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A Modest Proposal, vol. 4, no. 3

Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

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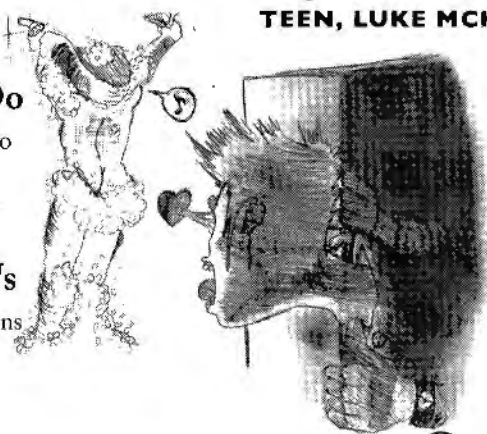
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Editors

Kimberley Allen
Luke McKenzie
Liam Skoyles
Benedict Voit
Jordan Youngblood

Contributors

Richard Badgett
Jordon Batura
Maya BouAli
Jonathan Coker
Ben Dower
Mary Effler
Jessie Harpham
Ryan Henry
Mac Hird
Laura Miller
Kyle Nilson
Alex Palmer
Alice Post
Stephanie Shasteen
Alex Garcia Topete
Kevin Tydlacka
Scott Ungchusri
Josef Velten

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Don't Shoot Me, I'm the Mascot

I'm the answer, not the problem



by temoc

in your mind and in your heart

Please don't kill me.

I understand some people don't like me. They call me a flaming sperm, they scoff at my backwards name, and they joke fun at my ridiculously large grin. But they don't understand just what I mean to this university and what it means to me. So please, put that shovel down for a second and hear me out on this one.

It's worth it, I swear.

School Spirit

What's in a name? People blame UTD's pride problems on our name, but nothing is wrong with the Comets or Temoc. The problem is school identity. Renaming me won't help that. In fact, it might make it worse. It seems to me that UTD is trying so hard to be cool that it's reinventing itself every few years, coming up with more disparate identities than a disenfranchised teenager.

I think if we want to be taken seriously, we have to take UTD seriously first. Pride in our school identity will draw people to the school. UTD should have forged its identity in the beginning, granted, but with everyone pulling behind me, we can start to shape it now. One of UTD's strongest points is that students can help create their own future, but they must do

that without recreating the past.

No number of student opinion polls will ever find the *perfect* UTD mascot. A mascot isn't perfect because of what it is but because of what it means. Truthfully, we could be the UTD Whatever and it wouldn't make any difference, as long as UTD identified with and even loved that idea. That idea is already in place: it's me as a comet. School spirit stems from an inner sense of pride, and there's no formula to create a cohesive student body besides a history to fall back on.

Alumni

We have such a short history as a school, and I am just about the only common thread between our past and our present. Doing away with me will jeopardize an important element that ties us together.

Many freshmen come to UTD and have ambiguous feelings about me. That is understandable: a good relationship takes time. Eventually, though, Comet pride grows in them. By the time they graduate, those students who were involved on campus invariably associate me with UTD and the Comets.

If I disappear, we could risk alienating alumni. When alumni return to UTD, will they feel a part of the school anymore? Currently only 2% of alumni donate money to the school, which is one of the big factors preventing

UTD from moving up in the rankings. Will that percentage ever increase when returning alumni feel they can no longer connect to UTD?

Just look at Facebook. Alumni and current students whoosh all over the world—in the heart of China, in front of the Eiffel Tower, and by the Leaning Tower of Pisa to name just a few. Take the 'Comet' notion away and you take away that vital connection with UTD. You wouldn't just be killing me; you'll be killing one of the few elements of school spirit that has ever caught on. The school pride is there – it just needs the right environment to grow.

Economic Impact

So let's say you do give me the axe and dance over my grave. Then imagine the effort it would take to implement that change here at UTD: power dancers', cheerleaders', and sports teams' outfits would all have to be redone; the student union, clubhouses, and any other mural paintings covered. All the bookstore t-shirts and glasses and hats would be scrapped (not to mention all of the currently owned material that would be rendered useless). The website would need redesigning. The cheers would be utterly changed as well. The historical documentation of school pride becomes impossible because every picture of Temoc or a comet could no longer be used.

Currently UTD is raising tuition for future buildings and new majors on campus. At the same time, departmental budgets are tight everywhere. Who will pay for a UTD school spirit makeover? And when they do, will it help anything? Will UTD all of a sudden find spirit because there is a different icon? Moreover, could that money for the redesign have been better spent? What did we forfeit to change our identity? Could it have been spent on organizations that may do more to create a sense of cohesion among students?

Solution

So what's to be done? I suggest that we try to build from the freshman up. Make freshmen feel that they belong at UTD and that they identify with the mascot and the university's vision. The only way we can truly unite as a university is if everyone pulls together to make that happen. We are stalled at the edge of truly becoming a strong intellectual community. All it will take is a little effort and the ball will start rolling. Spirit is contagious, so let's all get a little Temoc fever.

Also, I think UTD needs a Shemoc, but maybe that's just me.

A Comet has needs. ■

Temoc is asking for your support... will you let yourself be responsible for killing Temoc? Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/





ACC and FirstWorthing will soon learn what it is like to have a roommate. Illustration by Jordon Batura

Campus housing moves on to bigger, better things



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

After years of housing grouching, major changes are finally afoot for UTD's campus apartments. Or, at least, for Phases 5-9.

Yes, UTD has ditched FirstWorthing as the management company for university-owned Phases 5-9. Other phases will remain with FirstWorthing, though (as a resident of B.F.E. ...er, Phase 2, I sympathize).

The management contract was up for renewal this summer, and for several months, a campus committee has been digging through new bids. Starting November 1, American Campus Communities (ACC) will take over operations of Phases 5-9, which will be renamed University Village. Both management companies will occupy separate sides of the current leasing office, and students wishing to live on campus will have to apply for housing separately to one or both of the management companies.

This is a big step in the right direction, and I applaud UTD for taking on the risk of something new and hopefully much better. Working with two management companies seems confusing and the transition will, no doubt, give the university a few headaches. Even so, there's reason to believe that the competition will improve student housing overall.

For the first time ever, students have a choice on campus, and that choice pressures the two

management companies to outperform each other. If one management company fails to meet students' expectations, students can move across the street instead of moving off campus.

Second, ACC is simply a better deal for UTD, both financially and in the quality of its services. The management companies take a cut from student rents, and ACC will leave more in UTD's pockets than FirstWorthing did. As for service, we're all familiar with FirstWorthing's checkered past and that it only shaped up in 2005 after a firestorm of negative publicity. According to selection committee member Juliann Peterson, ACC has a good maintenance track record in other properties it manages. It was the only company with consistently positive reviews. ACC was not the cheapest bid, but it was more competitive than FirstWorthing's. (UTD won't tell me just how much more competitive, but I have filed an Open Records request which is pending as this article goes to press. FirstWorthing is petitioning the Texas Attorney General to require that UTD not release the documents to me.)

I still have unanswered questions, though. If it's true that ACC is the better deal, why are Phases 1-4 still managed by FirstWorthing? Since the Utey Foundation, not UTD, owns these phases, it is the Foundation's board of directors that decides which company manages them. The board is supposed to meet quarterly, but it has not met in over six months. VP of Student Affairs Darlene Rachavong spoke with me over the phone; she suspects that the management contract will be discussed in the next meeting (whenever that is), but she's not sure.

And if they do vote on a management contract, what can students hope for? Many Utey Foundation

board members have connections with Bob Utey, FirstWorthing's chairman, and his son, Steven Utey, who is president and CEO of FirstWorthing. It's quite a family affair. In fact, Bob Utey's wife, Ann, is the president of the Utey Foundation. I called her for information on this story. She knew exactly who I was (Hi, Ann!) but refused to speak with me over the phone.

There's more. I was stunned to discover that another Utey board member is Russell T. Kelley, named by Texans for Public Justice as the number one lobbyist in the state in 2005, both in terms of the number and dollar value of his lobbying contracts. Another director is Texas State Senator Rodney G. Ellis who has received numerous campaign contributions from the Utey family.

Given that information, I anticipate we'll have two management companies for quite some time. For Utey, Waterview is the business cash cow that keeps going and going.

But it shouldn't be. It's fine for Utey to make a normal profit off of managing the apartments, but the Foundation shouldn't be used for that purpose. According to its own documents, the Foundation exists "for the sole benefit of the University of Texas at Dallas," and the directors should act in a way that is consistent with the university and the Foundation's well being—not Bob Utey's. UTD clearly believes ACC is the better management company, and I'd like the Foundation to at least consider an alternative to FirstWorthing. Under these circumstances, that is the only responsible thing to do. ■

This is the last Waterview article Kim Allen will write. They'll be University Village articles from now on. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

A Peeping Tom Among Us

The Activity Center fails in its obligations to student safety



by mary effler
mae057000@utdallas.edu

Students feel a certain peace of mind when they use the Activity Center, but should they? Is the maintenance staff more careful about cleaning up scuffmarks than broken glass? Are Activity Center employees better at keeping out students who forgot their Comet Cards than pedophiles and peeping toms? Three incidents at the Activity Center indicate that this may be the case.

The men's shower area at UTD is divided into private showers with curtains that do not fully shield the bather from view. This provides little privacy for the person showering. However, it provides ample opportunity for the recreational voyeur.

On July 9 of this year, a young boy attending a youth basketball camp at UTD reported that a man was masturbating while watching him shower in the men's locker room.

That in itself is shocking. Even more appalling is the Activity Center's casual response. Activity Center Director Tricia Losavio gave us the official spin: UTD police increased patrol and "worked with Activity Center staff to inform them about behavior to watch for." She claims that "the staff remain on alert for such incidents."

We have reason to believe, however, that this is not the case. We spoke with an Activity Center supervisor who says there was absolutely no meeting with staff after the incident. Employees were never officially informed of the event or given a description of the suspect. Like any other



by marco mavromaras
marcomavro@gmail.com

student, our source saw the fliers and heard of the incident by word-of-mouth. Far from being informed and "on alert," Activity Center staff are clueless and poorly equipped to prevent this type of incident in the future.

Marco Mavromaras asked Losavio if there were any plans to install better curtains. Losavio encouraged him to file a complaint with the Center. It has been over 6 weeks since he spoke with her and management

“ We spoke with an Activity Center supervisor who says there was absolutely no meeting with staff after the incident. Employees were never officially informed of the event or given a description of the suspect. ”

has not taken the initiative to install decent curtains. In the meantime, police still have not caught the peeping tom.

It doesn't stop there. On June 4, 2006, a workout session at the Activity Center took a tragic turn when a 73-year-old woman walked out of the women's locker room, shouted "Oh my God," and then collapsed. According to the police report, the Richardson Fire Department was mobilized and their paramedics took her to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. Student eyewitnesses at the scene claim that the resuscitative

Illustration by Jordan Batura

measures taken by the Activity Center staff did NOT include the utilization of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The American Heart Association mandates that the third step in the "chain of survival" after dispatching 9-1-1 and initiating CPR is early AED application.

According to Losavio, all of the Activity Center staff are trained and certified as AHA Heartsaver CPR providers. An employee we spoke with said this is only true of Activity Center supervisors.

Recently, we approached eight staff members of the Activity Center and quizzed them on the location of the

a movie-by-the-pool event was hosted at the Activity Center. While dismantling the movie screen after the event, one of the big glass panels in the wall of the Activity Center was broken resulting in hundreds of shards of glass spilling into the area next to the pool.

Responsible institutions, such as Disney World and 24-Hour Fitness, address this by posting warning signs, closing the pool and, depending on the amount of glass (especially in the case of a large glass panel), draining the pool. No warning signs were posted, the glass was briskly swept up, and the incident was swept under the rug. There have been other reported cases of broken glass in sections of the Natatorium. While we have not heard of anyone getting cut in the pool, this is still very troubling.

Needless to say, there should be more action on the part of the Activity Center to prevent future incidents like these and to address them properly when they happen. Students pay for a safe and well-maintained athletic center and deserve the university's assurance that their trust is not misplaced. ■

AEDs there. While many knew that the Center definitely has AEDs, only three employees could give their actual location. A typical response was, "There might be one beside the pool." In the event of an emergency, however, there is no time for guesses. In moments when mere seconds are critical, every employee of the Activity Center must know where vital equipment such as AEDs are stored so that they can respond in time to save lives.

It's been said that prevention is better than cure. This does not appear to be an ethic at the Activity Center. In May of this year,



The Price of Progress

With rising tuition, how will UTD make the change?



by ben dower
bld051000@utdallas.edu

American culture is filled with contradictions. Often the values that we hold most dear are in active opposition to one another. Two ideas that are fundamental to the American identity are that of meritocracy and equality.

We believe that rewards should reflect effort and ability, that the best and brightest should be fostered and promoted to the highest levels of society so that they can use their talents to achieve the greatest good.

At the same time, we believe that everyone deserves an equal chance to succeed, regardless of background, race, gender, or even ability. In practice, however, it is often difficult to achieve both these laudable goals at the same time.

This battle is at the very heart of the difficulties involved in school tuition. On a fundamental level there are always two choices that a college can make: it can reduce prices and therefore services to try to boost enrollment numbers or it can increase the quality of the education and prices to target a smaller population of more talented students.

Now there are clearly some qualifications in this statement which ought to be explored. First, higher costs don't necessarily equate to a superior education. Certainly nobody will deny that efficiency and money allocation plays a huge role in monetary effectiveness.

However, efficiency can only carry you so far. Nobel Prize winners cost more to attract than Ph. D. students, expensive laboratories that are necessary for advanced research and advanced researchers cost quite a pretty penny and the new buildings that are so appealing to prospective students and parents aren't cheap. All efficiency issues aside, the more money a university takes in, the more it can spend on improving itself. Period.

The second big qualification is the

subtle implication that talented students ought to be higher income students, since higher costs result in higher quality students. This is certainly not necessarily the case. However, think about it in terms of scholarships.

costs. From the student perspective... it depends on where you stand.

However, in meetings with the Provost, I have heard that even from a strictly financial standpoint, scholarship students more than pay themselves off

gone from one of the cheapest states to receive a higher education to the 19th most expensive. In the last few years, state funding for the UT system academic campuses has continued to drop steadily.

Tuition deregulation hasn't helped keep costs down. Transferring the tuition-setting authority from the legislature to the individual schools under the authority of the Board of Regents has resulted in faster tuition increases than before.

This is especially true at the higher quality institutions such as UT Austin and UT Dallas where it seems that the price-increasing competition over high quality faculty and high quality students has overwhelmed the price-cutting competition for maintaining enrollment rates. Indeed, as long as enrollment growth remains steady, there is little incentive for these universities to lower tuition.

It might sound like I am blasting these schools or arguing against tuition deregulation, but this is not the case. I can't speak for UT Austin, but I think there's a good argument that the rising cost of attendance at UT Dallas is a natural, even inevitable process as our school continues to pump out new buildings and nationally-recognized faculty.

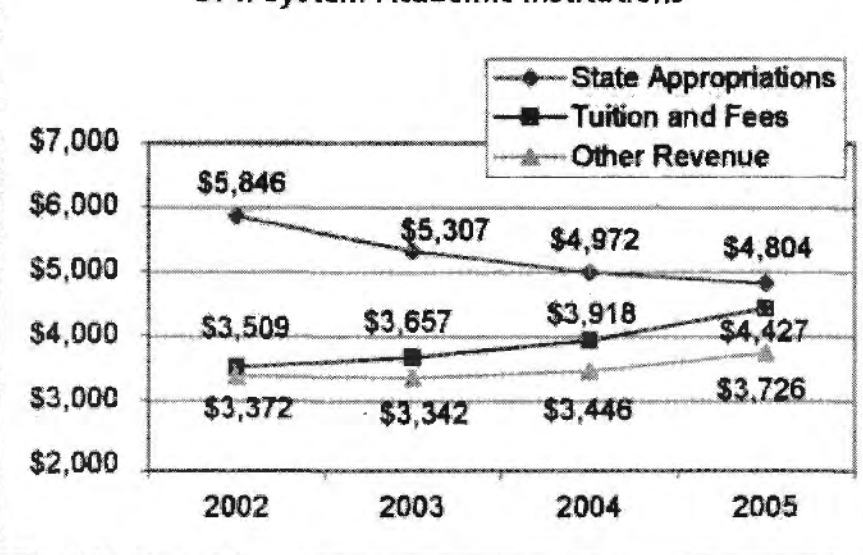
I have strong confidence that a degree from UTD is only going to appreciate in value as this school continues to build its national reputation for excellence.

I do think, however, that the legislature needs to do more than they are now to ensure that the cost of these improvements doesn't come directly out of the pocketbook of the student. More funding towards education is absolutely essential to make sure that everyone can take advantage of these exciting improvements.

In the attempt to weigh the excellence of a meritocracy with the opportunity of equality, there may not be one right answer. However, the more money colleges receive from the state and federal governments, the easier it will be to find a balance that can please everyone. ■

Ben Dower spends his afternoons spending your money on aged cheeses and boxed wine. Slam the bag. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Revenue Trends by Source per Full-Time Equivalent Student
U. T. System Academic Institutions



As you can see, state funding and tuition tend to have a strong relationship to each other.

UT Dallas gives out hundreds of scholarships at varying levels. This talent-based financial break serves to attract the high-SAT-score, National Merit Scholarship-winning, top-ten-percent-of-their-class toting students that the school is so proud of citing.

The importance of these students is twofold. First, they are the most likely students to go out and become famous or wealthy alumni that will give back generously to their ol' alma mater later in life.

Secondly, these students will build the reputation of the university as a prestigious place to get an education, thus attracting more students in the future. Unfortunately, the cost of attracting these students often falls on everybody else. The more scholarships you give out, the more everyone else must pay in order to subsidize the discount.

From the university's perspective, this is clearly a wise investment because the payoffs more than outweigh the

when you consider the long-run returns.

So do colleges support the meritocracy or the egalitarian aspects of American society? Clearly the answer is a little bit of both. In their struggle to remain affordable, college and government officials alike continue to worry that an expensive education is an under-utilized education. Surely public education should remain open to the public and not just to upper-middle class families.

Anyone who is paying attention knows that there's a lot in the works on this campus: a new NSM building, the new Residents Hall and dining facility, new degree plans, the Confucian Institute, and the Campus Beautification Project are just a few of up-and-coming improvements to this campus. However, with approximately 50% of our students receiving some form of need-based financial aid, nobody – student and administrator alike – is insensitive to the cost of these improvements.

In the last twenty-five years, Texas has



I'm Angry As Non-Existent Hell

Why atheists have every reason to be cranky



by richard badgett
rwb032000@utdallas.edu

I'm going to attempt to answer a question that I, as an outspoken atheist, hear a lot: "Why are you atheists so angry all the time?"

To begin, I want to tell a personal story from my life that illustrates what we atheists must deal with almost daily.

When I was a senior in high school, my football team gathered together before each game to say the Lord's Prayer. I see no reason why the Christian members of the team shouldn't be allowed to pray before, during, or after games, but it was led by the coaches and was meant to include every member of the team.

Participation wasn't explicitly mandatory, but this was meant as a team activity, and if you wanted to be part of the team, you would cooperate. I spoke to our head coach about the issue in private, and told him that our team wasn't entirely Christian. There were other atheists as well as Muslims, Jews, and Hindus.

I suggested that either a moment of silence or some other team-oriented activity might serve just as well and wouldn't be a clear violation of the first amendment.

The next week before the game, our coach announced that I had spoken to him in private the week before because I wished to express my deep desire to personally lead this week's pre-game prayer. I weighed my desire to stand up to his bullying against my desire to be a part of the team, and I made the only decision I could; I led the prayer and stayed on the football team.

This kind of thing isn't some unique incident that befell me and "woe is me, I'm so persecuted." It's pretty common practice for non-institutional religious activities to take place as part of school or other government functions.

Each session of Congress is opened with prayer. The problem isn't that I or other atheists want to prevent religious types from praying; rather, that we are mortified at the prospect of being expected, and implicitly required, to join in these prayers. There are dozens of cases of Christian military commanders forcing their atheist soldiers to at-

tend prayer meetings, or breaking up atheist organizations within the military.

There have been beatings and discharges, and by and large little to no action was taken against the Christian commanders who bullied their atheist subordinates. So let's get back to answering the question. "Why are atheists so angry all the time?"

We're angry because we're marginalized and forced to pretend we believe in something we don't. We're angry because well into the 20th century it was legal to exclude atheists from serving on juries or giving testimony in court because they couldn't be properly sworn in.

We're angry because 55% of Americans indicate annually that they would never vote for an atheist president (Gallup polls conducted annually have never placed the number below 55%). We're angry because our First Amendment rights have been trampled into the dirt, and the courts have summarily denied us the ability to challenge this.

We're angry because atheist seminars and conventions require extra security due to the death threats and fatwas issued against prominent atheist scholars. We're angry because people assume the persecution is just the work of "a few bad apples."

Look back up at that percentage. 55% of Americans feel atheists are unqualified to hold public office. That's not just "a few bad apples," that's fundamental, systemic discrimination.

We're angry because several states (including Texas) have clauses in their constitutions specifically prohibiting atheists from holding public office (article 1, section 4). We are persecuted, excluded, jeered, and disenfranchised.

We're angry because Christians in America make themselves out to be victims. They constitute an 80% majority of the most powerful men and women in the most powerful country in the history of the world, yet they constantly make it appear as if their values are "under attack" by us wicked evolutionists.

We're angry because these same "victims" wield their power in ways that deny American citizens basic rights. We're angry that the religious right tries to convince homosexuals to hate their homosexuality. We're angry that women are taught to hate their womanhood. We're angry that all aspects of sexuality, including the practice of safe sex, are seen as dangerous or subversive.

We're angry because we tried being nice, and it got us nowhere. You have a fundamental right to believe whatever you want about the universe and man's relationship to it. So do I. You have no right to demand anything of me, other than that I allow you to believe whatever you want. I have every right to demand the same of you. ■



The religious often infuriate those who do not conform. Illustration by Scott Ungchusri.

Richard Badgett offers a minute of silence for all those who may or may not disagree with him.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Bigger than Jesus

A take on alternative religions



by alex garcia topete
a.j.garcia-topete@student.utdallas.edu

When John Lennon said these infamous words in an interview more than 40 years ago, he was convinced of the impact the Beatles were having and would continue to have on generations to come. In the following years, "The Walrus" has been proven right, as we've seen such a rise in pop worship that his band—along with many other such celebrity symbols—has gone from stardom to, essentially, a religion of their own.

Before talking about these alternative religions, it's perhaps best to ground some definitions in order to avoid misunderstandings. So, despite the Jesus reference, "alternatives" are by no means any of the non-Christian-based established religions. All of these are treated the same for they have self-aware leaders and holy books to follow. Under this rule, scientology counts as official, regardless of any objections that could fill an article (or book) of their own.

Rather, "alternative" is a consideration for those new faiths spawned in modern times that lack these traits, or any holiness at all, relying more upon idolatry and fandom than true religious organization. Most religions started just like this when tracing back their history.

Without intending to sound contradictory, these alternative religions do have leaders that set

the example for the followers. The difference, however, is intention, since these figures, usually artists, are earthly idols that are actually chosen by the people to be venerated as guides based upon their actions and works, which become sort of freelance gospels.

Think of the Beatles. Their impact was not limited to the confinements of revolutionizing music. They became the key factor for a social phenomenon,

“Through this optic, the Beatles become eclectic preachers of humanism and the Jedis are rendered as sword-swinging Buddhist monks... They're part Samurai, part Gnostic Christian.”

and an everlasting cultural symbol with a legacy that remains relevant today.

Thanks to their songs and the almost mythological history of its members, the band still inspires people around the globe in a joint effort to realize that peace and love are not only things that Lennon imagined. This universality and metaphysical participations elevate the Beatles from celebrities to spiritual leaders.

Evidence of this ranges from the fanatical actions of Charles Manson and his beliefs in "Helter Skelter" to LSD evangelist Timothy Leary's "Thank God For The Beatles" essay to fans who brought handicapped fans up front so that, potentially, the Beatles could come down and heal them. Do a Google search for "Beatles" and "angels" to find some interesting comparisons between the Fab Four and the four holy cherubim.

Other examples of alternative religions abound. There's the Jedi credo, just recently becoming an official church in Australia, that basically copies the lifestyle of contemplation and compassion taught by the Star Wars movies, their "expanded universe", and Master Yoda (reportedly, they'd have more knights if lightsabers really existed). Similarly, there are the "Trekkies" that embrace Spock

eclectic preachers of humanism and the Jedis are rendered as sword-swinging Buddhist monks. Just compare Yoda to the Dalai Lama, and you'll find they share teachings, facial expressions, ways of speaking, and awkward grammar. They're part Samurai, part Gnostic Christian beliefs; they get a religion, however, while the same kind of devotion to sports ends up declared as hooligan zealotry.

Right after reflecting upon this resolution, the temptation of making a quality judgment of the alternatives surfaces. Are these new "faiths" good or bad then? It's the wrong question to ask for this case or whenever two religions are equated. Instead, what must be inquired is if these fresh religions enrich and improve humankind, if they help ease human existence in this world through spiritual fulfillment and alleviation of conflicts and worldly concerns. It's in this sense of exclusively individual merits that religions can and should be evaluated.

In the end, most people today have to a higher or lesser degree some kind of alternate philosophy or side devotion for their entertainment (not in the "fun" definition). The whole purpose, as it has been and always will be, is not to feel adrift in the chaos of the cosmos.

You can wander, but you ought to not be lost. Could it possibly be true that all we need is love? So while religions old and new usher humanity across the universe, just let it be, and may the force be with you! ■

Alex Garcia Topete is at ease with himself and the universe. It's all bunnies and butterflies. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

URGE TO DIRECT?



COSMIC FILM FESTIVAL

Register for the upcoming Cosmic Film Festival here at UTD!

The deadline's coming soon, so check for updates at:

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Technophobia

The benefits of "seemingly avoidable inconveniences"



by **laura miller**
lim052000@utdallas.edu

Have you ever waited in line at the Bursar's office? Has anyone ever gotten your order wrong at a restaurant? Have you ever gone on an endless search for information in a sea of books? If you have, then you'll know what I'm talking about when I say "seemingly avoidable inconveniences."

Like so many tales of woe, this story began at the Bursar's office.

Having some leisure time at my disposal, I decided to be the responsible student and peruse the library and pay my \$5 overdue fine.

I had two options: pay online with a credit card, or go downstairs and hand the cash to a live person. To any self-respecting individual with legs in perfect working condition, the answer would seem obvious.

So down I went, and shockingly there was no line! This must be my lucky day, but alas. After paying my fine, it took a phone call, an e-mail, and two whole days before the fine was removed from my account. (The nice people at the library were willing to overlook it, but I could not access the online databases.)

I punched myself in the nose for thinking a live person would be more reliable than the instantaneous wonderland created by the convenience gods.

Then I started thinking about all the time-saving potential computers possess, and how I could apply them to my life. As a waitress, my number one fantasy would of course be the complete and thorough elimination of the service industry.

Imagine walking into a restaurant, sitting down at a table of your choosing, and punching your order into a personal touch screen that contained all the ingredients of every menu item, statistics

on the most popular dishes, and perhaps even a customized profile that tracked your food allergies and preferences. Then you pick up your iced tea, the chef delivers your four cheese ravioli, and voila, an entire dining experience free of misunderstandings, language barriers, awkward chit-chat, and anxiety over the proper gratuity (it's 20% by the way). Not to mention that an entire

generation of college students and single parents would no longer depend on the varying expectations and dispositions of the fickle public for their livelihood.

As college students, most of us have written a research paper (if you haven't yet, anticipate it in your foreseeable future). So, you have spent countless hours meeting with reference librarians and sitting on the library floor searching through books for that one that perfectly supports your thesis that King Henry VIII really wasn't a raving lunatic.

But why? All of this can be done from the privacy of your home by using internet sources or by simply having the books delivered directly to your front door. Why do we continue to rely on the unreliable, to subject ourselves to uncomfortable misunderstandings, and to waste our valuable time? Computers are the infallible solution to every inconvenience of modern man, aren't they?

Unfortunately, efficiency comes at a cost. What is the difference between staring at a computer screen and staring into the eyes of a sentient being? What is lost when conversation with a stranger is sacrificed for comfort and a few measly minutes? What are the chances that you will discover something amazing in a place or person you never expected?



I ask you to take a moment to closely examine your circle of friends. Do they all have the same interests as you, the same taste in food, music, clothes? Do they all look like you? If the answer is yes, then you have traded variety and controversy for efficiency.

This is nothing new. Internet dating sites that take all the difficulty and mystery out of meeting people have been around for years. Match.com will find you an exact replica of yourself for a minimal fee. And what's wrong with that? Maybe this is the first step toward becoming the highly disciplined, rational beings that Aristotle envisioned.

Personally, I would rather take the small chance that somewhere in the line at the Bursar's office, or at Macaroni Grill, or in aisle P-R at the library, I will meet someone intellectually and emotionally stimulating, an experience that will have a much greater impact on my disposition toward humanity than staring at a web page ever could.

Perhaps if I had asked that young man behind the Bursar's window how his day was, or what his name was, he would have been more inclined to process my request speedily. Maybe if we stop treating those in the service industry like machines, we will stop being frustrated with their response. ■

*Laura Miller has nightmares about killer robots.
Is she paranoid or prophetic?
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Shedding Some Light on Solar Cells

Both the technology and materials stand within our reach



by josef velten
jav072000@utdallas.edu

There was an article this past September that addressed green energy and solar cells in specific. It painted a rather bleak picture about solar cells and asserted that the energy cost to manufacture them is greater than the amount of power that they produce, resulting in a net energy loss.

I am here to say (with some authority) that this is not the case. Solar cells and solar energy right now can be constructed with a net energy gain. The earlier article suffered from a lack of good research and background reading to gain familiarity with the subject.

Solar powered sterling engines are already being constructed in California. Those "huge fields of mirrors" are actually quite movable and can be programmed to turn with the sun for maximum efficiency and with little effort using a pair of low powered motors.

As of 2005, energy provider Southern California Edison made a 20-year

agreement to build a 500-megawatt power plant using mirrors and steam engines. Quoted average efficiency is roughly 25%. For comparison, an 11 by 11 mile complex could produce more energy than the Hoover dam. A 100 by 100 mile complex (about 3 times the size of Yellowstone national park) of this efficiency could produce roughly the entire daytime energy demands of the U.S., the largest consumer of electrical energy in the world.

I'm perfectly willing to admit that this field would have to be in Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico or the southeastern California, but the sites are available, and arguably this land is not exactly in the highest of demand. As anecdotal proof, I can remember taking a trip to New Mexico that advertised the next hotel 250 miles away. We are certainly not talking about the most densely populated region of the U.S.

The article brings up another flawed argument about solar power from silicon chips. There is not one single way to make a solar cell. The quoted 40% efficiency solar panels are specifically single crystal, multi junction solar cells used almost exclusively for pattering around in the lab and for times when carrying around fuel or laying power lines to distant locations is a bad proposition.

For example, these more expensive silicon chips are used in space stations, space shuttles, and remote regions in the world where population density is low but electricity is needed.

Not all silicon solar cells are equally efficient or identical in the processing energy required. Silicon solar cells

at UTD on Dye Sensitized Solar Cells (DSC). The operating principle behind DSC is that they very closely mimic the method that plants used to harvest sunlight and make energy stored in sugars. Instead of storing the energy as sugars, however, we make electricity. This type of solar cell uses relatively cheap

“Despite some claims, solar cells and solar energy right now can be constructed with a net energy gain... these cells are also not restricted to being made only of silicon.”

can also be made from thin films of amorphous silicon that require much less processing and can give an output of around 10-15%. These cells are produced with less energy than they will take in during their operational lifetimes.

Solar cells are also not restricted to being made only out of silicon. CIGS solar cells are made from copper, indium, gallium and selenium and are essentially inkjet printed onto glass. Efficiencies of roughly 10%-15% can be found here, and the solar cells are so thin, measured in micron thickness, that there is very little use of materials in a given square meter of solar cell.

If you would like to know more, there is a local company, based out of Austin, TX, named HelioVolt that is making these CIGS to be integrated into building materials, such as the windows and roofing material of a building. This method of integrating solar panels into buildings is called (rather unimaginatively) Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) and promises to cut down on the main complaint of solar cells for every day use: their unsightliness.

Research is being done right here

materials, like titanium dioxide, an ore that takes minimal processing.

It's so cheap that it's currently used as a pigment in paint or toothpaste (if you have ever wondered what makes white paint white, well, titanium dioxide is the most likely culprit). The other components to making this type of solar cell are Iodine, a specialized dye, a solvent to dissolve the Iodine, and a counterelectrode.

With these relatively simple ingredients it takes very little effort to make solar cells that have 10-15% efficiency. The only drawback is that their operational lifetime has only been confirmed to last around a decade; however research is progressing to increase the lifespan of this type of solar cell.

The point I am trying to make about solar cells is this: while not as easy an energy source as the prepackaged sources of energy that are fossil fuels, electrical energy can be produced using solar energy, at a net gain of energy. ■

*Josef's 100-megawatt smile has powered the hearts of a thousand ladies. Efficiently.
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DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

<http://www.solaronix.ch>

Click on the "technologies" tab for an in-depth review on dye-sensitized solar cells.

<http://www.nanosolar.com>

Click on "Technology" for an explanation of CIGS.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/solar_cells

Leave it to Wikipedia to supply you with decent material on the topic.

Or, best of all, ask one of us working in the labs here about what's going on.

No Shirt, No Citation

Could Dallas be trying to ban the clothes off your back?



by alex palmer

palmer_alex@sbcglobal.net

If you haven't heard of the latest buzz happening at the Dallas city council, you may want to get more involved with local politics. At the request of Dallas school trustee Ron Price, Dwaine Caraway, a member of the Dallas city council, is spearheading an effort to ban the wearing of T-shirts in public.

The idea, as Caraway has enumerated many times, is not supposed to target any specific group or to simply play fashion police. According to supporters of the notion, the intent is to improve the self-esteem of youth as well as to rid the city of something some people consider "indecent." It is common knowledge that one should not wear a T-shirt at most jobs. It's unacceptable to be dressed in the vulgar garb at a meeting of any importance. Why not look decent in day to day life?

Really?

The idea surfaced a few months ago. The original, gung-ho goal was to pass a city ordinance in which people could be fined for appearing in public wearing the inferior dress (slogan: "dress up or pay up"). Since then, most members have backed down as a result of freedom of expression laws. Now the prime wish is that the city will start a campaign aligned with school districts, parents, and media aimed at getting people to stop wearing T-shirts themselves. Still, the threat is not completely gone.

You can't be serious.

Once the beloved T-shirt starts to be seen as

unacceptable, there are no laws preventing a private businesses from enforcing a dress code. Then T-shirts are on the same slippery slope towards being outlawed as cigarette smoking. First, the campaign says it is bad. Second, t-shirts are banned in private businesses. Third, they're banned in public parks and places of social gathering. Finally, t-shirts are expelled from the city.

They're T-shirts, my god! really?

This may seem like an exaggeration, but our generation has seen this cycle happen to cigarettes already. Also, though not many are aware of it, Shreveport, Atlanta, and Stratford have already considered T-shirt laws as well. Even more frighteningly, step one is already underway in Dallas. On Tuesday, October 24, two dozen billboards were erected promoting the anti T-shirt cause. Some of these billboards were donated by media mogul Clear Channel Radio. In addition, the anti T-shirt theme has been added to the lyrics of local rap "artist" Dwayne Brown, aka: Dooney.

...no not really...

After having read about the campaign online and seeing that banning T-shirts in Dallas is an actual possibility, I had to ask myself, "Who cares?" Yes, a ban would kinda-sorta infringe on my rights of expression, but what about laws against public lewdness? Don't T-shirts infringe on the rights of those who do not want to witness my bulging forearms every place I go?

Upon my first reading of the arguments against T-shirts, I was on board. I think wearing T-shirts makes one look trashy. I certainly don't wear them. None of my friends partake in the trend. Most people have heard that the style really comes from prisons. Why would I care if the city council banned a source of trashy, lewd dress that is offensive and

degenerate?

Completely made it up.

My first source of discomfort arose with the thought of enforcing the ban. How could police officers enforce this fairly? I agree that T-shirts are bad, but how does one define a T-shirt? Long sleeved shirts that aren't button-down are sometimes referred to as long sleeved T-shirts. They don't expose forearms, but how do I know if they are acceptable under the law? Let's say that I grow taller or gain weight. Suddenly, my acceptable button-down doesn't quite fit anymore. Will I be written a ticket because my wrists are showing? Wrists are not forearms, but to a cop that is having a bad day, what's the difference?

But still...

Finally and most importantly, I do not approve of the precedent the law would set. I agree that T-shirts are lewd, but there are many people that are far more socially conservative than I am who might say that T-shirts are just the tip of the iceberg. If this law is passed, what stops future representatives from banning less offensive, but equally informal, dress? This would create an opening for bans on body piercing, long hair on males, or tattoos. Precedence is where the danger of the idea lies.

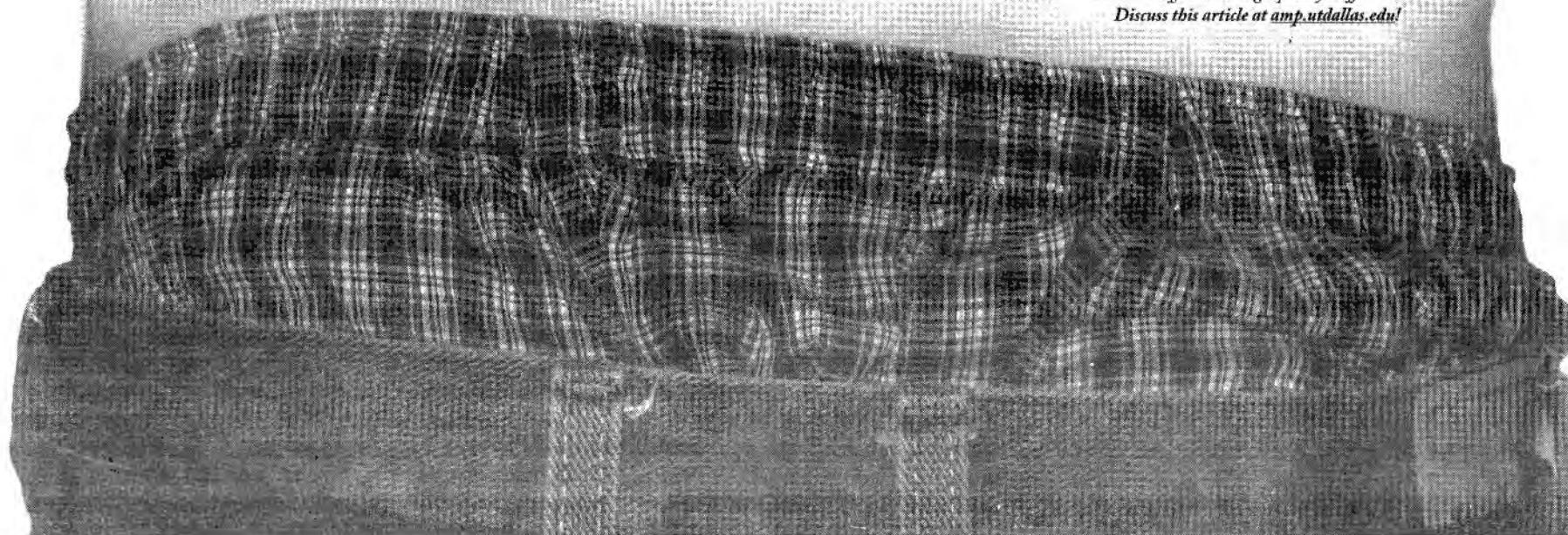
They are trying to ban something right?

It's not outside of the realm of possibility that this law could set the stage for a ban on something as innocent as sagging pants, which everyone knows is just a harmless way to make pants more comfortable. Can you imagine such a thing? It's easy if one just reads between the lines...or, uh paragraphs.

Oh yeah, sagging pants. ■

Thank God we have some hot lower-back models on staff. This is high quality stuff.

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



LUKE Mc/KENZIE

The website's window title says it all. "RADIOHEAD: 'EXPERTS' IN THE FIELD OF HYPERTEXT."

One momentarily contemplates the colors that undulate silently in the background, and then gets on with purchasing *In Rainbows*.

Yet, during checkout, a pair of empty boxes appear where there ought to be numbers. Presumably, one is confused. So, one clicks the red question mark.

In its very center, the page simply reads: "IT'S UP TO YOU."

If one is still confused, the obliging red question mark leads to a second, equally momentous proclamation:

"NO REALLY, IT'S UP TO YOU."

While the rest of the site presents itself with characteristically British diplomacy, it falters here: a special secret's been shared, straight from Radiohead to you, the loyal fan, with a wink and a smile.

I'm not sure if Radiohead have earned that "expert" denotation (and, indeed, it's disappeared from the site), but they're certainly challenging the status quo as if they knew better than all the rest of us. Perhaps they do.

Perhaps I'm the proof in the pudding. I put in £6 (\$12), which is more than I've ever paid for a Radiohead album, seeing as this was my first. I'm one of those new listeners attracted by the novelty of the experiment.

From the first percussive warbles of "15 Step," I thought, *Oh no, it's going to be some kind of dystopian, cacophonous, experimental electronica crap. I won't be able to make it.* Then the vocal enters, threading its intriguing melody. Finally, the guitar arrives to glue it all together and reveal the 5/4 time signature so my foot can find the beat. By the time the other instruments add beautifully layered harmonies, I'm hooked.

For all its layering, this album sounds very clean to me. The guitars aren't needlessly overdriven. In fact, on many songs, the percussive plucking sounds like bells or piano, as clear and clean as the synths and vocals. Thankfully, the warbly electronic stuff is left to the percussion where, despite my fears, it's surprisingly engaging. The skew effect in "Videotape" is fascinating.

The harmonies, built out of guitars and strings and vocals, are the lifeblood of *In Rainbows*. I can see the connection with the website's swirling hues—it's very organic, like color shifts on VHS tape. Indeed, as "Videotape" proclaims: "I have it all here, in red, blue, green."

I still think prettier harmonies can be found elsewhere, but *In Rainbows* proves more infectious with every listen. This album will hold its own in my library, and probably invite its older siblings over for tea someday. ■

IN_RAINBOWS

On October 10, Radiohead released their new album *In Rainbows* onto the Internet, allowing customers to decide what they wanted to pay for their music. Four of our writers took the band up on their offer and gave the album a listen. Compiled here are their opinions of the record, each finding something different to love or hate. We encourage you to share your opinions on our website. amp.utdallas.edu.



KYLE_NILSON

When considering *In Rainbows*, I chose to ignore Radiohead's previous works for two reasons: I haven't listened to any other but

OK Computer, and second, it's much better to juxtapose *In Rainbows* to other current music.

On that note, onward into the depths of *In Rainbows*. The album opens with upbeat melody sure to get your juices flowing. "15 Step" immediately sets the rhythm with a strong percussion line in 5/4 time, a mood tried many but exploited only by masters such as Dave Brubeck. The song quickly develops melodic serenade, almost Spanish in style. Its baselines and beautiful guitars with Radiohead's signature electronic influences serve to make this song nothing short of fresh. "Bodysnatchers" draws its influences from the classic

STEPH/ANIE SHASTEEN

I'll be honest with the potential superfan base reading this: I can't tell you Thom's personal history and name every b-side like some people can. What I can tell you is that *In Rainbows* is worth at least \$15 of your money.

Let's be real, though; it's incredibly tempting to give the band \$5 (or nothing at all) and scuttle to the dark recesses of your room to enjoy the ethereal sound warps and melodies. But who knows: Maybe the good karma of giving them your money will come back to you in the

form of a U.S. tour? (eh? eh?)

Let's start with "All I Need." Is it just me, or does anybody else hear this song and want to touch Thom Yorke's dreamy, bearded face? Tiny chimes float over pounding piano chords and a larghetto tempo. The clipped, repetitive drumming is absolutely luscious.

"Reckoner" stands out for me as well. The opening guitar line is bare, small sounding, and repeats through the whole song. Thom's voice dips and soars in pitch, thinning out into a ghostly echo over

strings towards the end.

In "House of Cards," Thom's falsetto creeps back in as the song ambles along with restrained strumming, and a muted tone everything from the drums to his voice. The opening line is a Radiohead-like: "I don't want a friend/I just want to be your friend." The words eventually reveal what you'd expect; the song's Thom and crew harmonizing at a table and get swept under the

IN / REVIEW



JORDAN YOUNGBLOOD

ance again with a touch of eerie atmosphere on top of a grungy driving rock melody. "Nude" and "Weird Fishes/Arpeggi" bring in our rock-induced hype and expose rich soundscapes and utterly beautiful. "Nude" is nothing short of angelic, with a light drum framework layered with singing and electronics; chilled is an statement. "Weird Fishes/Arpeggi" steps back, but relies more on Radiohead's sound design more than an R&B track. A fast-paced, but light percussive line turns the song into an almost mystical world, creating a euphoric sense of vertigo. At this point in the album, the songs are great, but nothing truly exceptional. "All I Need" is a slightly downtempo groove with a kick. "Faust Arp" tries to blend rich strings

with guitar and light lyrics in an attempt to produce something fresh, but falls short. "Reckoner" brings some driving force back into the album with tambourines, keyboards, and a very pleasant soul feel reminiscent of Moby blended with an extra dose of church. Sadly, "House of Cards" and "Jigsaw Falling Into Place" are simply Radiohead songs, and not much more. To the great credit of the album, however, "Videotape" makes an absolutely brilliant ending.

As a whole, *In Rainbows* is well-inspired, brilliantly mastered, and satisfying in general, but sadly lacking after the first four tracks. Many listeners were, no doubt, expecting more from the album, based on Radiohead's past work (read: *OK Computer*). One or two brilliant songs near the end of the album would have made it a masterpiece, rather than simply great. ■

denial/Your ears should be burning." This song represents, to my mind, this album's weird balance between sounding typical of Radiohead and something successfully new.

If you need one more review of a song to convince you of this album's worth, how about "Bodysnatchers"? This is Radiohead loading catapults with two-ton wads of flaming shrapnel and launching it at your face while you try to protect yourself with a plastic bicycle helmet. Seriously, I almost threw my cof-

fee cup at the wall in a fit of overwhelming pleasure when I heard this song. It'll get you that pumped up.

As a whole, *In Rainbows* lacks the absolutely tight coherency of previous albums. It's a patchwork of songs, and it shows, to a degree. I mean that in the best way possible, though. Think of this album as a hybrid merlot-cabernet sauvignon: elusive in its allegiances to a single, readily identifiable flavor, yet gloriously new and worth savoring every drop that hits your tongue. ■

One of the problems in making one of the cornerstones of modern music is that every single thing you create afterward will inevitably live in its shadow. Such was the fate of Radiohead in the wake of *OK Computer*, the record that cemented their reputation as the Next Great Rock Hope and subsequently drove the band nearly to madness trying to escape. It's fitting, then, that exactly ten years after *Computer* changed their destiny, Radiohead makes an album that sounds free of its baggage at last.

Ever since *Kid A* opened up with Thom Yorke's voice split and broken into electronic stuttering, the band has often seemed to intentionally hide its past strengths, camouflaging guitars as synthesizers, replacing live rhythms with drum machines, and turning the paranoia of Yorke's lyrics into even further abstraction.

While *Kid A* succeeded beyond expectations at this re-imagining, *Amnesiac* and *Hail to the Thief* suffered from identity crises: stuck between the anthemic rock of the past and full experimentation. In particular, *Thief* sounded like a band wearied of their status as rock idols; it dragged on too long, mixing career highlights like "There There" next to forgettable throwaways like "Go to Sleep."

In Rainbows cuts the fat that *Thief* suffered from, clocking in at a concise 43 minutes. Not since *The Bends* have the songs been so naked—Yorke's voice sits at the front, his lyrics unobscured, and the instrumentation underneath him is almost entirely played live. While opener "15 Step" begins with drum machines, Phil Selway's live kit erupts underneath as the song builds, following

Jonny Greenwood's jazzy guitar lead. "Faust Arp" strips everything down to Yorke, a guitar, and a bed of lush strings, sounding more like Nick Drake than the band's recent Aphex Twin fixation. "Nude" opens with a teasing backward sample only to reform around Colin Greenwood's simple bass lead and Yorke pleading softly, "Don't get any big ideas; they're not gonna happen."

It's that emotional directness, the avoidance of a Big Rock Album, that perhaps makes *In Rainbows* such a refreshing listen. A song like "Jigsaw Falling Into Place" doesn't try to change the world; instead, it's one of the band's most satisfying pop songs in eons, letting the rhythm section take charge while the guitars build and twist off each other in the background, ultimately rising up along with Yorke's vocals.

Megaton bomb "Bodysnatchers" sounds content trying to tear paint off the walls with its distorted riff and Yorke's spitted lyrics, and that's just fine by me. It's a record from a band willing to let the songs just exist as songs, to let them breathe and stand alone.

The shimmering ending of "All I Need," Yorke's genuine passion in "House of Cards," the middle breakdown of "Reckoner," the way the guitars overlap on "Arpeggi" until it's almost unbearable—each song sounds honed, crafted, and loved for the first time in a long while. It's fitting that the album fades out to the shuddering drums of "Videotape" after admitting "today has been the most perfect day I've ever seen." *In Rainbows* may not be perfect, but for right now, it's sounding like Radiohead's best work in seven years. ■



Battle of the Cats

Loyal Apple fans play devil's advocate

with Apple's new cat



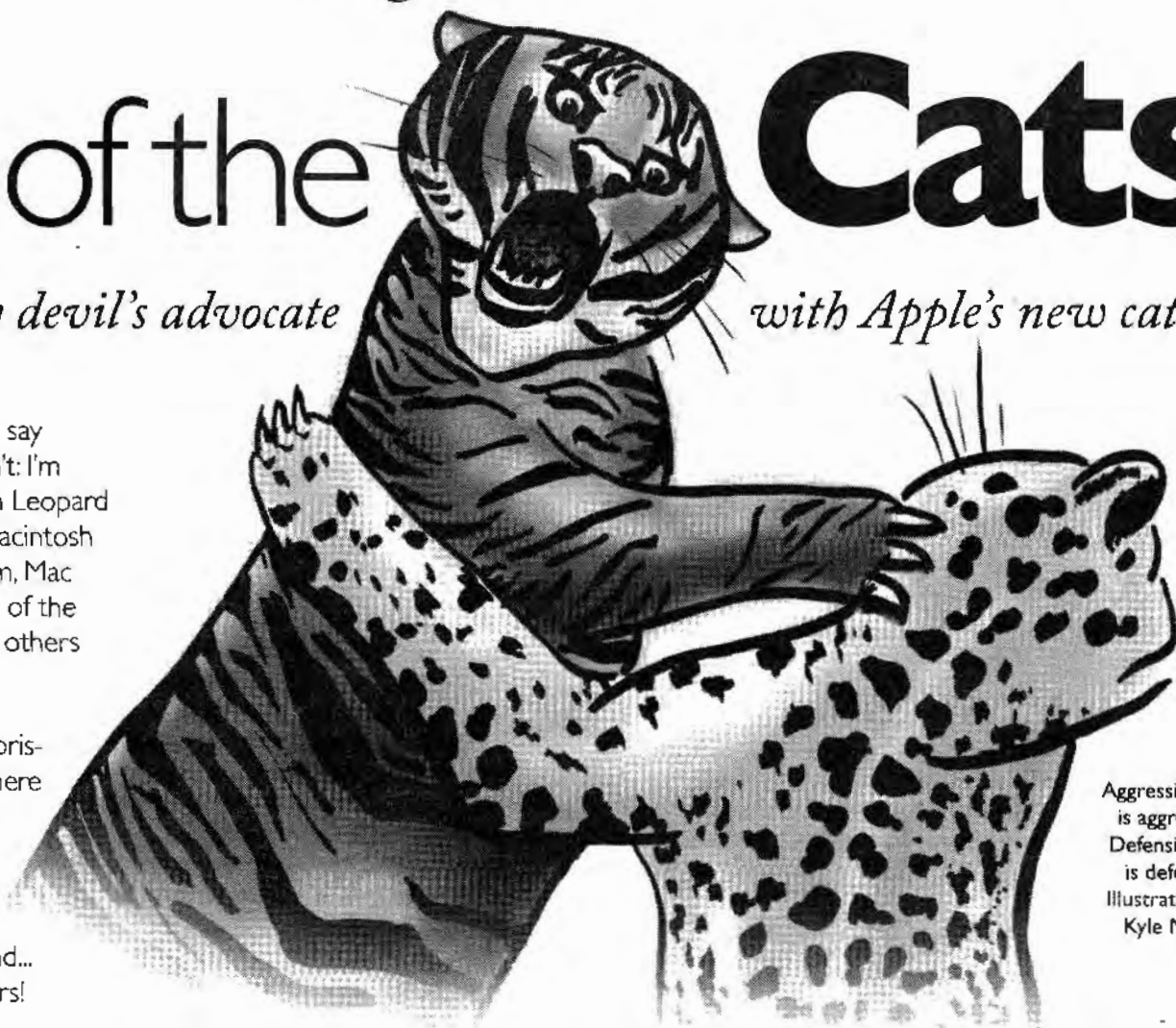
by luke mckenzie
ltm032000@utd.edu

I don't like to say this. Really, I don't: I'm nonplussed with Leopard (Apple's new Macintosh operating system, Mac OS 10.5). Some of the hyped features are real improvements, but others are just a lot of eye candy and hot air.



and kyle nilson
kan061000@utd.edu

I've been surprisingly satisfied. There are tons of new features worth the upgrade! Sure the internet doesn't quite work in WATERVIEW, and... stuff. But oooh! Pretty new iTunes visualizers!



Aggressive cat is aggressive.
Defensive cat is defensive.
Illustration by Kyle Nilson.

The Finder

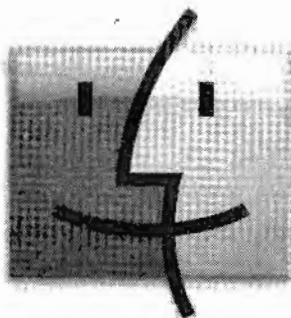
Finally. "Fix the frickin' Finder!" we cried, and Cupertino heard us.

Over the years, people've fallen in love with a replacement file browser called "Path Finder," and Apple copies many of its features. For one, you can have Finder display your working path.

Wait. You can do that?

Yup. In addition, the iTunes-like sidebar now lists network servers and saved searches powered by Spotlight. I miss Tiger's sidebar, with its simple, easy-to-see and follow navigation, but some users will appreciate this new complexity.

I've never been a fan of the browser view at all. Traditionally, the file browsing metaphor encompasses the whole desktop. Who needs the sidebar when you have the menu bar and the Dock? Fortunately, the Toolbar button still leads to the refreshing, classic-Mac "spatial orientation" mode: one window per folder.



The best fix of all, however, is that the Network Server Problem of Doom is gone. If a server disappears, Leopard won't hang, crash, etc. like it did under Tiger. Hurray!

The Dock

From the beginning, Apple developers have featured one particularly ostentatious visual centerpiece with questionable utility, just to show off OS X's ginormous icons. That, of course, is the Dock. Leopard continues the trend.

Two drop shadows? Awkward 3D? Fake perspective? Blurry little lights for the active apps? Reflect-

ing the window next to it? Seriously, you guys: KISS principle. If I wanted blurry little lights under a glass shelf, I'd buy them at IKEA.

Embarrassingly, this is my biggest turnoff about Leopard.

Leopard's Dock is, to put it lightly, ugly as hell. It takes up way too much space and is too distracting. Fortunately, a fix exists for those not fearful of Terminal. (Visit our website for the commands.)

That's workable, but I still prefer Tiger's dock.

Much agreed. *sniffle*

Stacks

I'm not impressed with Stacks at all. It's pretty, I guess, but it offers no new functionality.

"Downloads go into a Stack!"

Whoop-de-doo. I put my Apps and Downloads folders in the Dock long ago. Right-clicking yields a hierarchical menu of the files therein.

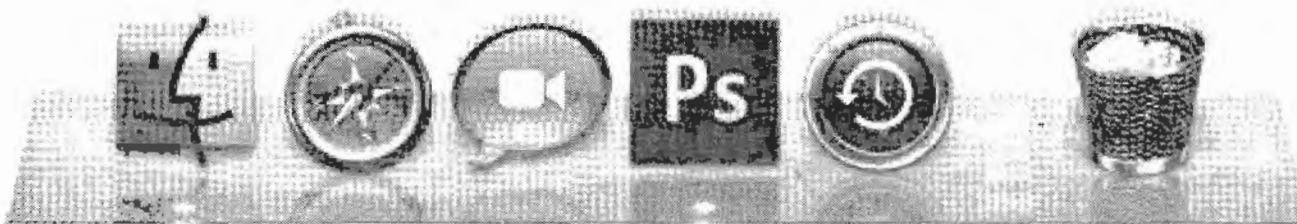
Unfortunately, I can't move, rename, delete, Get Info, or otherwise manipulate the files in these menus. At first, I'd excitedly hoped Stacks would correct this deficiency (and thus resemble the tabbed Finder windows from OS 9)—alas, no.

Just like the Dock itself, form has been valued over function.

No further discussion needed. I agree whole-heartedly.

Spaces

Take a commonly worked idea (multiple desktops), integrate it into the OS, and throw in a touch of Core Animation. Sexy.



The Leopard Dock, in all its awkward glory. It actually looks better in black and white. Screenshot by Kyle

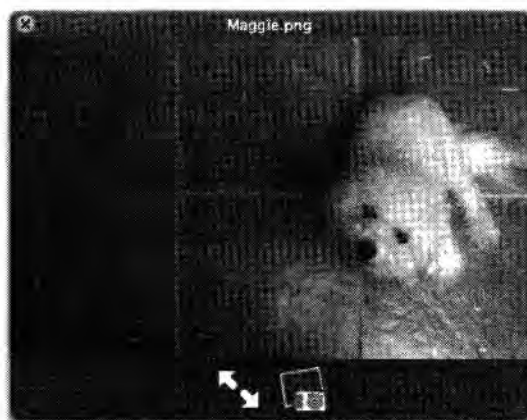
Once enabled, you can have anywhere between 2 and 16 spaces arranged how you please. Drag windows to the edge of your current "space," and they'll move over into the next one. View all of your windows at once by pressing F8. For the more graphically inclined, you can have a menubar item.

Okay... okay. I'll let you have this one. Spaces is wondrous.

Quick Look

I do tire of dragging Photoshop JPGs to Preview, waiting on the "Open with" contextual menu, or futzing around with Quicksilver for what is really a very simple command: Show me what this is.

Quick Look is, quite simply, Inspector on crack. It will give you a close view of almost any file in native form, but it's really just an intermediary between the icon and a full-blown open document. I won't use this feature as intermediaries aren't my thing.



The Quick Look viewer. Screenshot by Kyle Nilson.

So you're saying it's redundant? Hmm. I suppose you could change file associations so everything opens in the quickest possible viewer (Preview for images and PDFs; TextEdit for text and Word docs). That's a fine substitute for Tiger.

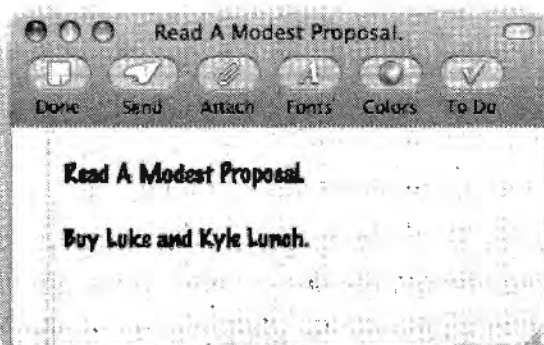
If you do like Quick Look, it's extensible, so the developers of your favorite app can program a Quick Look extension to view its files.

Mail

So Mail lets you write notes now, turn them into todos, and send them to iCal. And the rationale behind this is that people tend to email reminders to themselves? I don't buy it.

Apple's admitting that we need a

better tool to keep track of lists and scraps, but integration with Mail (a communication app!) is a truly half-



A note, as seen in Mail. Screenshot by Kyle Nilson.

baked idea. I prefer my flat text files, thank you very much. Inflexible contrivances like Notes and Todos are simply an impediment to working organically, as I tend to do.

On the other hand, I'm a fan of Apple's new To Do

notes. They might not be a great model of organization, but they're a quick way to jot down all of your exam dates at the beginning of the semester. You don't have to keep track of all your lists since it's all in one place—Mail (or iCal's To Do list). You can even assign notes to particular calendars, like "Exams" or "Work".

But does it integrate with Gmail or .Mac Mail? Must you be in front of your own computer to read and write

these notes? Not helpful.

Ah well; you just have to pick the system that works best for you.

iChat

Now you can screenshare with anyone else running Leopard and iChat! This useful feature is relevant to us college kids, whether it's showing a friend how to do that complicated biology lab or showing your mom how to burn a CD in iTunes. I'm sure Apple Support will somehow exploit this, too.

The rest of the features are, sad to say, lackluster. You can now pretend you're on the beach or on a rollercoaster in your videochats, but the gimmick gets old fast.

Indeed. The screen sharing and document sharing features are tremendous—at least, they will be, once you know enough people who use Leopard.

Time Machine

So Time Machine lets you restore documents you've moved or deleted. Cool; we've got the most common and mundane form of user error covered. But is it really prepared for the worst of deleterious events?

Actually, it might be. When installing Leopard on release night, I noticed something in the Utilities menu of the installer,

an option that simply says "Restore from Backup..." next to a large Time Machine icon. So, not only can you recover files inside your current OS, but also—if that gets corrupted—it appears you can restore everything using your Install DVD and trusty backup drive.

Cool!

But would I be able to connect my backup drive to another computer and easily browse the files on it? I prefer my current setup: the backup drive simply mirrors the boot drive directly. No incremental backups, but it's far more robust.

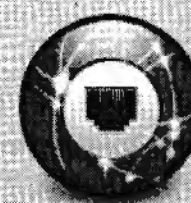
And there's that over-the-top Starry Night interface. I'm quickly learning to assume that the best-looking features of Leopard were made so at the expense of utility; but it's certainly easy to understand, and quite beautiful, floating stars and all.

All told, we agree the Mac OS is still beautiful and well thought out, but too closed and inflexible. It's a Mac; it is what it is. It's more painful than it should be to customize and extend it beyond the preferences Apple offers you.

For those of us with too little time, interest, or ability to switch to Linux—yet still care enough to feel offended at Windows—there's always Apple. Their admittedly well-made computers won't ever accommodate our personal ideas of perfection, but they come close enough. As for Leopard, not everyone's ready for it; but the future advances inexorably, and Apple is leading the way with style if little else. ■

UTD Students Beware!

Leopard isn't yet officially supported here at UTD. Unlike with Windows Vista, it's not a deal-breaker—but there is one caveat:



Save Internet Connect from Tiger before you upgrade!

Leopard doesn't perfectly accommodate UTD's 802.1x wireless authentication system—which means, if you want to get on WATERVIEW or CAMPUS, you'll need the Internet Connect application from Tiger. It will work under Leopard—just follow UTD's connection instructions for Panther (10.3), available at <http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/cats/network/wlan/8021x/panther/>.

(There's a link on our website.)

Remember, though, that the Help Desk doesn't support Leopard yet, so you're on your own.

Further Reading

An expanded version of this article, as well as more links to further reading, are available on our website, amp.utdallas.edu.

- On the theory behind Finder design (or lack thereof): <http://arstechnica.com/articles/paedia/finder.ars>
- A review of Leopard's new interface from MacThemes: <http://macthemes2.net/2007/10/28/aqua-a-review-and-retrospective/>

Luke McKenzie, Apple fan since System 6, has put in countless hours doing web and print design for the likes of the Mercury, Radio UTD, and of course, AMP. Kyle Nilson, a Mac user since Jaguar (10.2), staffs the UTD Help Desk and is an admin on the MacThemes and Aqua-Soft forums. Presently, neither of them have girlfriends. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Getting Acclimatized to 'Peace'

Gore's winning a detriment to the Nobel reputation



by **benedict voit**

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu

The dictionary provides over a dozen varying definitions for the word 'peace.' Most of these definitions indicate some kind of freedom from conflict or a state of tranquility. In accordance with such definitions, Alfred Nobel, through his will, proclaimed that the Nobel Peace Prize should be awarded "...to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between the nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

The list of past recipients boasts a host of heavy hitters: Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Popes John Paul II and John XXIII, Mahatma Gandhi, Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover.

Last year the committee named Muhammad Yunus the 2006 Laureate for his outstanding work in microcredit loans to the poor. Yunus took the risk of issuing said small loans to economically struggling individuals with the belief that they would work equally as hard (if not harder) as well-off individuals to repay them. He was right, and his faith and effort gave many people a chance at a better life no one else was willing to provide.

However, the Peace Prize committee shocked much of the world community when they made their announcement for the 2007 Laureate last month. This year's recipient for advancing fraternity, serenity, and peace: Al Gore and the UN Panel on Climate Change.

Don't get me wrong. Discussing climate change needs to happen. I happen not to agree with the kind of discussion that we are having, but that doesn't mean the topic of discussion isn't important.

Furthermore, I like seeing Americans win, and I certainly do not blame Gore (entirely) for the Nobel

committee's decision. However, I do blame Gore for the way he has led the discussion, and I am rather perturbed by the committee's recent decision and justification.

First of all, in terms of the climate-change discussion, Gore exaggerates. He proclaims a "consensus" on global warming; he predicts a rise in sea levels by up to six meters; he forecasts horrendous hurricane seasons to come; the list goes on. Yet in each of these cases, the facts have gone against him. Science is not built on consensus (even if one existed); rises in sea levels have been modified to 60 centimeters (one-tenth of Gore's prediction); the hurricane season last year was very mild.

Al Gore, as a true politician, knows that fear sells. Getting a few extra days of summer every year isn't going to scare you into action. Beefing up the forecast

“Regardless, even if it is proven that humans can prevent drastic climate change... I still do not see the connection to world peace.”

to you losing your beach front home, though, might.

I believe that deep down his intentions are honest and noble. However, he loses credibility by not accurately presenting the information. Perhaps Gore's biggest climate-change distortion is his belief that human activity not only alters our planet's ecosystem but also has impacts beyond the atmosphere of Earth.

In his words: "We are altering the balance of energy between our planet and the rest of the universe." That's right. The *universe*. As columnist Mark Steyn asks, Gore wouldn't happen to have "[u]niversal 'balance of energy' graphs for 1940 and 1873," would he?

Regardless, even if it is proven that humans can prevent drastic climate change, that we go through with that process, and if that happened in large part because of Gore's work, I still do not see the connection to world peace.

The Nobel Committee claims that they chose Gore and the UN Climate Panel "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change."

That sounds like spreading education or raising awareness—two very important tasks—but not ensuring peace. Perhaps they imply that bettering the natural climate can in turn better the political climate, too. Whatever they purport the connection to be, I don't buy it. The Committee's decision is a stretch at best and more along the lines of some serious wordplay. For an institution typically held in such high regard, this award appears mind-numbingly foolish.

Finally, even if I were to agree fully with the committee that a connection between climate change and peace exists, the question still must be raised, why Al Gore?

Gore's Live Earth concerts flew celebrities all over the world in jumbo jets to use bright stage lights and large amplifiers to project their devotion to conservation. How much energy these flights and concerts required isn't known. What is known, though, is the average American household consumption of energy per year: just over 10,600 kilowatt hours. Gore's house surpassed 221,000 kilowatt hours in 2006.

I'm glad Gore can talk the talk. But the Nobel Prize should go to someone who walks the walk. The Nobel Peace Prize website admits that the decision "...is a highly political matter, and scarcely a matter of cool scholarly judgment." Nevertheless, even in a highly politicized decision, standards must exist. This decision devalues the reputation of the Peace Prize.

Al Gore leads the charge on a politically hot topic. For that he should be thanked. However, winning a Nobel Peace Prize is much too much. I hope that in the future the committee's decisions will be more cool-headed and show a return toward the true intentions of the award. ■

*Benedict Voit believes in peace, outside of the fierce uproar he creates in the hearts of fair maidens.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*



Write for AMP and we will give you a shiny Nobel medallion like this one!*

amp.utdallas.edu

*Nobel medallion may be a nickel, or maybe a yogurt lid

Genocide Remains Genocide

Turkey throws around its newfound political weight



by maya bouali

mwb051000@utdallas.edu

On April 24, 1915, under cover of World War I, the Young Turk government of the Ottoman Empire began a systematic genocide of its Armenian citizens – an unarmed Christian minority population. More than a million Armenians were exterminated through direct killing, starvation, torture, and forced death marches. The rest of the Armenian population fled into permanent exile. Thus an ancient civilization was expunged from its homeland of 2,500 years.

The Armenian Genocide was the most well-known human rights issue of its time and was reported regularly in newspapers across the United States and Europe.

A century later, the United States of America is still debating whether to condemn the killings as genocide. On Sunday, October 14th, Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the U.S. House of

Representatives, insisted that she would bring to the full chamber a resolution condemning the killings of Armenians nearly a century ago as genocide. Turkish military chief, General Yasar Buyukanit, said that if the full House passed the resolution, “our military relations with the United States can never be the same. The U.S. shot its own foot,” he told the Milliyet newspaper. Buyukanit’s comment came two days after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan cautioned that bilateral relations with the United States, a key partner in NATO, were endangered. To underscore the point, Turkey has recalled its ambassador from Washington for consultations.

Strains have been further heightened by Turkish military and political preparations for possible strikes inside northern Iraq against militant Kurdish separatists, something U.S. officials fear could further destabilize the region. With troops poised near the border, the Turkish Parliament is set to debate whether to authorize an incursion. The rising tensions sent oil prices Friday, October 12th to a record high of \$84 a barrel.

The Turkish government has acrimoniously protested the use of the

word genocide—acknowledging the deaths of more than a million Armenians, many during forced relocations, but stating there was no intent to eradicate them. It is important to point out that is not just Armenians who are affirming the Armenian Genocide but it is the overwhelming opinion of hundreds of independent scholars, who have no affiliations with governments, and whose work spans many countries and nationalities and the course of decades.

Polish jurist Raphael Lemkin, when he coined the term genocide in 1944, cited the Turkish extermination of the Armenians and the Nazi extermination of the Jews as defining examples of what he meant by genocide. In addition, the killings of the Armenians are genocide as defined by the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Moreover, in 1997 the International Association of Genocide Scholars, an organization of the world’s foremost experts on genocide, unanimously passed a formal resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide. A hundred and twenty six leading scholars of the Holocaust including Elie Wiesel and Yehuda Bauer placed a statement in the New York Times in June 2000 declaring the “incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide” and urging western democracies to acknowledge it. The Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide (Jerusalem), and the Institute for the Study of Genocide (NYC) have affirmed the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide.

There may be differing interpretations of genocide—how and why the Armenian Genocide happened, but to deny its factual and moral reality as genocide is not to engage in scholarship but in propaganda and efforts to absolve the perpetrator, blame the victims, and erase the ethical meaning of this history. The denial of the Turkish-instigated genocide of the Armenians and the continual demand for still more proof is a byproduct of the “glorious history” invented by Turkish bureaucrats for this “chosen people.” This invented, glorious history declares all civilized people who ever existed within the perimeter of



Victims of the Armenian Genocide.
Photo courtesy of warcrimes.info

today’s Turkey—no matter what their indigenous culture is or was. Armenians, of course, do not belong to this. The splendid history of Turkey—an artificial, eulogistic and ideological fabrication—continues to exclude the worst and darkest sides of Turkey’s past such as the systematic extermination of the Armenians. Genocide remains genocide! The facts about the Armenian genocide should be told, and the mentality of politicians in Turkey must change.

Pelosi’s actions to open the case have instigated precarious threats from the Turkish side. The Turkish threats have sparked great debate and interest in both the media and the White House simply because there is so much at stake for the Bush Administration. Turkey is our strongest Muslim ally in the Middle East and acts as a major portal for U.S. military supplies to Iraq. The question that I can’t help but ask myself is where will the politicians draw the line? Will they give in to political posturing because of these threats of war? Or will they stand up for the real history of the Armenian people? ■



Armenians protesting the massacres. Photo courtesy of Pace University

Little known fact: Maya BouAli is America's strongest ally in the Middle East, not Turkey. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Seven-Year Term

German marriages get test-drive option



by **alice post**

alice.post@student.utdallas.edu

Marriage. American politics designates this as a buzz term that swirls around everything from gay and lesbian marriage to how a candidate's marital status shapes the campaign. Politicians know the logos and ethos of marriage contribute to building the foundations of their voting bloc, while the pathos shapes those votes not yet swung in the candidate's favor. Happy images of lifelong companionship ring chimes of hope for all those who are scared-stiff of dying alone.

Perhaps the Bavarian politician Gabriele Pauli didn't get the memo. Pauli decided to run for the leadership of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) on the platform of marriages terminating after seven years, at which point the vows would be renewed in order for the couple to stay married. So much for "until death do you part."

Republicans get antsy when they see Giuliani's multiple journeys down the aisle. No wonder the Christian Social Union in the German free state of Bavaria sees this platform as utterly absurd. The party is a sister branch of the federal CDU—Christian Democratic Union of Germany. Both the CSU and CDU are socially conservative, though the CSU is considered even more so. Think Texas conservatives compared to Washington conservatives.

Why propose such a socially liberal idea to a solidly built conservative party? Pauli earned her PhD in Political Science; she should know what she's doing. Every publication in the world has picked up on her desire for creating controversy and therefore earning some press time. Pauli knows how to keep her unorthodox image in the public—not hard when snapping photos with latex, motorbikes and miniskirts. Add a platform of terminating marriages and the name Gabriele Pauli becomes synonymous with seven-year itch.



This is Gabriele Pauli. Image courtesy of Locally Günzburg

However, crazy ideas allow crazy students to re-examine marriage. Parents, mentors, friends and sex-education teachers have spouted off the infamous statistic "fifty percent of marriages in America end in divorce." In Bavaria, the numbers stand at thirty-eight percent. Not surprisingly, Gabriele Pauli has divorced twice. Is life-long marriage the right way to define this union when so many of them end up splitting anyway?

With these numbers as support, Pauli builds a trial period and exit strategy into the legal marriage contract. It is a rationalized proposal to solve the problems of bitter divorces. It makes sense from a secular but emotionally void perspective. Employment

and business contracts stand for only short periods of time before they are considered for renewal. Politicians are elected to serve for a short period to 1) determine if they are effective and 2) motivate them to stay effective. Similarly, the married couple brings together finances and ideas for running a household while a special brand of politics becomes necessary for dealing with direct and extended family. The analogous argument would posit that this seven-year clause allows an exit strategy for the miserable couple while strengthening the vows of the committed couple because of the mandatory re-examination.

This seven-year term strangely resembles a growing number of couples' initiative to

move in together before getting married. By design, the more traditional acts of dating and courtship allow two people to know if they will be compatible for the rest of their lives. Humans are calculating beings that can judge whether or not to shrug off convention based on their particular circumstance. The trial period for a marriage has been dealt with at a social rather than political level.

Perhaps Pauli is trying to rectify the marriages that begin too quickly: the ones that decided to leave getting to know one another for the marriage. Psychologists that study the levels of dopamine during the first year of professed love have essentially found that during that time the brain is chemically hijacked. With merely the thought of one's significant other, all the feel-good chemicals in the brain are released and the couple acts as one another's drug.

If the relationship lasts beyond that first year or two, then the couple is acting in full faculty rather than temporary insanity. Pauli could see the seven-year mark as keeping what would be the second- and third-year divorces persevering and consciously growing into a relationship for several more years at least.

Unfortunately, this exploration has focused far too heavily on the rational aspect of marriage rather than the emotional and religious implications. By promoting seven years as a good average, Pauli obliterates the belief of eternal companionship of souls through the institution of marriage.

Raised as a Christian—though far more inclined to listen to my brain than my metaphorical heart—I can see the clear threat Pauli's proposition poses against all married couples who vowed to stay together for better or worse until they died. Emotions tied to religious beliefs are strong, but direct emotion of love is stronger. The sixty-two percent of Bavarians whose marriages did not end up in divorce possess a companionship and love that is undoubtedly stronger than any press time Gabrielle Pauli gains from this controversial platform. ■

*Alice Post can't wait until death gets a test drive option, too!
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Fructose-of-the-Loom

How cotton candy defies typical matter-state classifications

For Sir Isaac Newton, it was an apple. For Albert Einstein, it was clock towers. For two dashing, intelligent, and witty young men from the University of Texas at Dallas, it was a renegade strand of cotton candy that launched them on a quest for knowledge that would challenge the fundamental principles of human existence. In other words, the elusive proof of the fifth state of matter.

The dynamic duo was strolling along to the sounds of a class event when a loose strand of cotton candy floated by on the winds of fate and obstructed the airways of the unsuspecting Kevin Tydlacka. His friend, the valiant Mac Hird, jumped into action and prepared to give him the Heimlich maneuver, only to find his throat was clear. After removing themselves from this suddenly awkward position, these two scientifically proficient men began to investigate this apparent miracle.

"It was amazing, one minute I couldn't breathe, then the blockage suddenly disappeared, and I took my first breath as an enlightened man. I was thankful for this new lease on life, but I had to ask myself, 'Where did the cotton candy go?'"

Due to the laws that govern all existence, matter cannot just disappear, but to all outward appearances, that's exactly what had just seemed to take place. These men decided to acquire more cotton candy and test this anomaly further in a safer and more appropriate



by kevin tydlacka

kevin.tydlacka@student.utdallas.edu



and mac hird

mac.hird@student.utdallas.edu

location. After quickly moving to their lab/kitchenette, these two scientists discovered that cotton candy did indeed give a tantalizing taste of succulent glory before forever winking out of existence soon after contact with taste buds. Realizing that this was a violation of the conservation of mass theorem, the pair wanted to investigate this further to find out the true implications of their discovery. Working in utmost secrecy with their guard Asian, Lewis Chang, these two visionaries investigated every known state of matter sugar that exists with shouts ringing out every minute or so of "Intern, 30 cc's of sucrose, stat!"

In the end, these scientists categorized all known states of sugar into the four states of matter as previously defined by the scientific community. Sugars, such as granulated sugar, brown sugar, packed powdered sugar,

and snow cones were solids. Molasses and syrup were liquids. Powdered sugar is easily excited to its gaseous state and something as insignificant as a puff of air can force this change. Finally, Pop Rocks were obviously plasma, but only once popped. Unsurprisingly, cotton candy fit into none of these categories.

In response, Tydlacka and Hird prepared a battery of tests that would ascertain the true properties of this new illicit substance. Due to the highly volatile nature of their discovery to the scientific community at large, the duo could only say, "It was around 3:20 in the morning during the course of test number 107, although incidentally we skipped the first 94 tests," (declaring them bollocks or a complete waste of their valuable time), "when we truly understood the gravity of our now proven hypothesis—

it's true." Lewis the Intern recalls the actual exclamation that echoed around the world, "BY MY SUNDAY'S BEST FLANNELS, IT'S TRUE!"

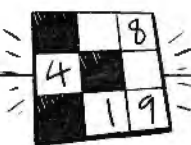
Mac is Canadian.

"We had already run small amounts of grape flavored cotton candy through a variety of liquid mediums in an attempt to visually observe where the cotton candy goes once it becomes moist. However, I was born without a left kidney and my frontal cortex was removed when I was 8, so it wasn't until after we had already tried milk, orange juice, and lead based paint that we realized we needed an un-opaque liquid to actually view the process. So we moved on to saliva, but with a twist. We were going to follow it out of existence to see where it goes." Kevin describes this process as being a bit nerve-racking and emotionally scarring. "Well, I took some on my finger and got a good grip on it. Then after making sure I had my first aid kit, pepper spray, and riot shield, I placed it on Mac's outstretched tongue. There was a strange sensation behind my navel, almost somewhat reminiscent of traveling by portkey, then 2 of my fingers were gone and I was back in the lab."

So a few restless nights and missing body parts later, they released their findings to the public. It appears that the fifth state of matter, or Unmatter as they have christened it, does in fact exist. Mac and Kevin plan on exploring the more elusive properties of Unmatter to hopefully learn how to harness its innate properties to "create a cure for rainforests... yon know... in response to deforestation." ■

Kevin and Mac think unmatter does matter! ...Eh?
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/





by benedict voit

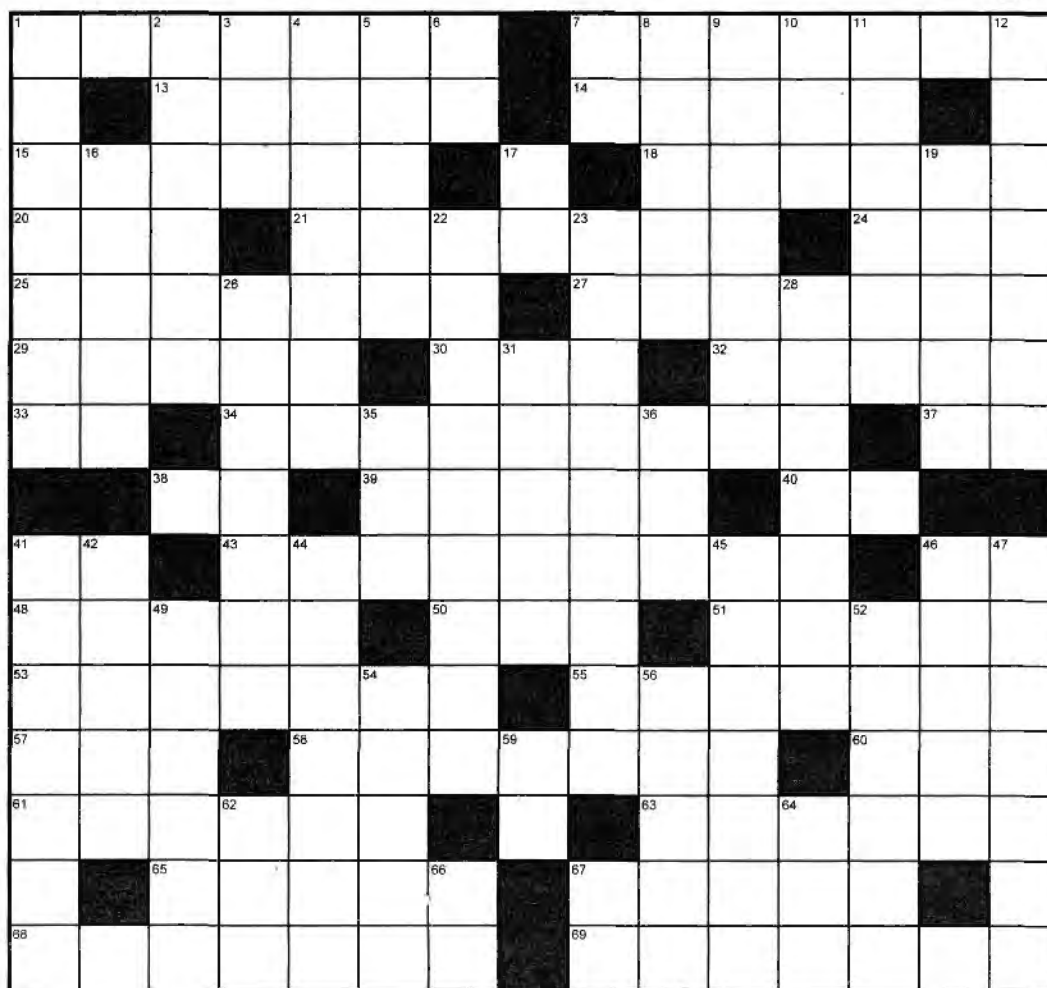
benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu



and jessie harpham

jessie.harpham@student.utdallas.edu

Center of Gravity



Across

1. Current Queen in America
7. Red, powdery seasoning
13. 1936 4x Gold medalist
14. Say on the spot
15. A large hairpiece, or a VIP
18. Type of pentameter
20. Spcd Defies Gravity, abbr.
21. Often misplaced
24. Home of the Horned Frogs
25. Acetaminophen
27. Located in the open air
29. Spanish for "The Ere"
30. He's tiny
32. Multiple molecules of Fe
33. ____ Stine
34. Faithful attachment; devotion
37. Compass direction
38. ____ of A
39. To speak
40. Kind of Pepsi
41. In all email addresses
43. November 4, 2008
46. Type of 25 across
48. Kindergarten teaches how to ____
50. "m a e" alphabetically... (yeah)
51. Suggestive of the supernatural
53. To endure tenaciously
55. Wears away the surface of the earth
57. It "is me" – with correct grammar
58. The son from a spouse's previous relationship
60. Marching grunt
61. To save
63. Breakfast pastry
65. Dog-____ page
67. The great tempter
68. "Get thee to a ____"
69. Yankee's manager, mid 1900s

Down

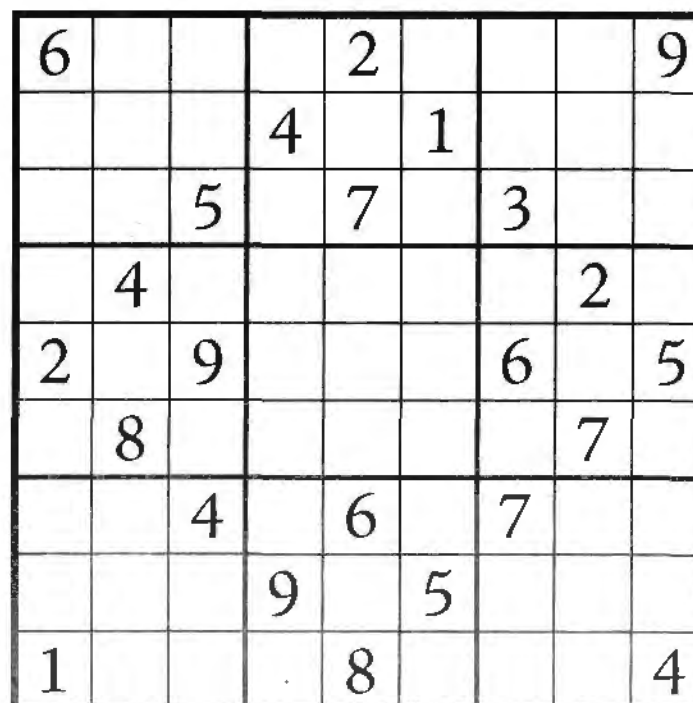
1. A crustacean
2. To switch between channels
3. Large workers' union; nicknamed Wobblies
4. Faked
5. Part of MR WASP
6. Pearce and Richardson
7. State of the Phillies
8. So long, farewell
9. Superficial; mass produced
10. Type of shot
11. IBBTOO...seriously
12. Declare to be evil
16. A carefree episode
17. Involves programming
19. Graphic shortcuts on your desktop
22. To argue with zeal
23. Not always, but not never
26. Highly used part of pencils
28. Prom or wedding attires
31. Enraged, irritated
35. Farming tool
36. New movement
41. Pain killer
42. Not those
44. Fun and relaxation
45. A newborn infant
46. Highly religious
47. Mint flavoring
49. Has ascended
52. "____ in Cars with Boys"
54. To direct the course of
56. Writer of *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Patriot*
59. 3.141592653589...
62. I think I ____, I think I ____
64. There once was a man from ____-tucket...
66. Atomic Number 66
67. Nazi terror group

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

Ooh! Sudoku

Mmmmm Turkey!

Difficulty:
Succulent



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

Difficulty: Dry

Sudoku

Difficulty: Tasty

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

Borsenco

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

Here are the rules:

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

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

Squares must be true squares, no rectangles.

Try going first
then try letting a
friend go first.

○ Wins!

X	O	X	
	O		O
		X	
X	O		O

X Wins!

	○		○
	×	×	
	×	×	○

X Wins!

X			X
	O		O
		O	
X			X

Neither Wins

○		○	
	X		X
			X
○	X	○	

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

Discuss these puzzles at amp.utdallas.edu!

BREAST AWARENESS DAY BOUNCES ACROSS CAMPUS

'I've got a firm hold on the issue'

'Just...Thank you, UTD'

BAM

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■ 'Always had a queer personality'

■ Still keeping a loving eye on Harry

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amodestproposal@gmail.com



LOL

AMP Discovers New Temoc Form: The Bed Bug

by D'Brickashaw Cunningham
Kafka Issues Reporter

RICHARDSON (AMP) - One morning, as Temoc was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that in bed he had been changed into a monstrous verminous bug. He lay on his armour-hard back and saw, as he lifted his head up a little, his blue, arched abdomen divided up into rigid bow-like sections. His numerous legs, pitifully thin in comparison to the rest of his circumference, whooshed helplessly before his eyes.

"What's happened to me?" he thought. It was no dream. His room, a proper room for a college student, only somewhat too small, lay quietly between the four well-known Waterview walls. He heard the reassuring sound outside of the maintenance crew loudly mowing the lawn, of the other tiny bugs he knew by name skittering in fear out from underneath his mattress.

"Oh God, what a demanding job I've chosen!" he muttered. "Each day I get up and perpetually wear the same t-shirt and running shorts, always with some creepy smirk across my face as if I'm leering at children. Why must I always be running? Why is my head on fire? Is this a life a man can truly lead?"

He attempted to adjust his position, throwing himself onto his right side only to see his wriggling legs again. In the back of his mind he heard voices muttering some sort of endless chant, a chant without meaning.

"Heck yeah, Comets, crush 'em... Green and white... Crush 'em, UT Dallas..."

Temoc shrieked against the ill noise, flailing his tiny limbs about. What if he called in sick? What if he avoided the voices and ran away, far away, into a galaxy where small children embraced him and called him "McCuddles?"

The room returned to normal. The comet found himself once again whole. Then his dad totally owned him with an apple. ■



Temoc's mandibles of love want to embrace you and what you offer to campus. They also desire your luscious brains.

Texas State Fair Gets Ambitious on Frying Things

DALLAS (AMP) - Taking the long-honored art of frying various foods to a new level, vendors at this year's Texas State Fair decided to fry items that most people would consider impossible.

"I don't think anyone would normally look at a Chrysler Sebring and say, 'What do you reckon that would taste like fried?' But that's why we're here—to ask those kind of questions and then promptly immerse in scalding oil whatever we were talking about," said Lilburn Allen, a vendor at the fair for more than 20 years and an expert in the art of frying.

Most patrons have come to expect items such as fried Oreos, Twinkies, ice cream, and the ubiquitous corny dogs the fair is famous for. This year, however, attendees found a series of fried items including a computer monitor, a dinette set, a marble bust of Zeus, and an entire herd of cattle that required somewhere in the vicinity of 38,000 gallons of oil to complete.

"When [vendor] Steve Sanders told me he was gonna fry that whole head of cattle, I said, 'Steve, that's a mighty big thing to try to do.' But by gosh, he came here the first day with a whole big trailer filled with 'em and the biggest grin you've ever seen on his face," said food director Sheryl Williams. She noted that Sanders was eventually ticketed for a large health violation.

Sanders' other new idea, a sugary, numbing product called "Oxycontin Candy," earned him raves from customer Rush Limbaugh and a ten-year jail sentence without parole. He then tried to fry the prison bars. ■

UTD Plans To Replace Greater Richardson With Sidewalk Network

RICHARDSON (AMP) - Not willing to stop with the area outside the Student Union, UTD officials have declared their intent to cover the entire Richardson area with a winding, labyrinthine system of sidewalks that will replace streets, the DART network, and all other forms of transportation.

"We know how to make things convenient for the student: large, unwieldy construction projects that take a long time to finish. Now, we want to bring that to the greater community, one laborious panel of concrete at a time," said one official.

Officials then hope to convert all communication into a version of Galaxy that is planned to fatally crash by 2010.

Facebook adds new "MySpace" Application

"We like options. To be honest, we aren't even sure what half of these applications do. We just wanted to up MySpace yet again, so we added the one thing they can't," said a company representative in response to the new addition to the once-popular Facebook application family. "See, we have been trying to add as many useless applications as we could, but we couldn't keep up with MySpace. So we just incorporated MySpace's extensive library of blinking, blooming web junk. Now instead of having to wait to bite chumps or keep a virtual pet to feed fake plants to, you are able to instantly commence the time wasting as soon as those fools still on MySpace can." This application has been met with a resounding "Yarp."

New England Patriots Get Cocky, Plan to Invade Russia in Winter

FOXBORO (AMP) - Fresh off a series of dominating victories in recent weeks, the New England Patriots appear to be heading toward a classic historical mistake: planning to invade Russia in the winter.

"No one seems capable of stopping our relentless offensive attack, especially a bunch of beet farmers and peasants. Once Brady gets a few early scores and establishes a connection to Moss, we shall see Moscow as ours by December," said head coach Bill Belichick.

Russians are preparing for invasion by stacking the line with an endless flood of bodies and trading for Carson Palmer.

ROCK GARDEN FINALLY BLOOMS!

Scientists: "We're seriously calling it quits right now"



The rock garden that shattered the minds of countless "wise" men, so erroneously trained in the ways of heathen science.

by Richard Dawkins
Former Avid Scientist

In an act that many people are considering a miracle unlike any other, the UTD Rock Garden has abruptly bloomed into a flourish of color and life over the past few days. These random eruptions of floral substance have lead many scientists and professors on campus to set their degrees on fire, stating the utter impossibility of such an event.

"It's over. Science lost. We...I...rocks don't turn into flowers. They don't. Do rocket ships turn into rich chocolate candy? Does magma transform into kittens? The world has broken completely today, thanks to this place. I cede my beliefs over to the dancing fairies that shower pixie dust over ECS," said one geology professor as he tossed numerous scholarly articles into the garbage can.

The garden, long considered a somewhat awkward eyesore on campus and a running joke among freshman, seems to have converted inanimate pieces of shale, volcanic, sedimentary, and other rocks into a bouquet of tiny flowers perfect for fitting behind one's ears. The likelihood of such an

event normally occurring ranked between "impossible and a reanimated Sinatra eating human brains," according to staff.

Religious clergy, attempting to ascribe the miracle to various deities, have begun to fight over the garden, claiming that each are defiling the holy presence of the others.

"This is clearly the work of St. George, whose favor has wandered from the far edges of Turkey to us here at UTD," said a priest conducting services at the garden. He claimed the flowers are due to George shaking the dragon blood off his holy sword, spreading small flowers across the ground.

This was declared to be utter nonsense by a rabbi nearby, who insisted it was due to a student accidentally dropping their kosher meal into the dirt around the garden, pleasing the Lord to share his bounty with everyone. He then entered into a fight with an environmentalist sealing the area off as an endangered forest.

"I don't get what all the fuss is about. I planted those flowers a while back, like I was told to," a UTD custodian said when questioned about the event. He was then tackled by each of the holy men in turn. ■