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Don't call us; we'll facebook you: Can personal networking sites keep you from landing a job?

by Carter Twitty

There has been a recent upsurge in concern about websites like MySpace.com and Facebook.com being used by companies to further vet potential employees beyond the traditional resume and interview. The ethicality of such practices has been brought up and debated in a variety of publications in the past few months. *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Dallas Star-Telegram*, and the opinion page of our own *Daily Campus* have all raised concerns about the real dangers of posting into the public record potentially compromising pictures and comments meant to be taken as fun, light-hearted college experiences and facetious posturing.

These issues are pressing and pertinent to our immediate futures. We are the first generation of college students entering the working world with these websites and the access they allow almost anyone else to have into our private lives. Such immediate access is entertaining, a great way to keep in touch with long-distance friends, and share and hold onto memories of exciting and treasured experiences. But the anxieties created by the possibility of future employers looking through the pictures of the last party you went to illustrate just how much the internet and digital technology like cameras and camera phones have changed our world.

It is safe to say that, today, anyone at any time can be caught in a compromising situation. One only has to look at the magazine racks at the grocery checkout to know that our society feeds off the images of celebrities caught in the act of just about anything. Without debating the merits of such publications, it is hard to deny their appeal.

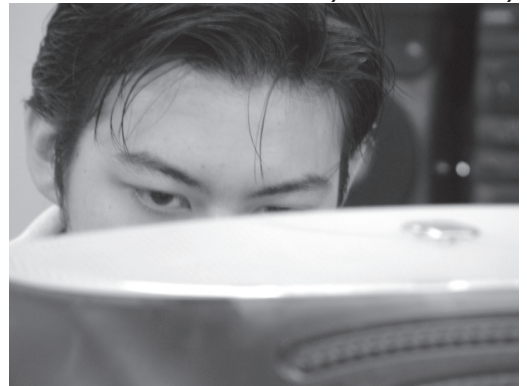
However, with sites like Facebook, MySpace and YouTube, this appeal is reaching out in a new direction, back at the public. These sites are in their infancy. It is impossible to predict what, in the future, the uninhibited access we are allow-

ing others to have into our personal lives will ultimately cause. Though it is possible and even easy to block specific individuals from viewing part, or even all, of one's Facebook profile, the larger question must be why we would want friends, family, and prospective employers to have access to some of our more embarrassing and/or funny moments in the first place.

The principal issue is that most people do not, or cannot, discern the difference between showing their best friends a photo album of their crazy spring break, and posting those same photos on the web. Due to the exacerbating capability of the internet, the voyeuristic fascination people today hold, both in wanting to observe and be observed, is like no cultural phenomenon the world has known. It is difficult to say if and when there will be a reactionary about-face to increased personal privacy in the future. Presently, it appears that, even with the worries about lost employment opportunities, the majority of college students are completely at ease with sharing some of their most intimate moments with an audience much larger than their circle of friends.

It is too early to say what this relinquishment of privacy ultimately reflects about our society. What can be said immediately, however, is that there will be consequences for this new era of openness, and whether these are positive or negative will ultimately be decided by what and how much we choose to show people about ourselves.

Carter Twitty is a senior English major.



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Be Heard: *Hilltopics* is always looking for good submissions on virtually any topic. Email your ideas, feedback, or articles to hilltopics@hotmail.com.

We welcome submissions from all members of the SMU community. Letters to the editor should be up to 300 words in response to a previously published article. Contributions should be articles of up to 300-600 words on any topic or in response to another article. Please email your submission to hilltopics@hotmail.com by Wednesday at 7:00 PM to be included in the following week's publication. Special deadlines will be observed for breaking campus events. The opinions expressed in *Hilltopics* are those of the authors solely and do not reflect the beliefs of *Hilltopics* or any other entity. As such, *Hilltopics* does not publish anonymous articles.

You've read the articles and heard the hype; now go see Meadows for yourself!

by Todd Baty

Those who have followed SMU headlines over the past year have probably noticed that much of what is making news within the university is pertaining to the school that students know perhaps the least about: Meadows. Last semester, the Meadows Foundation made history with its \$33 million gift to the arts school and museum. This semester, a new dean, Dr. Jose Bowen, has renewed enthusiasm and brought fresh perspective to the school's programs and goals.

In addition, the theater, dance, music, and visual arts departments are consistently critically acclaimed for their first-class productions of the most amazing student artistic creations. Whether it is a Meadows Symphony Orchestra concert, a Meadows Dance company production, or an art department gallery showing, exciting artistic experiences occur in Owen Fine Arts Center almost every week, and the global artistic community is eagerly looking on.

However, despite all of this attention, most of SMU's own students remain clueless as to the true artistic brilliance that occurs in the internationally touted arts school. Sure, most students identify that Meadows has a

good reputation; the *Daily Campus* and SMU website have done a good job of showcasing the school's numerous strengths. But how many students appreciate Meadows for the excellent arts school it is? How many have experienced for themselves the artistic beauty of a Meadows event?

Perhaps the most telling sign of SMU students' unfamiliarity with Meadows is the fact that at any given Meadows performance, the audience is more populated by



the local senior community than by SMU students. Furthermore, most students probably have not even walked inside of the Meadows Museum, let alone looked at its breathtaking galleries. While I do not expect most non-Meadows students to actively follow performance schedules or to attend every artistic event that occurs on campus, I do think it is a real shame that many (if not most) SMU students graduate without ever experiencing a Meadows event.

Take advantage of the luxuries of an SMU education: augment what you learn in the classroom with a trip to the theater or concert hall. You might be surprised by the parallels between the lessons that you are discussing in class and that which you are experiencing in an art gallery, concert hall, or theater. The beauty of art is its ability to gorgeously communicate (in an entertaining way) the lessons of life, and you have the opportunity to "learn" from some of the best student "teachers" in the world.

Luckily for you, admission to these uplifting experiences is either free or very cheap, and the location could not be more convenient. So the next time you have a free weekend or just don't feel like going to yet another frat party, take a walk down to Meadows and enjoy the sights, sounds, and emotions of a student production—experience for yourself the reason everyone is excited about Meadows.

Todd Baty is a junior History and music major.

Upcoming Meadows Events

September 15, 8 PM
Meadows Symphony Orchestra
"Russian Expressions"
September 27–October 01
Division of Theater, Margo Jones
"Misalliance"

September 29, 8 PM
Meadows Wind Ensemble
"In The Beginning..."
November 02–05
Meadows Dance Department
"Fall Dance Concert"

A step in the right direction for women: Plan B birth control pill set to become over-the-counter

by Jenny Simon

On August 28th *The Diane Rehm Show* on NPR conducted a civil discussion on the FDA's decision to make Plan B (aka the morning-after pill) available over-the-counter for women eighteen and older. Bob Knight, Director of the Cultural and Family Institute of Concerned Women of America, and Kristin Moore, President and CEO of the Reproductive Health and Technology Program, debated the pros and cons of this decision. Obviously there has been some controversy surrounding this decision, and while all the opposing concerns are legitimate, they can be rationalized to explain why the FDA's decision should withstand criticism. A possible reason why making Plan B over-the-counter has received a negative response is that the general public is not one hundred percent clear as to what Plan B is or what it does. Plan B is a tablet that contains 75mg of the hormone levonorgestrel, the same hormone that is found in many birth control pills. In no way is this an abortion pill like the RU 486; instead Plan B does not allow the sperm to fertilize the egg in the first place. If conception has already happened, this pill will not terminate that conception or affect it in a harmful way. Plan B is not a form of birth control but an alternative form of contraception that can be used after unprotected or under-protected sex.

Bob Knight and others that follow his line of thinking are concerned that, 1. making Plan B over-the-counter will imply that promiscuity is acceptable, particularly for women, and 2. that teens (specifically between the ages of thirteen and seventeen) will be given this pill by men, swaying their decision to have sex. With regards to the first concern, we already live in a promiscuous society. The taboo on sex describes it as "dirty", "irresponsible," and even something you should not physically enjoy. This taboo is especially placed upon women, so when the decision was made for Plan B to be available O-T-C, the idea that women actually enjoy and crave sex came into the picture. For women, becoming sexually aroused is improper; or having sexual gratification through orgasms is being "promiscuous." Bob Knight is say-

ing that making Plan B O-T-C will cause women and men to have sex more often and have more sexual partners because Plan B is a "quick fix." If Plan B encourages promiscuity, then why aren't condoms and other forms of contraception being criticized? Following that logic, selling those could also imply that promiscuity is okay in our society.

The other concern that has caused huge controversy is this notion that teenage girls will be given this pill or take it on a regular basis. To clear up confusion on the law, you must be eighteen or older to purchase this contraceptive over-the-counter. Nothing has changed for the girls under the age of eighteen. They still have to get a prescription, see a doctor, and have a guardian present. That law has not changed! This concern can be easily fixed in a way that does not have to penalize responsible adult women who want to avoid an unintended pregnancy. To avoid this scary situation of a guy giving a young girl (thirteen through seventeen) a Plan B pill, you must educate the kids. This applies directly to the taboo on sex. Society assumes that if you talk to your kids about sex and contraceptives then they will have more of it. Instead of putting restrictions on Plan B availability to women over eighteen, teach teenagers, especially girls, what this pill is and what it does. That way, if this situation occurs young girls are informed about the pill and will know when a guy is blowing steam out of his ass. In addition, if thirteen and fourteen year old girls are having sexual relations with eighteen or older men, then the parents need to reexamine their parenting tactics.

Education about sex and contraceptives can help avoid these radical "what if" situations. The overall picture is that making Plan B O-T-C is a huge benefit for women of legal age.

Jenny Simon is a junior sociology major.

Music review: New album, *Modern Times*, proves that Bob Dylan is a timeless musical genius

by Clare Taylor

Bob Dylan's talent as a poet lies in his ability to weave together lyrics filled with greater societal significance with words that are deeply personal. On his new album *Modern Times*, Dylan once again demonstrates this skill, and creates a vibrant musical landscape that brings life to the poetry of his songs.

My personal journey into the music of Bob Dylan began in high school, when my dad insisted that my sister and I see Dylan live in concert. To prepare for this event, I was handed two burned CDs meant to provide me with a crash course into his music. I had little idea at the time what influence this veritable anthology of songs would have on my life.

Having listened to Dylan since that time four years ago, I am still discovering the influences, and the political and social events that accompany such classics as "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall" or "Subterranean Homesick Blues." The trip to the record store to buy his latest album became a sort of pilgrimage for me. I wondered how Dylan would translate his lyrics into the fabric of his music. I wondered if his new songs would carry the same weight of those he wrote 40 years ago.

Modern Times features songs about both love and social aware-

ness. These include "Rollin' and Tumblin'," an old Muddy Waters tune Dylan has given new life to, as well as "Workingman's Blues #2" and "The Levee's Gonna Break," which show an awareness and provide a personal commentary on the world today. For me, the final track, "Ain't Talkin'," brings the album to its climax musically and poetically. His lyrics are hauntingly apocalyptic, describing what is, according to Dylan, a "weary world of woe."

With *Modern Times*, Bob Dylan once again moves forward as a poet and musician, and lends truth to his old saying, "The times they are a-changing." His music continually asserts a sort of hold over me, taking me back to the same songs over and over again. I continue to find new meaning and innovative ideas to appreciate in his music, which crosses generations and milieus. With this idea in mind, I decided to drive down to my parents' house this past weekend. I wanted to move from my CD-listening generation to my parents' vinyl-listening generation. I wanted to listen to the songs on the turntable with my parents, and attempt to discover with them the meaning of Dylan's latest take on these *Modern Times*.

Clare Taylor is a senior French and international studies major.

Is this the year of the pony? SMU seniors hope for a better showing than the last three years

by Douglas Hill

I love SMU football. I go to the games. I read smumus-tangs.com. I tailgate. I shout. I rushed the field. I wear red on Fridays. But it's not easy being a pony these days. The last time SMU played in a bowl game was 1984, the year most of my fellow seniors and I were born. My freshman year I entered the season with anticipation for my first Division I football and was greeted by a team that lost every game all year. Things got better my sophomore year; we posted three wins. Last year, we looked actually decent, especially at the end of the year, winning five games—that's almost half!

The point is, SMU loses. It's just what our football team does. We got the newest, nicest stadium in the NCAA—and lost. We got a new coach—and lost. We got new turf—and lost. We got new uniforms—and lost. We got a new offensive scheme—and lost. We waited for Coach Bennett's recruiting class to mature—and lost. We even changed conferences—and still lost. And, to start this year off the SMU way, we went to Lubbock—and lost.

I know I'm not really being fair. Texas Tech is a top 25 team, and we're...well, we're SMU. And, although I've been trained by my own experience and disappointment to regard all such predictions with skepticism, some people believe our team is actually good this year. I've heard we might do well in Conference USA. I've even heard the b-word dropped a few times. But if SMU is serious about going to a bowl game, we have to start winning games.

That said, against my better judgment, here are some reasons it's okay to be (a little) optimistic about SMU football:

1. Offensive experience: With Bobby Chase leading a

group of experienced receivers and last year's stand-out RB DeMyron Martin should be given some decent blocking by a starting five with more experience than last year. The least experienced part of our offensive game is at the QB position, but Justin Wills got Coach Bennett's stamp of approval for last weekend's performance. "He didn't have great numbers [9 for 16, 69 yards], but I definitely see a future for him," Bennett announced after the loss to Tech.

2. Building off success: We looked better last year than we have for a long time, and we were at our best to close out the season last year. We escaped another potentially disastrous year by posting three end-of-season wins, and we managed to salvage an almost .500 season. If we can win our easy non-conference games and take advantage of home games against conference rivals Tulsa and Houston, we might be able to think winning record. And if we can pull out six or seven wins, a bowl game really isn't just a pipe dream.

3. Easy first-half schedule: The front of our schedule is full of our least challenging conference games and some fluffy out of conference match ups. We play UNT, Sam Houston State, Arkansas State, and Tulane in our next five games, all of which are winnable. If we can enter the UTEP game on October 7 with four or five wins, we'll have the confidence and the success to start thinking about going bowling.

I'm trying very hard to be optimistic, but don't blame me when November rolls around and we're still looking for win number two. After all, this is SMU, and losing is what we do.

Douglas Hill is a senior international studies major.

Dear readers: A letter from your *Hilltopics* staff

Dear Mustangs,

Welcome back to the Hilltop and to another year of *Hilltopics*. This is our third year, and it should be our most exciting year yet. We're hoping to expand our publication and our readership, as well as improve the quality of writing and contributions. But *Hilltopics* belongs to the student body, and its fate is in the hands of its readers.

We at *Hilltopics* know how smart our fellow Mustangs are. We hear the intelligent, interesting things you say in class, on the quad, at Hughes-Trigg, into your cell phone, and on your sorority sisters' Facebook walls. We know you have opinions—about your professors, living in Dallas, going to class, the Greek system, sports, music, movies, theater,

politics, pets, shopping, video games, and everything else under the sun. And we want to be your means for sharing those opinions with the world. We love hearing from you in response to our articles, but we also invite submissions about any- and everything else. Even if you're just pissed off, we still want to hear from you.

So run, don't walk, to the nearest computer, notebook, legal pad, post-it note, or cocktail napkin, and start writing down your thoughts. *Hilltopics* is waiting to hear from you, and so are your fellow students.

Best regards,
Your *Hilltopics* Staff

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