropriately receive 3.67, 3.33, 3, 2.67 grade points for example. Graduates though, can only get "whole-number" GPA points and must retake the class if they score below a B.

Although I'll be the first one to vouch for the agony of receiving an A-, I think that in the long run, the added specificity and quantization in GPAs will help improve the competitiveness and hence the value of a degree from UTD – something we can all appreciate and strive for.

One reason the plus-minus system will help comes from the way grad school grades are set up. If you make a C, you fail. The result of this "should" be that anyone who masters less than 80% of the material (the theoretical lower bound for a B) must retake the class and improve his or her knowledge. Unfortunately, the practical result of this policy is that the vast majority of grad school grades are As and Bs. By the Jonsson School's own admission "very few" Cs and Fs are awarded.

Hence the disparity between the students making an A or a B is far greater than the disparity between the students who earned an A or a B in undergrad plus-minus classes. The differential in effort between someone who makes an 89 or an 80, a theoretical "whole-number system B," is far greater than one between an 86 and an 83, a theoretical "plus-minus system B".

Adding the possibility of pluses and minuses to the graduate school makes everyone work harder because they know they must work for an 83 or a 93 for a B or an A respectively... they can't squeak by with an

Although currently only given to undergrads, plus and minus grades and GPAs will bring more competitiveness and renewed vigor to graduate classes by rewarding students more appropriately to their performance.

80 or a 90, and the ones who do will receive credit they deserve for putting in the extra effort.

Adding plus/minus grades will also serve to catch the crowd who barely miss the A threshold thanks to a nasty midterm and decide to coast on AIM during the rest of the semester knowing that the bottom B range is still a long way off. With more levels of differentiation we will better stratify achievement levels in graduate students to more accurately represent the level of competency in academics.

But the devil is in the details. Take the pesky issue of the A+ (about which I have already once put my opinion in print in a certain other campus paper). Oh what to do with the A+? Should we give 4.33 points? Should we cap it at 4.0, like an A as is the current policy at the undergraduate level? Yes and Yes. Award 4.33 points for an A+ but cap overall GPA at 4.0. I say that the student who makes the extra effort to learn the material to the level of an A+ deserves (at least) just as much *more* credit as the student who receives *less* credit to the tune of an A- for that level of work. It is unfair and demoralizing for our top students not to be rewarded for the effort they make and with the recognition they deserve. However, I appreciate the perspective of the purists who quiver at the thought of a student receiving above a 4.0. The horror. Such a GPA might sacrifice the credibility of other GPAs. I don't think it really will, but I'm willing to make the concession of a 4.0 cap. SGA President Basheer Benhalim agrees with me. For the Jonsson School motion's omission of 4.33 points for an A+, I withhold

my "whole-hearted" endorsement.

What of grade inflation? Will the plus-minus system coupled with 4.33 grade points lead to graduates with absurdly high GPAs to the point where they lose credibility in industry or against other graduates? This is, of course, something that must be avoided at all cost. The undergraduate experience predicts it won't. Plus-minus grades were instituted for undergrads in Fall 2000. In a December 14, 2005 memo from Undergraduate Dean Michael Coleman to Provost Hobson Wildenthal that was made available to the Faculty Senate, Coleman states, "undergraduate grades seem stable. The revision to the grading system seems to be in wide use by the faculty, it appears to operate fairly, and continues to reflect the demands of our curriculum and the talents of our students."

This all goes without mentioning that our satellite campus in Austin recently approved a similar measure. Beginning Fall 2005, graduate courses will have a plus minus system without an A+ and consider a 2.0pt C or below a failing grade.

The current proposal is not going into force this semester. It will have to go through numerous rounds of committee approval first.

I encourage my fellow graduate students along with the suits around conference tables who must push this proposal through the behemoth bureaucracy of UTD to green-light this through the system so the value of academic rigor in the classroom and hence the value of our degrees will go up.

And now, I've got to study for a midterm.

As it stands...

Only undergrads get +/- grades, grads get whole number GPA points and must retake a course if below a B is made. Even undergrads do not get "more" credit for an A+ than an A.

As is moved...

Graduates would also be eligible for +/- grades although no "more" credit would be given for an A+, and a decision has not been made if a B- or C+ would be passing.

Other Systems

University of Wisconsin

A, AB, B, BC, C, etc with a 4.0 to 0.7 GPA quantized in units of 0.1

UC Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana Champagne, Caltech, Princeton University, Cornell University, Columbia University, UT Austin, Ohio State University, all use systems almost identical to what is being proposed.

Data is according to documents created by the Jonsson School, given to CEP.

Giving UTD



Architectural Identity



by Felicity Lenes

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UTD doesn't need ivy on the walls of its buildings if they can be covered in LEDs, light emitting diodes that could stream flashes of genius or just announce the next home volleyball game.

The forward-thinking, envelope-pushing creativity and innovation that is the hallmark of UTD could be extended to its architecture – yielding a campus that no one could call “boring” or “ugly” any more.

Thirteen students from The University of Texas at Austin submitted architectural plans as part of UTD's Building Visions competition.

Their mission: to design a new building to house the School of Arts and Humanities.

Their cause: to give UTD an architectural identity.

And Margaret McDermott Distinguished Professor of Art and Aesthetics Dr. Rick Brettell gave them two months to do it.

The project, Dr. Brettell's brainchild, was an exercise in creativity and meant to inspire rather than constrain.

“I wanted to give these students the chance to design something with intellectual capital,” Dr. Brettell said. “They were instructed to innovate and create something that could give UTD a visual symbol – a beacon.”

Dr. Brettell provided the Schools of Architecture at both UT-Austin and UT-Arlington with details for the competition, which specified a proposed location for the new building and a list of the conference rooms, offices, classrooms and various other spaces that would need to be included for the building to function as the home of Arts and Humanities.

“I didn't want to hamper their creativity too much; some of the plans deviate from the required elements, and that is fine. I was much more interested in a way to transform UTD's image,” he said.

The proposals included a monumental tower, buildings reminiscent of grain silos, outer elevations that would fit in well with the current Engineering and Management buildings – but with interior twists, and a three-story corridor through campus, covered in LEDs so messages could be flashed inside or outside, and on one section near a large plot of grass, movies could be played on the side of the building.

Of the twelve submissions, none was proposed at the site suggested, right next to the Science and Engineering building currently under construction.

“The students from Austin come from one of the great planned campuses in the Nation, and they saw this building as a way to unify the campus rather than spreading it out even more,” Dr. Brettell said. “(UTD) is very much a commuter campus, and that mentality pervades students, professors, and the architecture alike.”

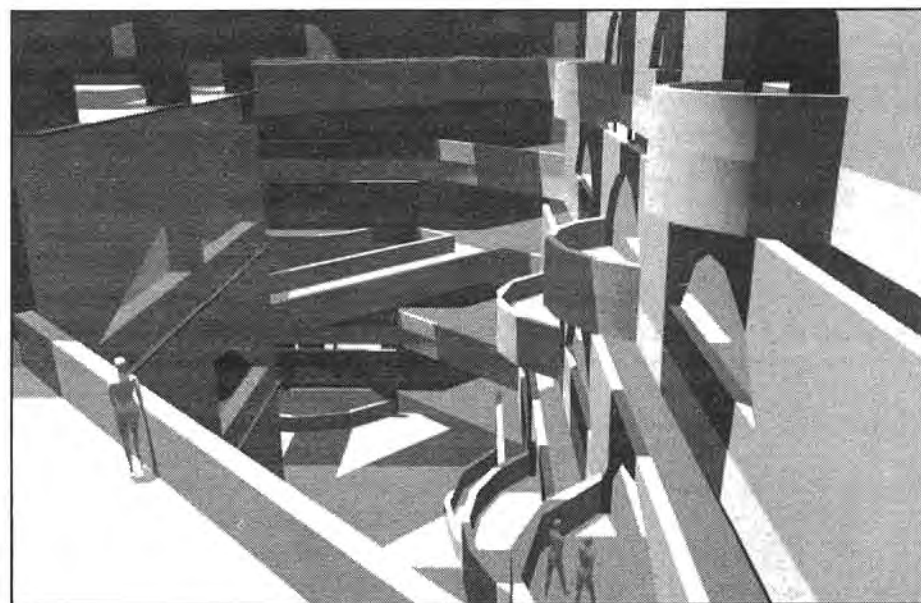
Alternate sites ran the gamut from the present-day site of the Student Union to the back of the Green Common building, to Dr. Brettell's favorite: straight through the main axis of campus.

Dr. Brettell is delighted with the students' concept of a “linkage building” for UTD. And since the project was meant to foster cooperation and collaboration between the UT-System schools in addition to giving UTD a landmark of sorts, Dr. Brettell couldn't be more pleased with the high level of quality participation.

“The UT System has no consciousness of itself,” Dr. Brettell said. “Campuses compete for money when we should be an interconnected resource.”

UT-Austin architecture major Miguel Bao, who participated in the competition, felt it was a golden chance to create.

“It was a great opportunity for us to put into practice all the theoretical input that has been given to us at the University so far,” Mr. Bao said.



images complimentary of Miguel E. Bao, UT-Austin School of Architecture

These computer generated images were created by UT students who are working in conjunction with Dr. Brettell's project, UTD's Building Visions competition, to design a new, revolutionary, and distinctive architectural identity for the school. Top and Bottom: An inside look and a frontal of the new building.



“I feel that this competition was definitely a turning point in my education as it really helped mature my perspective on the design process,” he continued.

But student participation at UT-Austin is not the only goal of the competition. The various designs have been exhibited in

the Art Barn for the past couple of months and will be moved to the Green Commons building for student viewing.

A prize will be awarded to the architect of the design picked by UTD students, who are encouraged to vote at vote4architecture@utdallas.edu.

Valentine's Day Telegrams

Rebecca,
You're the BEST!
Love, Ryan

Nik,
I may hate chocolate,
but all I need for Valentine's Day
is you. Be Mine.
Jenna

Ryen,
No more Christmas gifts!
We both have Valentines!
Your awesome, Love you!
Sadie

Brittany,
We're a lot alike,
but at the same time so different!!
But that's why I love you!
Sadie

Happy Valentine's Day!
And especially to UTD's lovebirds.

Amatey,
Happy Valentine's Day to the best big
sis anyone could have!
Yen

Dear Neghin,
I'm so lucky to have a great friend like
you! Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Ashley D.

Dear David,
Thanks for all you have done for me
during these busy and hectic times. I
love you so much!
Love, Kelli

Jamber,
You are the coolest Theta sister ever!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Theta Phi, Alicia

Clarisse,
Happy Valentine's Day Thug!!
HOLLA!!
Love, Alicia

Becca,
I'm still chasing those bell boys! Le-
gally Blonde Gangstas fo life!! Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love, Alicia

Lacy,
You are the best little sis ever! Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love, Alicia

Thomas,
I'm glad we're talking things out.
Happy Valentine's Day baby. I love
you!
Love, Alicia

To the 'Squad',
Just wanted to let you guys know how
great it has been to have such a good
group of friends! You guys rock my
world! (Hope this new year brings
much joy)
Love you guys!
Laura

Ashley Wuest is my Valentine!
Love, Your Big

Sadie,
Ryen thinks you are the sexiest woman
alive.

Belinda,
You mean the world to me.
Love, Steven

Terra,
Thanks for being so great. You rock
my world. Please keep smiling always.
Let's have fun!!
Truly Yours, Danny

Sadie,
"When I find you, I'ma beat that..."
you know the rest! I love you!
Love, Britt

Alex,
Couldn't imagine college w/o ya. I
love you so much!
Love, Brittany

Laura Hambrick,
Happy Valentine's Day Princess!
Frank

Amy Geck,
Hey Sweetheart! I love you more than
anything in the world. You are the
woman I want to spend the rest of my
life with.
Love, Andrew

Matt,
You are one sexy stud. I love you very
much, Happy Valentine's Day baby!
Love, Carter

I love Dri!
Jana

I love my Big, Myra, and my Lil, Iris!
And Chrissy too! Our Theta family
is the best!
Love, Jenny

I-R-I-S- K-W-O-N-G

I love the UTDPC!!

Sara,
You're the most amazing person I have
ever met and I am crazy about you!
Mark

Bri,
You're damn Sexy.
Love, Justin

Girls of 5617
Snogs to you (that's "kisses")
Love, Trevor

Happy Valentine's Day to the lovely
ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta!
From the gentlemen of Kappa Sigma
Fraternity

Happy Valentine's Day to the lovely
ladies of Alpha Lambda Chi!
From the gentlemen of Kappa Sigma
Fraternity

Ryan,
You are the wind beneath my wings!
Love, Your Secret Admirer

SGA Brad,
We only wish our tables were closer.
Love, Thetas Kate and Ashley

Kate-O,
You had me from hello. Will you
marry me?
Love, Ashley

Happy Valentine's to Kappa Alpha
Theta!
From Omega Delta Phi
I love Sara Stephens.
Britt Clark

Mark Ballard is man-gorgeous!

Britt Clark is pretty!

Manfred,
Will you be my valentine?
Love, Natalie

I love you Danny, even though you
snore in your sleep!
Love, Amber

I LOVE MY SISTERS!
Love, Courtney

Happy Valentine's Day to the lovely
ladies of Alpha Gamma Delta!
From the gentlemen of the Kappa
Sigma Fraternity

Babysakes,
Will you marry me?

Dear Albert,
The ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta all
secretly love you! Now the secret is
out!

To my love Amber

Lovely ladies of Alpha Lambda Chi,
It has been through your hard work,
sophisticated composure, wild creativ-
ity, intelligence and loving dedication
that has made ALX what it is today.
You have no idea how much you are
appreciated.
Love, Katy K.

The gentlemen of Zeta Beta Tau would
like to wish the ladies of Alpha Lam-
bda Chi a Happy Valentine's Day!

The gentlemen of Zeta Beta Tau
would like to wish the ladies of Alpha
Gamma Delta a Happy Valentine's
Day!

The gentlemen of Zeta Beta Tau would
like to wish the ladies of Kappa Alpha
Theta a Happy Valentine's Day!

Happy Valentine's Day Sherry

Dear Jazzy,
Happy Valentine's Day! I love you
drawers!
From Sean (P.I.M.P.)

Happy Valentine's Day Professor Hol-
mes!
From Carmen Reza

Dear Jennifer Wolscheid,
Happy Valentine's Day with many
hugs & kisses.
Love, C/SrA/Harold Pam

Robert,
You are so amazing & I love you. 3:14
Alexia

I heart my Jana Banana!

Jana has hott booty!
Love, Your Secret Admirer

Theta, Kappa Sig, ZBT, SAE, Chi
Phi,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Alpha Gam

Jana,
You are the best friend I could ever
ask for! Happy Valentine's Day! I
love you!
Dri

Jenna,
If I could catch a rainbow
I would do it just for you,
And share with you its beauty
On the days you're feeling blue.

If I could build a mountain
You could call your very own,
A place to find serenity,
A place to be alone.

If I could take your troubles
I would toss them in the sea,
But all these things I'm finding
Are impossible for me.

I cannot build a mountain,
Or catch a rainbow fair,
But let me be what I know best,
A friend who's always there.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Nik

We're not sisters by birth,
But we knew from the start
God put us together
To be sisters at heart.

Thank you all so much for helping
make this event a success! You are all
such amazing ladies and I wish you all
a Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Your Sister at Heart, Kate

To the one who reads this
You know who you are,
The girl who stole my heart,
You're my shining star.
You may not be the tallest one,
Or the strongest one either,
But from the moment I met you,
I knew you were a keeper.
I never knew love,
Until I made your acquaintance.
Our relationship bloomed,
But it still takes patience.
I love you so much
That I'm addicted to you.
So be my valentine
And make my dreams come true.

Tony,
I love you SO MUCH.
Happy Valentine's Day.
Ashley

I love you Sana!

Ana, you're beautiful!
Sannah

Sannah,
Thanks for being the best girlfriend
any guy could ask for.
Bo

Sana is too sexy!
Ann

Mango Badger Bunny Grape

I love you Ana!

Jenna,
I love you and you know I'm your
coolest valentine.
Ana

Mr. Pickles
Happy Valentine's Day! I love you.
XOXO

"Jessa, I love you more than two
bucks."

Ty, Steph & DJ,
Love stinks but friends are pretty
cool. Thanks for everything. I heart
you guys!
XOXO, JanDe

Terra,
Have a great Valentine's Day! Love
ya!
Belinda

Ashley Wuest,
Thanks for helping me in chem!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Belinda

Steven,
You have made me life wonderful for
six months and I know you will for
many more! Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Belinda

Rebecca Lammery,
You rock my world. Will you be my
Valentine?!!
Love and Hugs, Toby

Sheel and Ryen are my heroes! Happy
Valentine's Day!

Jeff,
I love you and thanks for the memo-
ries! It's been a great two years!
Love, Fern

Fern,
Happy Valentine's Day. I love you a
whole bunches.
Love, Jeff

Amatey,
You fill my empty heart
You show me what it means to love
unconditionally
You make me want to be a better per-
son
You are my angel
I love you
Gary

To David Olivares, my light
For the one who showed me fairy tales
can be made into realities, and dreams
are as close as a kiss away. I love you
with all of my heart. The first six years
with you were enchanting and I know
that you only have marvelous surprises
in store for the next eighty-odd years
to come. Te amo con todo mi Cora-
zon. I love you Gorilla.
Love Forever Your Chicken Little
Dana

Matt,
Have I ever told you how amazing you
are? Well I'm saying it again.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Danielle

Steven,
I just want to wish you a Happy Val-
entine's. I'm so lucky to be spending
it with you. You sure do know how to
make me smile.
Always, Ash

Ashes,
Thank you for the best past 6-12
months, you are an amazing girl that I
can't get enough of! Happy Valentine's
Day baby!

Brought to you
by the Ladies of
KAΘ

Deep Ellum's Music Blues



Goodbye, Deep Ellum. As clubs close, parking lots clog, and traffic grinds to a halt, bands and fans are moving out in search of greener pastures.



by Tally Zuniga

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Spring is a good time for live music shows in Dallas, and it's easy to see why.

The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, people are wearing gigantic sunglasses, and nearby Austin with its week-long music extravaganza, South by Southwest, makes it seem like a waste for bands to strut their stuff there and leave Dallas and Fort Worth music-lovers pining and lonesome.

There is no denying that the line-up of visiting bands this year is pretty phenomenal, but the venues where they are playing leaves something to be desired from the Dallas music scene in general. It seems that as time goes by, more and more bands are drifting away from the nearby venues of Deep Ellum and are going on to greener pastures, and with good reason.

During the past few years Deep Ellum has become increasingly unfriendly terrain to concert-goers and their wallets. Here's the general problem: first of all, unless you want to pull a wrinkly 5 dollar bill from your pocket to leave your car behind

a dark building or under a shady bridge, there is no place to park. Even if you get there early enough to scavenge for a free parking spot in some out-of-the-way lot that seems innocent enough in the daytime, chances are it won't be a pleasant walk back at one or two in the morning when your concert ends and the streets are dark and relatively unsafe.

Even before you set foot inside the venue, you have already spent money on gas to drive there and at least 5 dollars to park there. After you get to the door and obtain your wristband or those embarrassing sharpie X's that always end up on your face by next morning, the venue itself is a place to face.

Weekdays aren't bad, the shows aren't too crowded and generally the people are there to actually listen to the bands. Weekends, however, aren't very pleasant, to say the least. Venues such as Gypsy Ballroom and the now-closed Trees get oversold and you're lucky if you are tall enough to see above a sea of faces and through the smoke to catch a glimpse of the band members' dot-sized faces. Noisy and mostly intoxicated people are also an unforgiving source of suffocating body heat. Sometimes the music makes it all worthwhile, but most of the time you feel like you wasted your money and time. You walk back to your expensive parking spot only to waste more gas battling traffic to arrive home, where

you will definitely want to take advantage of a bar of soap, a bottle of Febreze and a lot of sleep.

So why bother? Well, I think a lot of people have had that same thought. Many venues that have tried their best to stay open in Deep Ellum have gradually started to shut their doors because of new options that are moving the music scene out of downtown Dallas and into its peripheries.

In Greenville, for example, we find The Cavern and the Granada Theater. Although the same problem with parking exists and the ambience in general creates more of a 21-and-up atmosphere (most of the shows at The Cavern require you to be 21), we can definitely see that people have found Greenville an appropriate alternative to Deep Ellum. Fort Worth also offers a variety of venues, if you're up for the drive. The Ridglea Theater offers a space for bigger acts while The Wreck Room, which boasts its own parking lot, gives you a cozier show.

Another option, which seems to be the one that shows the most promise, is driving your car up to Denton and enjoying the free-parking nightlife to your heart's desire. The town itself exudes a carefree, laid-back, culture-conscious feeling that is delicious to experience, as well as an 18-and-up general rule that makes it all much more agreeable. With venues such

as Hailey's, Rubber Gloves and Dan's Silverleaf, Denton attracts first-class acts with its relaxed and artsy atmosphere. Hailey's has abundant parking and very good sound, as well as three different sections that create cozy spaces for those who want to enjoy the show sitting and wide floor space for those who prefer to stand. It also has weekly dance nights on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Dan's Silverleaf is a venue with more of a bar-like feeling, where you can sit to watch your favorite bands or cool off in the back deck when it gets too hot inside. Rubber Gloves Rehearsal Studios is a cement factory turned live music venue. Local coffee houses also offer smaller local acts. Art Six Coffee, for example, hosts bands and plays in its backyard stage and makes very good peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Deep Ellum, with all this competition, has grown less and less appealing to the public. Although it nearby shows would be preferable, people would rather take the quality or the atmosphere that other places give you than the familiarity of downtown. I would like to see Deep Ellum cultivate its strengths, while trying to fix that which keeps people away.

After all, it's not only the public that shrinks away from uncomfortable venues; the bands, too, prefer somewhere that people can enjoy the music they give their life to create.

Preaching to the choir?

“Vagina Monologues” has fire aplenty, but who does it speak to now?



by Jordan Youngblood

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Any political act – whether it is through speech, film, music, or other media – must recognize the audience to which it is trying to communicate. It must have that self-awareness of purpose, of focus, that can communicate its cause effectively. As “The Vagina Monologues”, put on quite ably and effectively by the RatPAC here at UTD, filled the Jonsson Performance Hall with tales of vagina workshops, WASP orgasms, and as many synonyms for the female genitalia as the mind can handle, I was left wondering exactly who the play was speaking to. Is a university audience the type of people this play needs to speak to? More importantly, can this play in our modern age make a statement?

The production on campus had no problems attracting an audience; the Friday and Saturday night performances were filled to the brim with only a few seats left unoccupied. After intermission, the crowd remained intact. If you’ve ever attended a performance of “The Vagina Monologues”, you know one thing: if the name was giving you second thoughts about attending due to content, by the time “My Angry Vagina” rolls around, you’re either converted or converting your seat into an empty one. While the crowd contained more women than men, there were numerous representatives of the male gender

around, all of whom took the ample jabs at our gender with relative ease. All in all, the audience seemed comfortable, receptive, and willing to accept whatever was thrown their way.

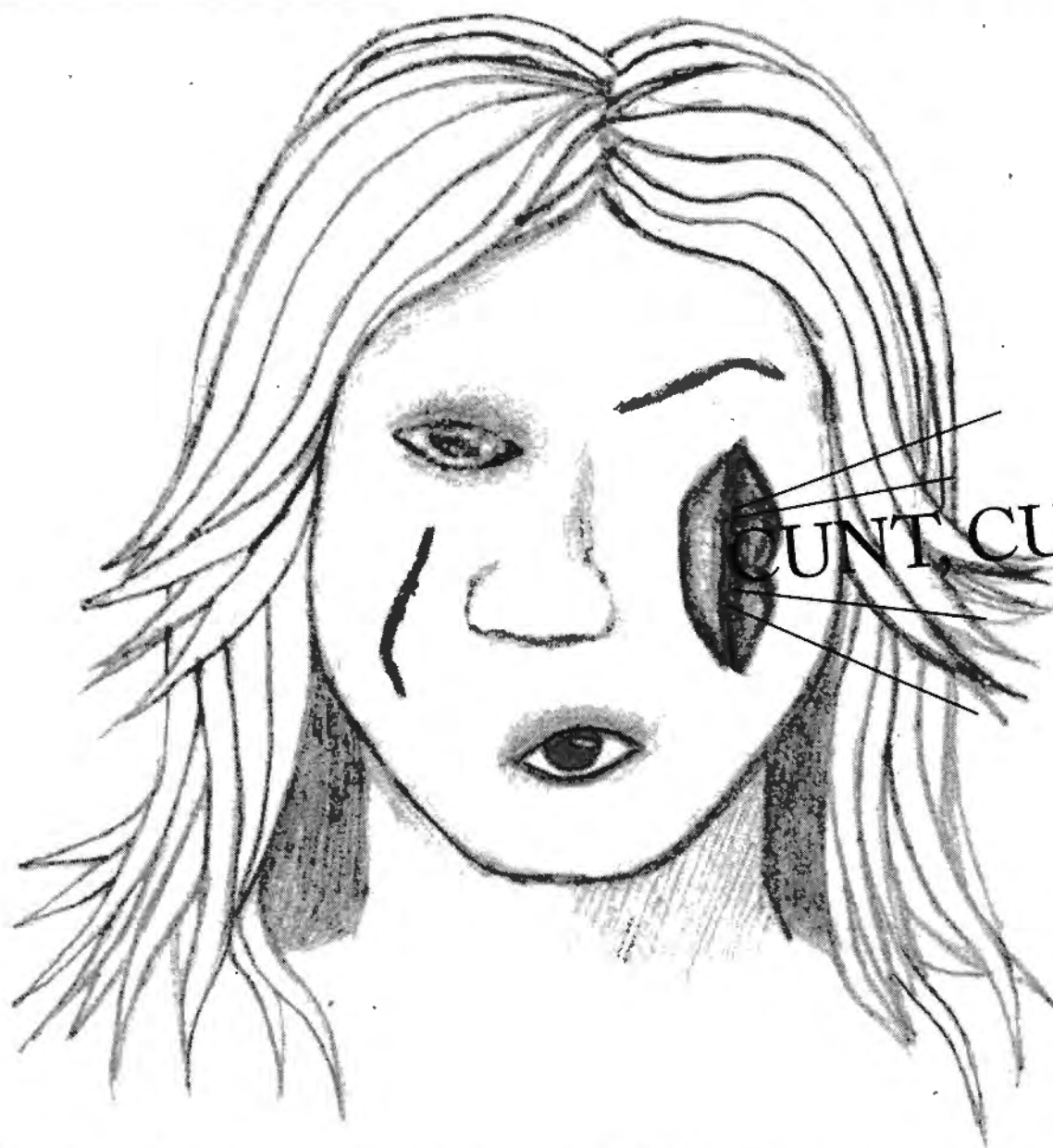
Those aren’t the audience attributes this play should create. This play should hit much harder, cause uncomfortable looks and shuffling of bags. It is designed to be a fierce examination of female sexuality. Instead, it created the atmosphere of a bawdy sitcom on television.

That’s the problem now. What once was a near-revolutionary call-to-arms is now not much more than a slightly more lewd episode of Oprah, or even a kinda boring “Real Life” special on MTV. The make-up of the audience was primarily students from here at UTD or middle-aged couples whose sexual revolution produced most of us college students. Two hours prior to the performance, I’d had coffee with some fellow female college students who talked openly and easily about the prospect of having sex, teased about men wanting nothing more than circle jerks, and sent male friends texts like “I like cock.” Seeing someone on stage talk about their vagina wasn’t eye-opening; it was more ham-fisted than anything. The usual play criticism that “no one talks like this in real life” can be mollified if the issues being discussed usually don’t come up at all. Sex is discussed, in far more fluid, unselfconscious, and honest terms than the monologues give their female characters. It’s telling that the most effective moments in the play are not those talking about open sexuality, but of repressed and crushed women whose rights have been stolen from them. Descriptions of their plight, one that remains of true urgency and need to this day, are written far more eloquently and powerfully than the comedic elements in the play. It is from these women that the play gathers its strength, and the jarring shift from true pathos to hyperdriven sex talk was quite evident.

And in all honesty, the sexual openness that has per-

meated our culture renders a lot of the descriptions and characters in the play as more stereotypical than eye-opening. The wild, moaning “sex worker” who believes that any woman should be some sort of unleashed tiger in bed when done “the right way” is almost offensive in its portrayal of female sexuality. If anything, it’s a resemblance of the pop culture porn star actresses that so many women find degrading. Why include a section on how women should really “unleash” in bed when the whole point of the play is discovering one’s sexuality on your own terms? The shy women in attendance have either opened up or left by the time that monologue begins. The fact that it’s delivered from a woman’s point-of-view on how to pleasure women doesn’t really shock anyone either. “Oh, look, it’s a woman who was let down by men’s inability to take her as a freaky sex animal and decided to pleasure women who really knew how to unleash their inner drive. Cool.” It comes off, quite ironically, more as a male sex fantasy despite the attempted jabs at them not being able to handle her.

“ But really the exciting part about sexuality is that it’s one part of a whole person. Our sexuality is informed by our beliefs, our heritage, and our culture. The play only offers one way to be “properly” sexual – full-out and blatant. Subtlety can be sexy too. ”



appeal to repressed women, but the olive branch it offers to those slowly opening up as sexual people is a tricky one. Many women are described as originally at odds with their sexuality, but once they open up, there's only one speed of sexuality offered here. The type of women who need to see themselves in an open sexual manner will not be converted by people on stage asking what they would dress their vaginas up as. They won't open up to a group shouting what they consider an obscenity at them, claiming they are "reclaiming" the word. The irony of the play is that these monologues were designed as intimate, individual interviews, where the reviewed woman spoke in confidence to a single interviewer. That security and privacy was precisely what let them open up about their innermost fears; displayed on the

CUNT, CUNT, CUNT

stage as almost primal therapy, those same repressed women would have a completely different reaction. It's trying to treat a fragile, sensitive wound with a sledgehammer. In addition, I know plenty of sexual women who do not find it necessary to lengthily espouse the glories of their vaginas because they know it for themselves. Where has Eve Ensler put them? And even more so, why would they need or want to see this play?

An audience that shouts "CUNT! CUNT! CUNT!" along with an actress on stage is not one that needs to be watching this play. A moment that was once galvanizing and – most importantly – polarizing is now no more than old foot. We were laughing along with an almost 9-minute female orgasm best-of, ranging from the Jewish climax to the Irish Catholic little death. We've seen Meg Ryan thrashing about on the big screen; the mock-up of female pleasure noises isn't any more taboo now than a mildly crude joke. It wasn't shocking to hear women firing off "off-color" terms for everything from their vaginas to their tampons; by the end, it was more tedious than anything. It was the men who were the most stunned at the end, mostly by the sheer shock of hearing the word "vagina" more in two hours than in the whole of their prior existence. And during the performance the guys were more likely to chuckle knowingly than to gasp appalled at the description of the women.

The play is performed each year as part of "V-Day", a day calling for the equal treatment of women across the world. The proceeds from UTD's production went to a local charity. Both are extremely worthy causes. But can this play expand the number of people who would see the importance of these issues? Is it more just a reminder to the faithful? The closest parallel I can give "The Vagina Monologues" now is that of a religious revival meeting. It's written to fire up the believers, and for the others, attempt to "shock and awe" them into conversion. The believers were out in force at these performances, and for them, the play is almost a warm sweater, a known comfort. For the curious few others, the problem is that the play can't offer much more than the world already does. It is that regular world, getting closer and closer to what the play would portray as taboo, that responds, "Yawn. I've heard that before."

The problem is that women are so objectified by their vaginas in the play that it is the only type of identification or personality allowed to them. One is Repressed Vagina; another is Awakened Vagina; another is Fiery Vagina. What else is allowed the players? Admittedly, this play is based on a goal of awakening female sexuality. But really the exciting part about sexuality is that it's one part of a whole person. Our sexuality is informed by our beliefs, our heritage, and our culture. The play only offers one way to be "properly" sexual – full-out and blatant. Subtlety can be rather sexy too.

The only really controversial thing in the play is the encounter between a 16-year-old girl and a 24-year-old woman who more or less commits statutory rape. As the actress described the feeling of being sexually unlocked by this older woman (along with approving nods and exclamations from the audience and other players), I couldn't help but think, "Am I the only one here who finds the fact this girl was quite literally picked up in a car, seduced, and used by an older woman without the knowledge of her mother the least bit creepy or morally wrong?" Yes, it's prefaced by the fact that it's a "un-PC" description of her

salvation, but to me, claiming "Puritanism" or "conservatism" as the reason why someone would take this section of the play as offensive is glossing over the facts. This isn't a message of sexual liberation. If this was to be changed to a 24-year-old man teaching a 16-year-old girl how to enjoy her body, there would be absolutely no hesitation to condemn the act as wrong. As it is, the aspect of a lesbian encounter acts as a sort of "if you call this wrong, you're calling lesbianism wrong" buffer that somehow lifts it out of criticism. Like it or not, the act was wrong, no matter what sexual orientation you come from.

I am a man writing this article. I entered into writing it aware of that fact, and was hesitant to bring up topics that I know I only see as an outsider, or at most, as a partner in a relationship. Being able to communicate sexually is of utmost importance to anyone in this life; I wouldn't begrudge anyone the chance to understand and explore their own sexuality. It's part of what makes us uniquely human. If this play opens someone to a greater understanding of themselves as a sexual person, I cannot fault that result. The play has done its job. The problem I keep encountering as I go through it is this: the play wants to

Really ADing to the SUPER BOWL



by Josh Allen

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Every middle of winter, some large men meet on a field of artificial turf to decide who gets to hold up the Vince Lombardi trophy and call themselves Super Bowl champions. It's an event so entrenched in American tradition that some people are probably already counting the days until Super Bowl XLI.

Over 40 percent of the TV-owning US population tuned in, according to Bloomberg. That's almost 50 million people. Consequently, it was the day of truth for the advertising world. They starve us with bad commercials for eleven months out of the year, only to surprise us with the best-of-the-best come Super Sunday.

And given the relative lack of excitement in this year's big game, we needed a little extra entertainment.

So how did this year's commercials stack up? Could any of them possibly compare to last year's "Terry Tate: Office Linebacker?" Which ones did you miss while taking a fridge break? Allow me to catch you up with ten of the most memorable (and forgettable) commercials:



1.) Bud Light (3/4 footballs)

It just wouldn't be a Super Bowl without a Bud Light commercial. Or four Bud Light commercials. All in the first quarter! The bear chase and the guy falling through his roof provided some cheap laughs, but the "magic fridge" is what most football fans will

remember from this year.

The Budweiser commercial featuring the streaker leads several online polls for the most popular Super Bowl ad. In the midst of a football game between farm animals, a shaved sheep runs out into the middle of the field and struts around, to the thrill of the other animals. An on-looking ranch hand mutters to his friend: "Didn't need to see that."



2.) FedEx (4/4 footballs)

In my opinion, this was the best commercial of the night. A caveman attaches a bone to a pterodactyl (a la a carrier pigeon), but shortly after its flight begins, it's viciously snatched out of the air by a T-Rex. The caveman despondently informs his "boss" also a caveman -- that the package didn't arrive. The boss fires him, saying he should've used FedEx, despite the caveman's insistence that FedEx doesn't exist yet. The caveman angrily storms out of the office (a cave), kicks a lizard aside in frustration, and immediately gets stamped by a woolly mammoth. Bad karma.

3.) Gillette Fusion (1/4 footballs)

You may recall seeing some trailer-style ads recently claiming that "Fusion was coming" on Feb. 5, 2006. Those were pretty lame, but the revelation of what Fusion actually is was lamer. Gillette took this \$2.5-million opportunity to announce a revolutionary 5-blade razor, complete with plenty of corny and unnecessary sci-fi fanfare. Nice try, Gillette, but I think I'll stick with my Mach 3.

4.) Mobile ESPN (3/4 footballs)

Sports Heaven: who doesn't dream about it? You're walking down the street, weaving in and out of a pack of dirt bikes, stepping over a set of bowling pins, ducking beneath a

baseball thrown by Cardinals outfielder Jim Edmonds...what more could you ask for? This ad shows what Sports Heaven might be like, if it existed. Since it doesn't, at least you can have 24-hour access to all things sports related.

Hmm, that must cost money.

5.) Dove (3.5/4 footballs)

Usually, Super Bowl ads have to be comedic in order to have a significant effect, but this commercial was an exception; sometimes emotional impact is good enough. Kudos to Dove for starting what they call a "Self-Esteem Fund," intending to help young girls with self-confidence issues. I was a bit surprised to see it promoted in the middle of a football game, but nevertheless, its message was positive and clear.



6.) Hummer H3 (0.5/4 footballs)

If this is how Hummers come into existence, I definitely don't want one now. Two giant monsters, one a hideous lizard and the other a robot that looked suspiciously like Iron Giant, are in the midst of destroying a city. Their rampage halts when they meet eyes and instantly fall in love. They hold hands, sit on the shores of the ocean, and gaze at the stars. Nine months later (I presume), the lovers give birth to a car. This one gets points for originality, but it's just too dog-gone creepy.

7.) Michelob (3.5/4 footballs)

This ad featured the best one-liner of the night. A group of friends are playing football, and one girl gently trash-talks her defender, quipping, "Throw it to me! I'm gonna be wide open!" to her defender just before the snap. He is not amused. Sure enough, she catches a deep pass, but is immediately taken out by her unsportsmanlike counterpart. He taunts, "You were open, and

now you are closed!" Not to worry, though. She exacts her revenge by tackling him later on in a bar.



8.) Burger King (2/4 footballs)

This commercial introduced the "Whopperettes," a group of dancers dressed up as burger ingredients who perform a musical number. Its climax is reached when the dancers literally fall from trapezes on top of each other to actually construct a human burger. Finally, Brooke Burke and her hamburger-bun-shaped dress crowns the creation.

9.) Ameriquest (4/4 footballs)

Who?

Another great ad. In a clear infraction of any hospital's health code, a doctor shocks a fly to death with a defibrillator. The dead fly plunges to its demise and lands on an unconscious patient's chest. The doctor proudly proclaims, "That killed him." Little does he know that the patient's wife and daughter just walked in the door. Now, that's what you call awkward.

10.) Sprint/Nextel (3/4 footballs)

Our streets would be a lot safer if everyone carried a Sprint phone around.

In this ad, two men argue about whose Sprint phone has more features. They go back and forth, each of them trying to one-up the other, until one of them brags that his is a "crime deterrent." To demonstrate, he invites the other guy to try and steal his wallet. As soon as he reaches for the wallet, he takes a cell phone right to the face. I guess the crime deterrence system only works if you have a good arm.

If you want to see any of these commercials (and many others) a second time, you can watch them on Google Video.

images compliment of Google

My Two Cents



by Richard Voit

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The biggest international sporting event since the last biggest international sporting event is underway, but before we get ahead of ourselves, it's mid-February already and you know what that means. It's just eleven and a half short months until the Cowboys aren't in the Super Bowl again. Until then, the Pittsburgh Steelers are universal intergalactic champions of the world (and Canada).

But Pittsburgh owes much of its football success to your favorite condiment and mine, ketchup. That's right, ketchup. Heinz ketchup and its mascot Teresa Kerry hold the naming rights to the Steelers' stadium, and there are rumors about the company funding a state-of-the-art physical therapy wing at a local Pittsburgh hospital.

Here's my question. Do you think you would ever see Steelers' wide receiver and Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward in the Heinz ward?

Speaking about the Super Bowl, did you notice anything that was missing (and I'm not talking about the halftime striptease)? I am, of course, talking about the post-game coaches' handshake. That surprised me at first. I mean, I know that Seattle coach Mike Holmgren was already fuming at the refs — he thinks the striped ones helped Pittsburgh steal the game — and I know his Steelers' counterpart Bill Cowher was dripping with Gatorade, but they could've at least exchanged a hollow "good game."

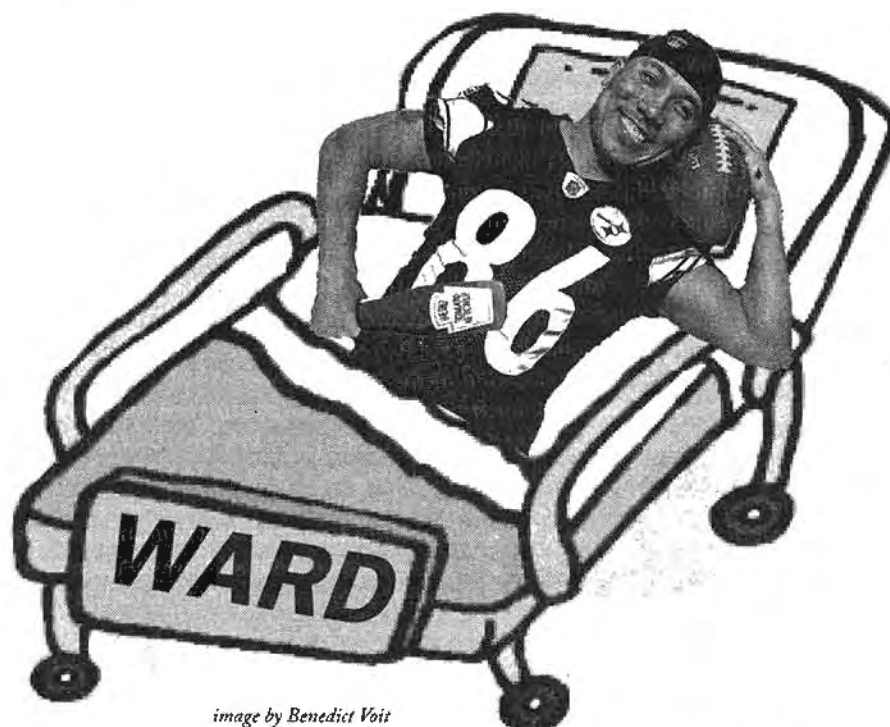


image by Benedict Voit

Is it unreasonable to expect to eventually see Hines Ward in the Heinz Ward?

I found out later, though, that it wasn't their fault. They were told to meet at the 20-yard line following the game, but nobody told them — two of the greatest coaching minds in the NFL — that there are in fact two 20-yard lines.

Maybe they'll learn before next season, but until then they'll be at home watching all 418 hours of the *Bob Costas Show*, alternatively known by the titles *Bob Costas Does Italy* and *Bob Costas Calls Turin Tornino Because He's a Goober*. People in other parts of the world call this event the Olympics but that's not really fair. To Bob Costas.

These so-called "Olympics" are a big deal for United States this year. Nothing irks the terrorists quite like watching the Great Satan win a gold in ice dancing. Speaking of golds, American bad boy skier and medal-favorite, Bode Miller raised quite a pre-Games ruckus when he told *60 Minutes* that sometimes he skied while "wasted." That admission just goes to show that every time Bode hits the slopes, it's

Miller Time.

On a sadder note, did you hear about Lance Armstrong and Sheryl Crow? After a five-month engagement, the seven-time Tour de France bicyclist and nine-time Grammy winner went splitsville. Investigative journalists from *AMP* were on hand during the break-up, and they say it went a little something like this.

Sheryl: "All I wanna do is have some fun."

Lance: "That's the problem. I feel like this relationship has become an uphill climb, and right now we're backpedaling."

Sheryl: "When you go, all I know is you're my favorite mistake."

Lance: "We can both say, it's been a fun ride, but it's time to brake it off."

Sheryl: "If it MAKES you happyyyy, it can't be that ba-a-a-ad."

What can be that ba-a-a-ad is the free-fall of the greatest hockey player in the history of the world. Consider this, Wayne Gretzky retired from playing hockey in 1999, holding or sharing 61 NHL records.

From lackluster Superbowl, to the United States in the Olympics, to the only remaining interest in the NHL. Cashing in with my opinions...

“These so-called “Olympics” are a big deal for the United States this year. Nothing irks the terrorists quite like watching the Great Satan win a gold in ice dancing”

In 2000, he became part owner of the woefully-bad Phoenix Coyotes who are woefully-bad at ice hockey for two reasons: 1) They are from Phoenix; 2) They are named for a desert animal.

In 2004, hockey was cancelled because owners (read, Gretzky) could not agree with players, alienating both NHL fans. This season, the Coyotes are dead-last in their division and Gretzky's wife has been implicated in a sports gambling ring.

This got me thinking. Why would a sport's premier player, with all of his fame and endorsements, get wrapped up in gambling? After talking to a linguist, I had my answer; Wayne Gretzky is Canadian for Pete Rose.

At least Gretzky doesn't have opposing owners talking trash like the NBA's highest profile coach does. That distinction belongs to Lakers' Head Coach Phil Jackson who was on the business end of a Mark Cuban tongue-lashing. The Mavericks' owner said (and I am not making this up), "I own Phil Jackson. Not literally of course. Figuratively however, the coach formerly known as the Zen Master must now be considered my bucket boy." This raises the question, what exactly is a bucket boy?

Whatever it is, I'm sure we could use one around here at *AMP*. Plus we pay better than Mark Cuban.

D3 or not D3?

That is the Question



by Jessie Harpham

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Although the UTD Strategic Plan has ruled out a Division shift for at least five years, the potential to move out of Division-III has sparked much resistance among current athletes.

Change is good. When it makes things better, that is. Many such changes are occurring constantly at UTD in an effort to make it a better university.

The graduate school that was established in 1969 has since expanded to admit undergraduates, first upper classmen and then freshman and sophomores. The result? Better opportunities. The mall around which our campus centers underwent construction to provide nicer paths and even a bit of green amidst the massive concrete. The result? A better atmosphere.

A few months ago, when I was in the gym I heard talk of transforming our Division III athletic program into a powerhouse Division I program. The desired result? Better athletics.

As a Comet varsity volleyball player as well as a dedicated student, when I first heard that idea I let out a little chuckle. The idea that jumping divisions would improve our school's athletics seemed positively preposterous. As a Division III school, we play against teams that, like us, emphasize academics over athletics. Scholarships are given to high scorers on the SAT rather than high scorers on the playing court.

If we were to become a Division I university, we would compete against teams with players attending school thanks to their height, strength, and speed. As long as an athlete meets the minimum standards for the school, he or she can be paid to play for that Division I school.

How could a school that pays for scholars and focuses on research possibly compete against schools that are buying their athletes?

That's when apprehension came over

me. If UTD became a Division I university, some of what makes our athletic program so wonderful would fade away. In order to compete with the other schools, UTD would have to offer scholarships for athletic talent rather than just academic aptitude. That's an invitation for applications that are less

athletic program that draws attention. However, such a reward would come at a great cost. I'm not just talking about the money spent on recruiting trips, equipment, and the scholarships themselves. The real cost of jumping divisions would be the transformation of UTD's athletic program.

we can play one match against Mississippi College. We play despite pain, gritting our teeth through twisted ankles, tendonitis, and overworked shoulders. We play because we *want* to play. Our love for the game drives us each and every day.

On the first day of volleyball tryouts, Coach read us a short essay about what it means to be a Division III athlete.

The introduction summed up our dedication quite eloquently: "It's not about getting a scholarship, getting drafted, or making SportsCenter. It's a deep need in us that comes from the heart."

If UTD goes Division I, I fear we will lose the sentiment that accompanies being a Division III athlete.

No longer will they be students before athletes. No longer will their passion for the game be their *main* reason for playing—they will also be playing to keep their scholarship.

When UTD's strategic plan was recently posted on the website, I breathed a huge sigh of relief as I read "UTD does not plan to develop a Division I athletics program in the next five years." Seeing as I only have three more years of eligibility, such any change after five years would not directly affect me. My volleyball career as a Division III athlete is safe.

But the issue concerning switching divisions after five years still remains, especially since the strategic plan left the door for such a change wide open. I hope that when the topic arises again, people do not mistake a bigger program for a better program.

Last season on the morning of every home game, I would be in the classroom building taking a calculus quiz. A few hours later I would be standing on the court in an orange jersey, singing along to the national anthem.

These Tuesdays truly captured the Division III attitude: a scholar first and foremost, but still an athlete at heart. It can't get any better than that.

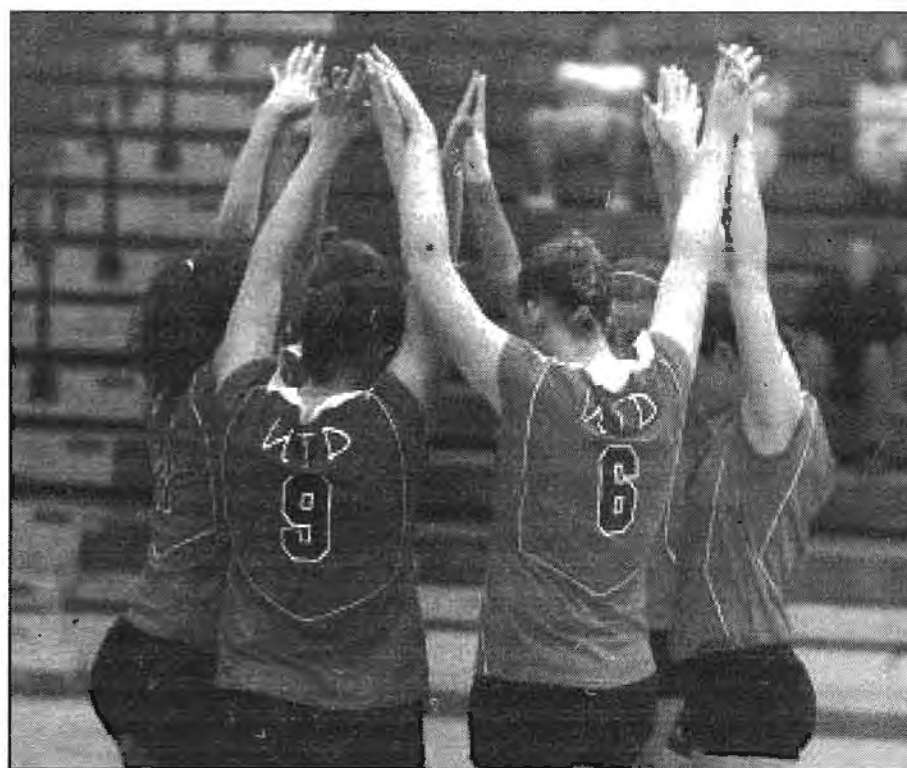


Photo Courtesy of the UTD Volleyball Team

The UTD Volleyball team prepares themselves between games. The team prides itself in having, amongst others, three math majors as starters. Such a make-up on a varsity team, can only be found at a Division-III school.

than spectacular to flow into the admissions office. Seven-foot tall athletes that can bench higher than they can count would suddenly be interested in UT Dallas because they would be eligible for a full scholarship. And the school would probably be interested in them as well, despite unimpressive grades or SAT scores.

With several talented scholarship athletes and a lot of luck, UTD could develop an

Right now, the desire to receive a top-notch education motivates athletes to attend UTD. The girls on my team all have goals that extend far beyond the volleyball court. We have aspirations to change the world. To be future teachers. Future doctors.

Yet during season we play early every morning, waking up before any sane person should, so we can practice before class. We play weekends, driving eight long hours so

Storyline attempts fall incomplete

Madden '06, NCAA Football 2006 and Blitz the League all unsuccessful



by Michael O'Halloran

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Since the summer, an influx of sports titles containing a story line mode has changed the way sports are experienced on a console. Being a video game fanatic and a flag-waving sports fan has led me to play a group of games of this new breed, and I will be the referee on three of these franchise hits: NCAA Football 2006, Madden NFL 06 and Blitz the League.

As fun and innovative as these games are, they simply cannot bridge the gap between two separate genres within the gaming industry: sports and role-playing.

Let's begin with sports game publishing giant Electronic Arts (EA), which, over the past year, has purchased exclusivity rights with NCAA College Baseball, the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA), the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), Arena League Football (AFL), and the National Football League (NFL). They are the publishers of both NCAA Football 2006 and Madden NFL 06.

Both games, though solid all around, completely missed the mark in regards to the story line mode of the game.

NCAA Football 2006 adds one new feature: a little mailbox next to your door that displays letters which do not follow the story in the slightest, such as post-Heisman "Welcome to college" letters, and gives you different ways to access the several menus in the regular season mode.

It also allows your player to go through one mini-drill which determines what schools will want to give you a

full scholarship to attend their university; however, if you don't want to attend one of those three schools, you can choose to play for any college in the country with no penalties to your player, just as if they gave you the scholarship offer.

Madden NFL 06 also offers an infe-

rior story line mode for the football fanatic.

One new and exciting aspect of the game is the ability to pick and choose who your player's parents were, including some of their past athletic feats, hobbies, IQs and occupations.

That's about where the excitement ends and the tedium begins.

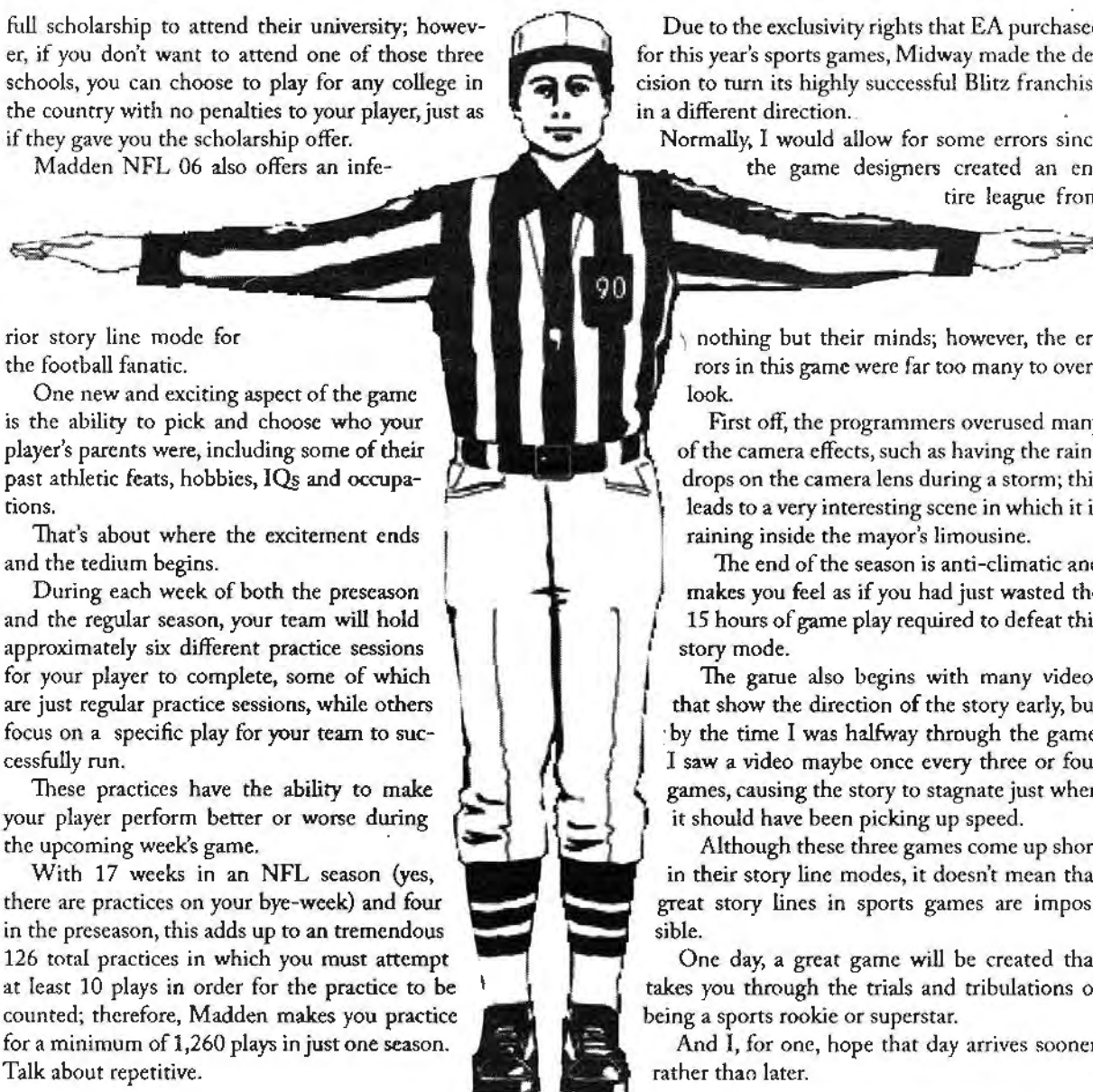
During each week of both the preseason and the regular season, your team will hold approximately six different practice sessions for your player to complete, some of which are just regular practice sessions, while others focus on a specific play for your team to successfully run.

These practices have the ability to make your player perform better or worse during the upcoming week's game.

With 17 weeks in an NFL season (yes, there are practices on your bye-week) and four in the preseason, this adds up to an tremendous 126 total practices in which you must attempt at least 10 plays in order for the practice to be counted; therefore, Madden makes you practice for a minimum of 1,260 plays in just one season. Talk about repetitive.

Due to the exclusivity rights that EA purchased for this year's sports games, Midway made the decision to turn its highly successful Blitz franchise in a different direction.

Normally, I would allow for some errors since the game designers created an entire league from



nothing but their minds; however, the errors in this game were far too many to overlook.

First off, the programmers overused many of the camera effects, such as having the raindrops on the camera lens during a storm; this leads to a very interesting scene in which it is raining inside the mayor's limousine.

The end of the season is anti-climatic and makes you feel as if you had just wasted the 15 hours of game play required to defeat this story mode.

The game also begins with many videos that show the direction of the story early, but by the time I was halfway through the game, I saw a video maybe once every three or four games, causing the story to stagnate just when it should have been picking up speed.

Although these three games come up short in their story line modes, it doesn't mean that great story lines in sports games are impossible.

One day, a great game will be created that takes you through the trials and tribulations of being a sports rookie or superstar.

And I, for one, hope that day arrives sooner, rather than later.

Try something other than video games...

write for **A MODEST PROPOSAL**

email amodestproposal@gmail.com

All about Italy



by **Walter Voit**

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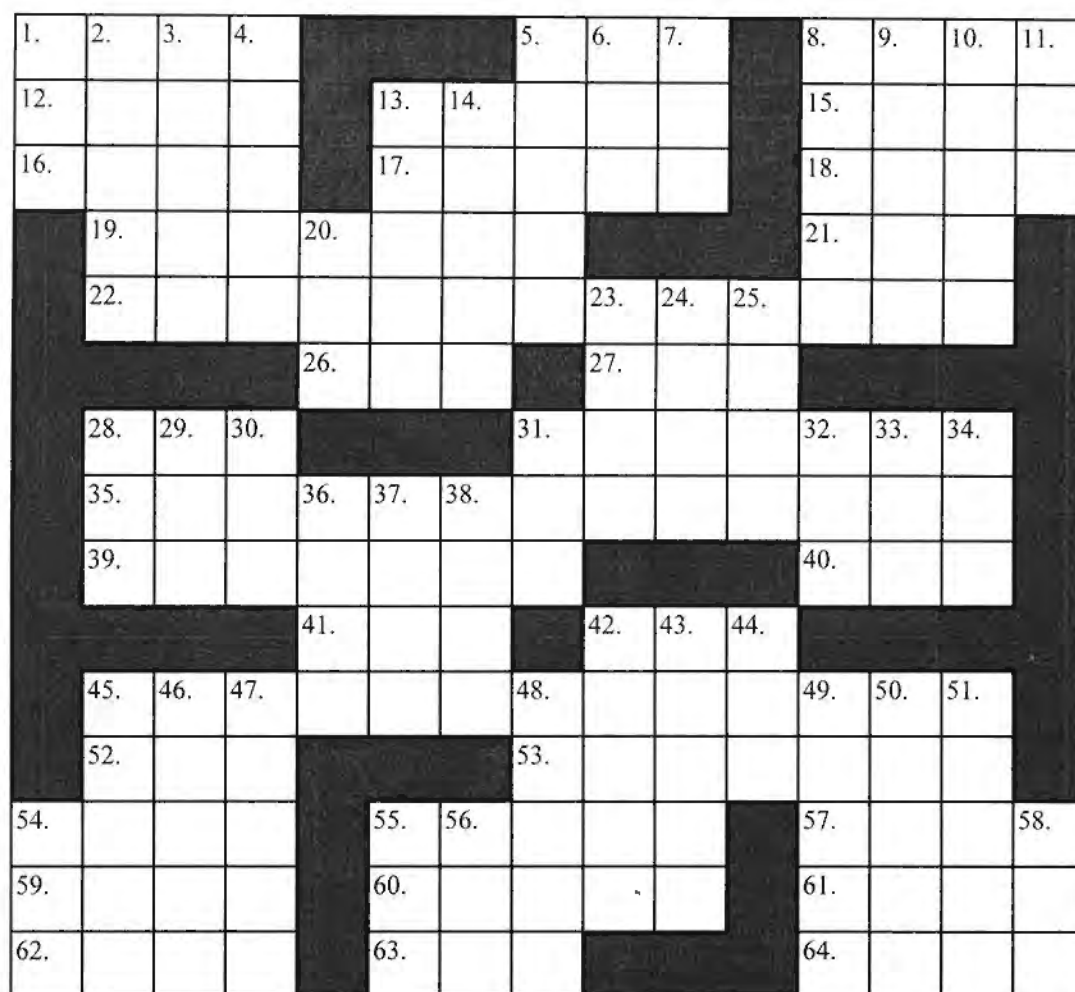
ACROSS

1. Partly telepathic sports network
5. What "I was" in Madrid
8. Place to meet Mets
12. Fight playfully
13. Kind of hair
15. Neville's pet
16. Scarlett mansion
17. Celebrity appearance
18. Trick
19. 39th in a series
21. International student ID card
22. Themed location
26. Rest on ones haunches
27. Greedy person
28. Methodist sect's letters
31. Kind of music or gold bullion
35. Themed Artist
39. With self-respect
40. ___ it out
41. Rejections
42. War of Jenkins' ___

45. Themed Masterpiece
52. Airport letters in Tunis
53. Blooming
54. Target when on a 36 down
55. Aladdin nemesis
57. Tide competitor
59. Malicious
60. Minotaur's island
61. ___ Kournikova
62. Magritte or Descartes
63. ___ diem
64. Near

DOWN

1. Fast ending
2. Desexualizes
3. It comes at the beginning
4. Required for 'm' researchers to perform 'n' lab tests
5. ___ fatale
6. Manipulate
7. Simpson judge
8. Unclothe oneself
9. Fox show for docs
10. Canvas holder
11. Lemon drink
13. 203 in 46 down
14. Inhabit as a ghost
20. Gaming genre of Warcraft and Starcraft
23. Green pet
24. Trumpet
25. Amalekite King defeated by Saul
28. Alternative publication
29. Russian space station
30. The Name of the Rose's Umberto
31. TP metric
32. Golf stand
33. 54 across with points
34. 54 across without points
36. Outdoor activity
37. Flyer Sooner's campus with



38. Threat word
42. Major key with 3 flats
43. Revere
44. ___ off: fend
45. Entrap
46. Olympics venue
47. A foot away from a toe

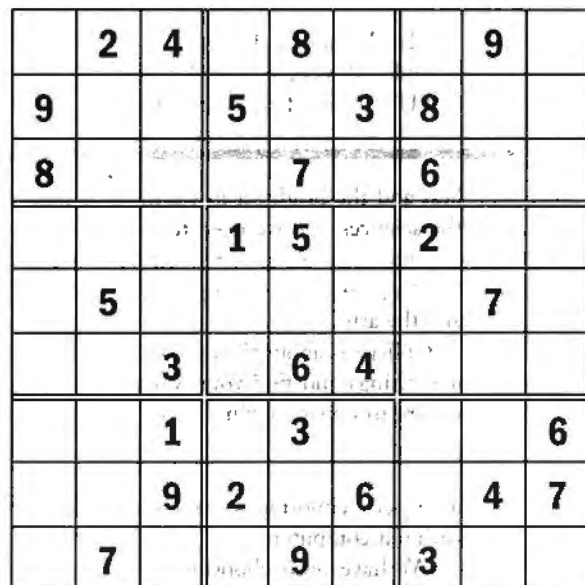
48. Put forth
49. Totally meatless
50. Citizen of Teheran
51. Succumbing
54. Sea in Strasbourg
55. Sears comp.
56. Form of being
58. "No thanks!"

Sudoku

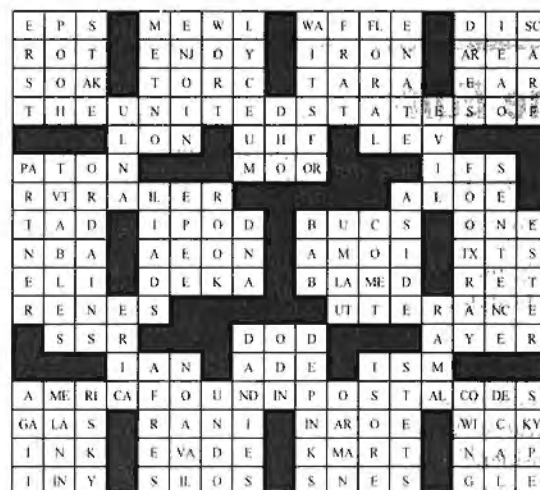


by **Micheal Donaldson**

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Answers to Jan. crossword: GOING POSTAL AROUND AMERICA



The Jan. puzzle was themed on States and their Postal Codes. Each clue that referred to a specific city in the United States was a clue to use that State's Postal abbreviation in a single box. So IHOP favorite in Seattle or Orlando would be a WA-F-FL-E as in #8 across.

Behind the scenes Cathie Alexander



by Michael Seeligson

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As UTD goes through a transition phase, it is easy to overlook the people behind the scenes. But they make the university function. They are the framework that takes a \$300 million project and turns it into a reality. We would like to say thank you. This semester we'll highlight a few of these spectacular people who have given so much to the university.

Cathie Alexander's enthusiasm for UTD students and her desire to make the undergraduate experience rewarding and memorable can be so intense at times that some might think it fake.

Nothing about her attitude is affected, however, as Cathie seems to live and breathe UTD, working on student projects on the weekends, hosting student functions at her house and continuously promoting ideas to improve student life.

In two and a half years as Assistant

Dean of Undergraduate Education, Ms. Alexander has been involved in a remarkable number of projects. Less than a semester into her new job, she agreed to serve as the faculty sponsor of Meteor Theater, the then yet-to-be-formed movie theater on campus.

Without her help, Meteor Theater would not be the success it is today. Her ideas and energy would often reinspire the group when the students became discouraged. She invited the leadership of the organization to her house for a home cooked meal on the weekend and spent the majority of another weekend designing and helping to build advertising boards.

"Cathie Alexander is one of the people I always want with me the first 10 minutes we discuss a new idea", Dean Coleman said. "She is an incredibly imaginative person with a lot of experience in higher education and she has wonderful ideas."

When he had an idea to hold a new event for incoming freshmen, Dean Coleman brought the idea to Ms. Alexander.

"She was a big part of the thinking that went into the first freshman convocation last fall that many considered one of our most successful events," Dean Coleman said.

Ms. Alexander also took the lead in creating a system of photo rosters so that faculty can know the faces of students before a

class starts. She also runs the prodigy program, acting as a counselor and guide for a few gifted high school students who have the opportunity to co-enroll at UTD.

"Cathie is a wonderful advocate for students and our office is proud to have her voice speaking for undergraduate education," Dean Coleman said.

Ms. Alexander grew up in Dallas and after spending her freshman year at Steven F. Austin, graduated from SMU with a BA in Theater Administration and Advertising. During her studies, she came to find the production side of a play more rewarding than acting on stage.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with two masters degrees in Social Work and Education, Ms. Alexander co-founded a company which connected businesses. After a successful sale, she started another company in Austin which planned fundraisers and other business ventures.

Eventually, Ms. Alexander joined the McCombs school of business and directed the first year experience program for the business school at UT Austin, with a student body roughly the same size as UTD's current population.

Ms. Alexander deeply appreciates the attitude of people like Dean Coleman and UTD President David Daniel. After

working at UT Austin for ten years, she said the experience of implementing new ideas there was only slightly more difficult than moving an elephant by blowing at it through a straw.

She feels that with the current administrative support, UTD is great for students because "with enough energy, with enough desire, you can take your ideas and make them fly."

The staff at *A Modest Proposal* would like to thank Cathie for her passion and encourage her to continue helping students to make their dreams soar.



Cathie Alexander, Assistant Dean

Letter to the Editor

by Julie Kangas

Sophomore, Psychology

Bruce Jenner wasn't the fastest. He wasn't the strongest. He didn't jump the highest, and he couldn't throw the farthest. But in 1976, Jenner walked away with the Olympic gold medal in the decathlon and the title of 'World's Greatest Athlete.'

The decathlon is considered by many to be the hardest Olympic competition. Jen-

ner didn't excel in any one thing, but his talents and abilities across the board are what set him apart from everyone else and made him a legend.

Our society is beginning to stress the idea of the decathlon less and less. It's all about picking your one thing and doing it better than anyone else. We don't seem to care that the scientist can't write. They won in their event, and that is enough. We have been locking people in the lofty tower of their major, not caring that they will never be able to venture out of it.

Here at UTD we can crank out the

best and the brightest in engineering and the sciences, but we need to consider the ramifications of a one-sided education. We have to give due emphasis to writing and the arts.

College is about the opportunity to try new things and find your way in life, but we are too busy making an assembly line for our perfect society to let students live. And it's not all the university's fault. We have been choosing to lock ourselves up with our computers.

We have been choosing to stick with what we know and shun everything else.

This is not a call to lose focus or deprive ourselves of our truest loves, but merely to take the blinders off now and see the realm of possibilities.

We must strive not only to reign in our chosen field, but to be the best overall. If we want the best, the stuff of legends, coming from our school, we must push to make these changes. We must push ourselves and each other out of the security of what we know and into the excitement of what we can learn. We must revive the decathlon.

Bono turns RED



by Aidan Skoyles

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but his plan to raise money and awareness with Armani & others gives me the blues

What's black and white and desperate to have Red all over? A newspaper picture of Bono. His new brain child is Red, a new campaign to raise money to fight global disease.

At January's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, U2 front-man Bono announced a plan to bring the private sector into the global fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa, which is a very good thing, but the details of the project rankle with me.

Bono hopes that sexy companies will sell sexy products with bits of red stuck to them and that they will send a (paltry) percentage of the transaction price to a good cause and raise awareness in doing so.

The second half of his theory is great. Bono has done more than almost anyone in the US to connect to a young, hip generation as evidenced by branded iPods. Bono hopes to capitalize on his popularity to raise awareness of the plight of impoverished Africans.

In Red, so far, he and his relatively new organization DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) have convinced American Express, GAP, Converse and Giorgio Armani to join him ... which brings me to the part that begins to smell.

American Express will donate 1% of your purchases to the Red Campaign (but bizarrely, only in the UK for now). Gap says it will "source" a T-shirt in Africa and donate "some" or "a percentage" of profit to the cause. The others don't disclose any accounting vaguaries, but Converse says it will make shoes with mildly African-looking print that's supposedly mud-cloth from Mali and Giorgio Armani will stamp silver-misted expensive-looking sunglasses with a teensy-tinsy Red stamp, so as not to block the view but to dampen the glare from the owner's Benz.

In the campaign's launch press conference in Davos (you can watch it at joinedred.com) Bono said, "I don't think we're endorsing these products, they're endorsing us," which is encouraging, but sadly rings somehow hollow on jaded American ears. He's starting to speak like Bush -- knowing that his words will be minced into sound-bites, if he's lucky.

"150,000 people die every month in Africa," Bono says. "That's a tsunami every month, and we still can't get on the news."

There is a larger issue at hand though. Later on in the

conference, Richard Fechem, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS says Red will, "bring a rising income stream, increase awareness of HIV in Africa and make a political statement about what consumers and corporations really care about."

Explicitly speaking, yes, it will.

Now I'm not a business major, but I think corporations care about profit, not saving the world. And so they should. They have investors to please and quarterly numbers to meet. They've joined this campaign as a way to bring in more customers—"socially aware" customers who might not normally buy their products—to lure a teeny bopper from Banana Republic, or to get a yuppie to snag some new Converse (the last pair of Converse shoes I owned was in the fourth grade... but I'm no yuppie).

Still though, the solution will not come from increased contributions from these companies. I'm fundamentally not sure that it is the role or place of private corporations to bank roll the relief efforts of this global pandemic. Governments and charities orchestrate and channel billions of dollars from thousands of agencies into myriad programs in the developing world. They are funded through private donations and federal government allocations, not through benevolence from the corporate sector.

On a separate note, I find quiet irony in the fact that Gap is involved with Red. The company long been the target of sweat-shop labor accusations around the world in Saipan, Cambodia and Lesotho where it sources its products. A May 2001 report by the BBC documentary program Panorama discovered 12 year old girls working 16 hour days in Gap factories. It's ironic that it is now quelling its conscience by selling \$25 T-shirts "sourced" in Africa. To be fair to Gap, it seems to have made a lot of noise about improving labor standards, and it is probably no more culpable than many US corporations.

So while I applaud the attempt to be creative, to



reach out to a new audience and get people thinking about it all, I shudder at the thought of people justifying the purchase of \$400 sunglasses or charging a \$1000 meal, or of corporations milking the goat of Western materialism, by thinking that a percentage as insignificant as a rounding error is going to save some lives in a lost continent.

If people really want to help make a difference in the developing world, donate funds to an organization in which they believe. Donate to whatever bloody group you want, but make it a cause that you can wholeheartedly support, and not a footnote in your tax return.

These iconic companies are experts in marketing: they know how to make us think things are hip and cool. I have no doubt that their involvement will bring good things to the global efforts against HIV/AIDS, but people must not forget that they can support a campaign and the idea behind it more effectively through direct means. Don't let your rose colored Armani glasses lead you to believe that Bono's campaign will solve the problem. The life and death of millions cannot be condensed into one colorful campaign.