



Hilltopics

University Honors Program

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Mythbusting *Ebola*

by Karen Folz

With thousands of cases of Ebola in Africa and three (and possibly more) here in Dallas, panic and myths are spreading faster than the disease itself. Here are a few common misconceptions regarding Ebola:

#1: Ebola is airborne

False – Ebola is only spread through direct contact (through breaks in the skin or mucous membranes like eyes or the mouth) with the bodily fluids of an individual who has already started showing symptoms. This includes blood, vomit, sweat, feces, urine, and saliva. Technically, the saliva spread through a sneeze or cough would contain Ebola, but these droplets carry less of the disease than blood or other fluids. Besides, coughing and sneezing aren't actually symptoms of Ebola.

#2: Dogs can spread Ebola

While a study during an outbreak in Gabon in 2001 and 2002 found dogs that had developed antibodies to Ebola (and were therefore likely infected), there are no known cases of dogs becoming sick from it or infecting humans.

#3: Quarantine and isolation mean the same thing medically.

These two terms actually differ – individuals in isolation are kept separate because they have been diagnosed with Ebola, while people in quarantine have been exposed to Ebola but have yet to show symptoms. Those in quarantine are kept separate for 21 days after exposure to ensure that they don't infect

See the full story on page 2

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anyone else if they begin showing symptoms. Sometimes, people at a lower risk of contracting Ebola are allowed to self-monitor their symptoms for the 21 day incubation period instead of being quarantined.

#4: We're all going to die from Ebola! (Ebola will kill us all!)

Between the death rate, horrific symptoms, and the blunders made by local and federal officials, it's easy to feel like we're all doomed. However, there is some hope! The only people to contract Ebola in the United States were nurses in close contact with Thomas Duncan, the original carrier of the disease; even his family members have almost reached the conclusion of their quarantine without getting sick. Hopefully others exposed to Ebola will also not show symptoms so this myth can stay a myth.

New Honors Opportunities

by Camille Aucoin, UHP Office Coordinator

The spring course list is finished! Dr. Doyle, Ms. Spaniolo, and I have worked hard to compile all the exciting opportunities in the UHP this coming spring. Listed below are a few of the amazing classes being offered next semester:

ARHS 3382: Art and Experience in Inka Peru

This class will travel to Peru at the beginning of May! Learn all about the history and aesthetics of Inka Peru, then go experience the rich culture first-hand!

ASAG 3350: New York Colloquium

This class travels to New York City during J-Term! Spend two exciting weeks touring the art museums of New York!

PLSC 4320: Law, Politics, and the Supreme Court

This class travels to Washington D.C. during Spring Break! Learn all about the role of the Supreme Court in the government!

If you're interested in any of these travel classes, email the professor RIGHT NOW!!!! The selection process for filling these classes has already begun and will end soon!

UHP 2100: Honors Sophomore Seminar

Learn about the process of putting together a research project, prepare for upper level Honors courses, and learn about the amazing resources available for an SMU student!

SOCI 3321: Nonprofit Organizations: Conceptual Primer

Explore the nonprofit sector including nonprofit history, theories, management, and trends. This course offers students the possibility of summer internships in nonprofits!

Check out the full course list on the Honors website to see all of the amazing classes being offered next semester.

Additionally, make sure to keep up with the website (now complete with Google Calendar!) and the Facebook page (you have liked us on Facebook...right??) for news about exciting upcoming Honors events!



Surviving the Downfalls of the New Commons

by Jacquelyn Elias

Here we stand in the middle of the semester: classes are in full force, a good night's sleep is nothing more than a fading dream, naps become a day's highlight, and Dedman has become a long lost friend. Let's



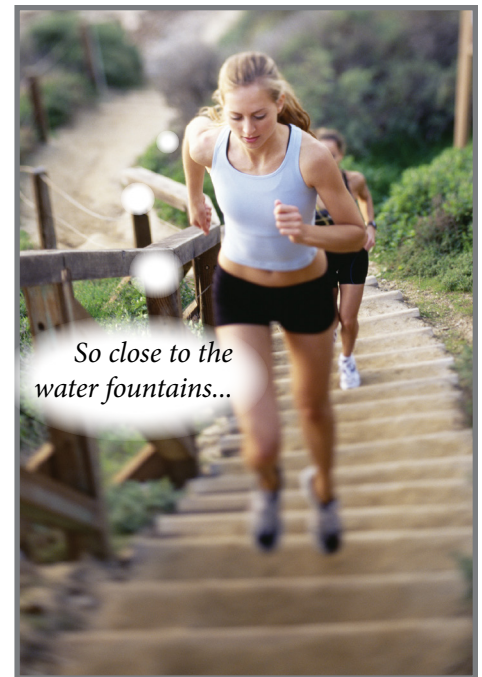
face it: the aura of excitement and newness that infiltrated the campus at the beginning of the year has slowly dimmed to a faint glimmer. As our enthusiasm for the year has died down, so has the excitement surrounding the new buildings. Of course, compared to other universities and some of the older residential halls, we have no room to complain, and we truly are grateful for the generosity of our fantastic donors and namesakes. However, living in the new commons requires a few tricks in order to keep the optimism towards our temporary home going strong. Despite the wonderful staff and state-of-the-art interior, talk of Arnold's limited food variety on certain days has constantly traveled throughout the new Commons-

that and surprised complaints at the unsettling, small amounts of food available 30 minutes before closing. On weekends, few selections other than sandwiches, salads, and breakfast items fill Arnolds, leading to some disgruntled, hungry students. However, with a tad bit of creativity and patience, even the most basic options can turn into something more substantial. For dinner, the grill always offers good alternatives with their grilled fish and chicken options. If the odds are in your favor and Arnold has their artichoke dip, add the dip with black olives to the top of a piece of grilled chicken for your very own artichoke chicken. Even options like the notorious feta and vegetable sandwich that always seems to be at Arnold's can be transformed into a different option. Take the top piece of bread off the sandwich,



add chicken from the salad bar, add cheese, and microwave for your very own vegetable and chicken panini. If all else fails, there's always Mac's Place and their fries.

Now if you survive the food dilemma, then hopefully the lack of water sources throughout the new commons does not lead you to dehydration in the desert we call Texas. With the only water fountains on the first floor, residents are faced



So close to the water fountains...

with four alternatives: build killer calves through several trips to the first floor, drink from the sink water, die of water depletion, or keep a secret stash of water bottles. Now while the last option may seem easy enough, you would be surprised by the stinginess of college students. Now while these and several other issues may put a damper on the reputation of the new Commons, the buildings allowed for the residential commons system, which transformed the university. Now to just teach the students how to transform any other ordinary beyond extraordinary.

FiR-ry Friends

by Camille Aucoin



If you've heard barking in your residential commons, no, you're not going crazy...but you would be crazy to not meet the faculty in residence's amazing pets! I had the opportunity to interview three faculty members and their furry companions to learn more about how having a pet on campus has influenced their commons. Therefore, the battle to be the best FiR pet on campus begins!



Meet Goldie, a 2-year old Chihuahua mix. Her favorite places on campus include the George W. Bush Library gardens and the field outside of her home, Kathy Crow Commons. Her owner, Meadows professor Will Power, is the faculty in residence at Crow Commons. He and his family adopted Goldie as a stray in Oak Cliff when she was a puppy after saving her from a potentially dreadful encounter with a bigger dog. Power describes Goldie as "kind of a free spirit" who enjoys running and loves to interact with the students at Crow and around campus. He has noted that Goldie has become a bit of a celebrity on campus; several students who he's never even met are already well acquainted with his dog.

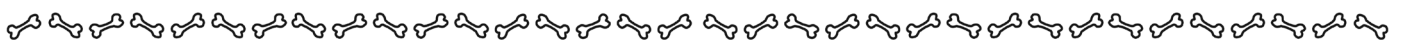


Power says the student response to Goldie has been tremendous. Students immediately seem to brighten upon seeing "just that little bit of gold." Some students even volunteer to take Goldie for walks around campus.

Power says the student response to Goldie has been tremendous. Students immediately seem to brighten upon seeing "just that little bit of gold." Some students even volunteer to take Goldie for walks around campus.

Goldie's secret weapon? Her speed and cuteness, claims Power. From my short time with Goldie, even I could see the energy waiting to spring out from her long legs as she explored the field outside

Crow. Power isn't kidding when he says she's fast; he has seen Goldie outrun both a pit bull and an SUV.



Meet Lone Star, an 8-year old Whippet with attitude. His favorite place on campus is the South Quad and its bushes full of squirrels he can chase around. When he's not chasing squirrels, however, Lone Star is the king of relaxation. He has his own beanbag close to the kitchen and loves to take over the couch. His owner, Economics professor Beth Wheaton, is the faculty in residence at Cockrell-McIntosh Commons. Professor Wheaton expressed that being able to have Lone Star with her in the apartment was a condition for her moving into CM. She describes Lone Star as laid back and very expressive, a trait I observed easily in my short time in her apartment. Lone Star acts like the prince of the apartment and was very intrigued when I first arrived but the longer I stayed he began to protest the need to grace me with his presence, especially when I tried to take his picture.



Wheaton says the students in CM love having Lone Star around. Although he is less outright social than some of the other FiR pets, he still enjoys mingling with students when they come to Professor Wheaton's apartment for Tuesday Salons. He even had the honor of being the ambassador of the FiR pets to meet Dr. and Mrs. Turner at the beginning of the semester, a good choice considering his calm demeanor and exemplary behavior.

Lone Star's secret weapon? His regal attitude, claims Wheaton. She says that Lone Star would simply say: "What am I supposed to do with all these dogs?" and turn his head like the prince he is rather than engage in such a peasant-like battle. Lone Star doesn't need to be awarded titles; he already knows that he's the best.



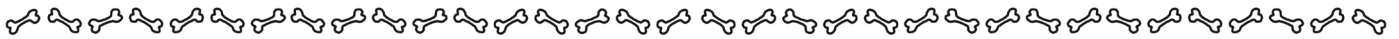
Meet Lucy and Ethel, 6-month old Miniature Australian Shepherds with more energy than a can of Red Bull. One of their favorite places on campus is the Dallas Hall lawn fountain, and it's only a matter of time before they'll be jumping in rather than just wetting their paws. Their owner, Simmons professor Ann Batenburg, is the faculty in residence at Virginia-Snyder Commons. Batenburg, who occasionally wonders



just what she got herself into with Lucy and Ethel, has never had puppies before and has quickly learned what a huge challenge having two is. Batenburg describes Lucy as rambunctious, impulsive, and always acting as the instigator while Ethel is more calm. Each has managed to resemble their respective namesakes, Lucille Ball and her neighbor Ethel Mertz, quite well.

Batenburg says that the response to her puppies in VS has been wonderful. She has even assembled a group of residents to help walk Lucy and Ethel to release some of their never-ending energy. Fetch, however, never quite works as planned: Lucy will chase the ball...but Ethel will just chase Lucy. The two seem to be engaged in a perpetual friendly tussle that only stops when one gets a little too ruff.

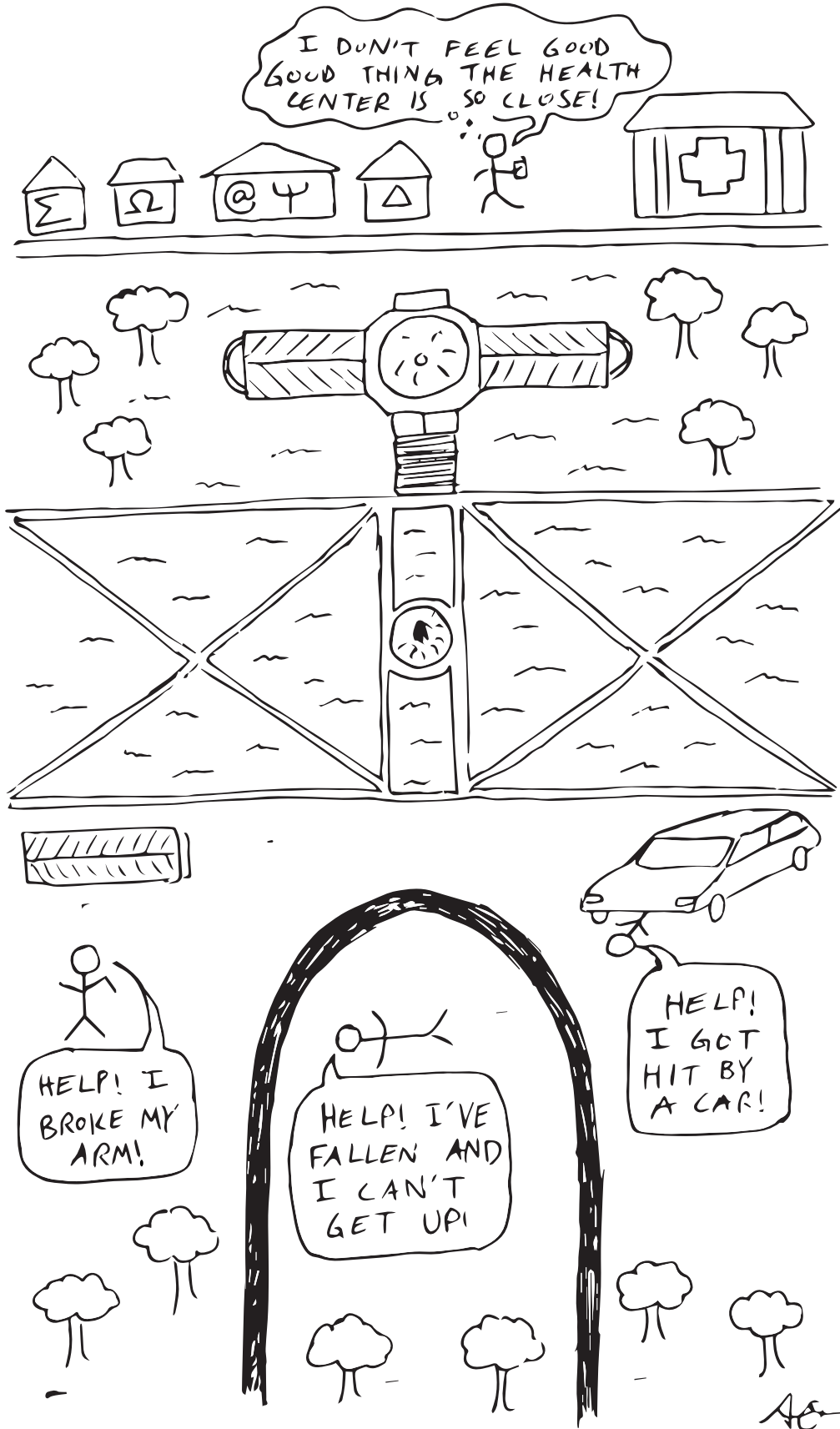
Lucy and Ethel's secret weapon? Their cuteness, claims Batenburg. She, like many others, believe that they are the cutest FiR pets on campus, and honestly, who wouldn't love energetic balls of fluff like them? However, their downfall could be their inability to stop fighting with each other.



The winner of this all-star battle of FiR pets? Us students, obviously. I, like many other students, miss my own pets tremendously and was extremely excited to learn that the faculty in residence were allowed to have pets this year. Now, students have the opportunity to interact with these wonderful pets all the time. Personally, taking Lucy and Ethel for a walk always releases some of my stress, and even having short interviews with Goldie and Lone Star brought joy to my pet-deprived heart. For all animal lovers, having these pets on campus in our commons is fantastic and provides a new way to interact with our faculty in residence. If you ever feel deprived of puppy love, be sure to stop by and say hi to these amazing pets and get to know their amazing faculty owners.



Comic Relief



Comic by Andrew Oh

No Team is an Island

by A.J. Jeffries

College football is an institution in the United States. For some schools, game day is a way of life. That is certainly the case here at SMU, where our unique form of tailgating, Boulevarding, is the highlight of many weekends in the fall. The thing is, however, most forms of tailgating end with the tailgaters arriving at a sporting event to cheer on a beloved team. Here most people break off to go nap or grab lunch, leaving our team playing to the echoes of the sounds on the field or the jeers of opposing fans. I don't play D1 football against opponents like A&M or Baylor, so I have no idea how difficult games can be, but it can't be any easier taking the field at home in a virtually empty Ford stadium.

While our football team is dealing with a lot of problems right now, it certainly doesn't help that instead of rallying behind the players to provide support in their time of need SMU's student body takes to Yik Yak to mock them. I'll be honest, I laugh. We have a witty student body. But the spirit behind the jokes horrifies me. We are not so far gone from the beginning of last basketball season that I can't remember the days when our basketball team failed to pack a stadium. Then they began to win, and our student body began to show up and support them. SMU went Moody Mad for a couple of months, and everyone on campus got caught up in the excitement. It's great, and I love the fact that SMU loves a sport again at last. That being said, here comes the inevitable but. BUT everything happened in the wrong order last year. Students here take enormous pride in attending SMU. We should; it's a great place. But we never extend that pride to the sports teams.

To quote Cameron Smith, a junior on our D-line, "we need the whole community support to accomplish what we have in mind". That is where a successful football team will start. If anyone remembers the original Friday Night Lights (movie/book version, not the TV show), it was a touching tale of a less talented team winning through a combination of spirit, passion, and a reason to fight. They fought for an entire town, which was behind them win or lose. There are a few students who stay for four quarters every game trying to give our players something to fight for, but they aren't enough. Our football players need our support if we ever want to be able to turn on ESPN's College Game Day and hear SMU talked about as something more than a punch line. They need us to give them something to play for before they can give us something to cheer for.



Spooky Tips for October

by Graham Lumley

Once October rolls around, it seems like all anyone can think about is potential costumes, haunted houses, and scary movies. In order to ensure all of you SMU students have a spooky Halloween, here are some tips:

1. Go see the movie Annabelle! It is a spin-off of The Conjuring, but it is equally as scary. This film is guaranteed to make you jump a few times and seriously reconsider your willingness to ride in elevators for a few days.
2. Buy some tickets and drive over to Fort Worth for the Cutting Edge haunted house. It holds the Guinness World Record for Largest Walk Through Haunted House and it is consistently ranked among the top ten haunted houses in the United States. This place is guaranteed scary fun.
3. AMC Fearfest started on October 17 and goes all the way until Halloween. So for those of you out there who do not like to go out and would rather have a fun night in with some friends, movies, and snacks, check out AMC every day and night for all of the classic horror movies like Friday the 13th, Nightmare on Elm Street, and Halloween.

And in general, remember to be safe and just have fun! Happy Halloween, you hooligans.



Exciting Things Happening at Meadows

by Kenny Martin

The Meadows School of the Arts has presented a flurry of concerts, shows, and events over the past several weeks and is showing no sign of letting up any time soon. The first symphony concert of the school year was a great success; the orchestra, especially for this early in the year, was in top form, and Andrés Díaz, SMU cello professor, gave a thought-provoking performance of Kabalevsky's Second Cello Concerto. The theatre department opened this year's season with a production of Mikhail Bulgakov's *Black Snow*, which was done with a good dose of humor while remaining conscious of the seriousness of the material. The acting and set were superb and the play served as a strong reminder of the power and importance of live theatre. If this is any indication, the season ahead should be fantastic.



Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung, both SMU faculty members, presented a special concert of two-piano music, including a performance of the Bartók Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion with Doug Howard and Brian Jones, DSO percussionists. It was a treat for all who attended. The dance department also presented *Brown Bag*, which drew huge crowds and displayed a wide range of performances from the lively and funny to the deadly serious. Across the board, the dancing was great and it was wonderful to see so many people from across campus together in the Meadows lobby sharing in the common experience of art. Also of note, the Wind Ensemble played a concert with faculty organist Larry Palmer, and the Meadows Choirs gave their mid-semester concert.

Just recently, the theatre department produced Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*, a 1982 play with a very small, all-female cast. The show was remarkable, showing off the virtuosity of the actors as well as the wonderfully intimate Margo Jones Theatre. Coming up on October 31 and November 2 is the symphony's next concert, which includes the Saint-Saëns Second Piano Concerto. The Fall Dance Concert is November 5-9, and the next Opera Free For All is October 31. Come to Opera Free For All. Seriously.

On an especially exciting note, the Arts and Urbanism Initiative recently held a think tank, giving students a chance to learn more about the new program and provide ideas and feedback. The program seeks to connect Meadows with the rest of campus, Dallas, and the nation, promoting art in order to create a more vibrant and culturally healthy community. Check it out and give your support—it's already doing great things for SMU and Dallas.

A Timeless Classic Never Fails to Amuse

by A.J. Jeffries

To those proud members of *Hilltopics'* dedicated readership, you will have noticed my name is attached exclusively to sports writing. Comfortable as my happy little sports niche is, I will leave it briefly to write of the unfamiliar world of art. But what art, to drive me away from the glorious world of sports? The Rocky Horror Picture Show. This show first burst into the lives of our parents via cinema in 1975. Since then it has been converted into a play and has been acted out as the movie plays in the background. Whatever form it takes, Rocky has entranced audiences for decades and has developed a tradition of audience participation through props, catcalls, and dancing throughout the show.

In terms of plot, Rocky is nigh on impossible to explain. A nice, straight laced couple accidentally wanders into a house of aliens from the planet Transsexual Transylvania, where they are drawn into a wildly sexual and spectacularly hilarious new world. I witnessed this play at the beautiful Dallas Theater Center, and while I can't say it changed my entire outlook on life (which could be for the better considering its content), Rocky provided a magnificent evening I will not soon forget. Where else in Dallas would I have seen eighty year olds in feather boas doing the Time Warp on a Sunday night?

Sure, Rocky was a wildly popular affair for our parents' generation. It does not have an incredible number of college-age followers. To be perfectly honest, about 89.4% of my enthusiasm derived from the central role Rocky plays in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. But even 39 years later, the show is an experience unlike any other. To any of you looking for a fun, unique date idea or a memorable night of hilarity with dear friends, find a theater where the Rocky Horror Picture Show is being put on or playing and enjoy. It will be well worth the price of admission.



Push for Pedestrian-Friendly Dallas

by Jewel Lipps, guest writer for Hilltopics

Dallas is a city built for its people. Architect James Pratt laid the foundation of this pedestrian-friendly city... Wait. That doesn't quite sit right with me. Does that sound okay to you? Let's try that again. "Dallas... this pedestrian-friendly city..." Nope, I can't do it.



These statements formed the first paragraph of the Daily Campus article about the Pratt collection now in the Hunt Institute. I re-read the statement multiple times before pushing myself on to read the rest of the article. I could not wrap my brain around the notion that anybody could call Dallas "pedestrian friendly." Even after giving myself a month to think about it, I still cannot accept it. Dallas is not pedestrian friendly. Dallas is a city built for cars.

If you originate from a small city, Dallas may appear to have plenty of walkable places. Having pedestrian areas is simply a natural phenomenon of large metropolises. Nonetheless, walking in Dallas is an experience that nearly everyone avoids. The first instinct is to hop in your car and drive where you need to go, whether you're going from the Daniel House to Arnold Dining Commons or from campus to Torchy's Tacos.

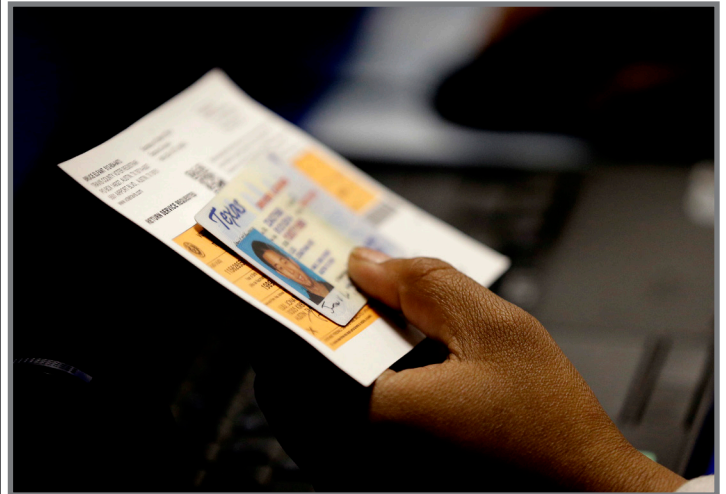
How many people walk to Expressway Tower from campus? After three years of going to school here, I can't name one person who did so willingly. The reality is that there is an eight lane highway discouraging us from walking. In fact, Highway 75 makes "east campus" feel as distant as Siberia. The crossing experience legitimately feels unsafe, with cars ruling the road. So that's the highway, but even walking down Hillcrest to Snider Plaza feels unsafe. In fact, Smart Growth America named Dallas among the most dangerous cities for pedestrians.

I'm currently taking the Honors class called The Greater Dallas Experience, and it's undisputed that Dallas is a city dependent on cars. Throughout the city, elevated highways cut through neighborhoods, stunting economic development and reducing walkability. The current paradigm is not a sustainable model for a city, but how could it ever change? First, we need to take off our blindfolds and accept that Dallas is not pedestrian-friendly. Next we need to start walking to Expressway Tower and demand that Dallas become a smart city designed for the people that bring it to life.

Vote Texas

by Cole Chandler

After continual battles in the courtroom, the Texas Voter ID law will stand for the upcoming November 4th election. This law was passed in 2011 to help eliminate voter fraud by requiring one of seven forms of identification. Just two days prior to the start of early voting. The Supreme Court ruled that the requirements to vote will not be changed, at least this close to Election Day. The US Justice Department has fought this law since its passing in 2011, but their power to block it ended when the Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby v. Holder* on the merits of portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Their ruling removed the DOJ's right to approve certain states' changes in voting policies by finding the provision that determines



those states that can be scrutinized was unconstitutional. So why all the fuss? Some argue that having to get a birth certificate to receive a free ID amounts to a poll tax. Others are unhappy that University IDs are not accepted even from state universities, but concealed handgun licenses are accepted. Despite these opinions most opponents of the law forget that other states like Indiana, Michigan and Rhode Island have similar ID requirements but do allow student IDs in some cases. The last thing I have to say on the issue is that as of their last update (July 2014), the TSA does not list Student IDs as a valid form of identification on its website, which proves that even the federal government does not trust Student IDs. Despite the politics surrounding the Voter ID Law, make sure you go out and vote this November.

Don't forget to vote!
November 4th 2014



Mouthwatering Mug Magic

by Tess Griesedieck and Camille Aucoin

Tess says:

Always around this time of year, I begin to get a little homesick. Maybe it's the Midwestern in me waiting for the leaves to change, or the basic white girl in me hoping the weather cools enough for me to bust out the trench coats like I would be able to back home. No matter what, though, I always begin to miss my mom's cooking...more specifically, her baking. However, we at Hilltopics have scoured the Internet and found what might be a solution to those lack of baking blues: mug recipes. These recipes can all be cooked in a microwave and the only pan you need for cooking is your own coffee mug! Be warned, though, stay by the microwave. Times vary rapidly and we will not accept the blame if you cause your residence hall to evacuate from an activated fire alarm.

There are few flavors more reminiscent of Fall than caramel apples, so to kick off our Make-It-in-a-Mug recipes, enjoy this Salted Caramel Apple Spice Mug Cake from the Table for Two Blog.

Salted Caramel Apple Spice Mug Cake

(credit: Table for Two Blog)

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon apple pie spice
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ tablespoons unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon water



Instructions:

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients.
2. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients then add the wet ingredients. Whisk everything together until combined and no lumps remain.
3. Pour batter into a microwave-safe mug. Mine was a 14-ounce mug. You want enough head space for the cake to rise without pouring over.
4. Place a paper towel into the microwave and set the mug on top (this is to catch any batter if your mug cake overflows).
5. Microwave mug cake for 1 minute and 50 seconds on high
6. Carefully remove from microwave, drizzle your homemade salted caramel sauce (or you can use a store-bought caramel sauce) on top and enjoy!

Camille says:

Want to take this mug recipe to the next level? Well put on your riding boots and throw on that infinity scarf because we modified this recipe into something much more basic: pumpkin spice mug cake. The directions are the same as above, but replace the apple sauce with canned pumpkin and add a little bit of vanilla extract for that perfect taste of fall. Instead of a caramel sauce, drizzle on a simple icing made of powdered sugar and milk to finish it off. And if you quietly sipped on that PSL while waiting for it to cook, we wouldn't judge. Go ahead and test the pH of that warm and delicious cake you just pulled out of the microwave; it's very basic.

How well do these mug recipes actually work, you ask? Quite well. Tess and I, both dedicated members of Hilltopics, devoted our time in the Honors office to testing the pumpkin spice version of this recipe. The result? Fantastic. So fantastic that we couldn't even. See the picture for the results of our baking endeavor, and stop by the Scholars' Den Thursdays at 1:00 PM to watch us embark on new culinary adventures.



2014 Midterm Elections and Going into 2016

by Fairouz Adams

While there is a great deal of buzz over the 2016 presidential election, 2014 is already shaping up to be consequential. Texas has the most viable Democratic gubernatorial candidate in decades in the form of Wendy Davis, although the state will not become a battleground for a few more election cycles. Republican Tom Cotton of Arkansas is poised to defeat longtime incumbent Mark Pryor for his United States Senate seat. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's seat is seeing its greatest challenge in years and his Democratic rival Alison Lundergan Grimes is running as an anti-Obama, pro-gun, pro-coal moderate. Alison Lundergan Grimes's position has become somewhat common in the Democratic field across the nation as President Obama's approval is at new lows. Iowa Senate candidate Joni Ernst's positions have captured the attention of Democrats nationwide as they try to paint her as a Christine O'Donnell and Sharon Angle-esque fringe conservative. Former Republican senator from Massachusetts Scott Brown is now running for the Senate in New Hampshire. This midterm election cycle is as dramatic as they get.

Most pollsters now predict a Republican takeover of the Senate following the elections in November. But just how much will it affect the government? The current Congress is already one of the worst in the history of the United States, managing to pass only a fraction of the bills that most Congresses have in the past. The likelihood that much will change following a Republican Senate takeover is unlikely. Senate Democrats have been able to block proposals passed by the Republican House and vice versa. The filibuster system in the Senate has allowed Republicans to prevent Democrats from achieving much in the Senate. Reversal of Senate control will probably see a reversal of roles. Even if a fully Republican Congress is able to pass legislation to repeal Obamacare or reverse any of Obama's other policy initiatives (and Senate Democrats are unsuccessful in filibustering it), it will still be vetoed by the President.



This may or may not prove to be a problem for Democrats going into 2016. Republican control of Congress may force the congressional GOP to take greater ownership of Washington's inability to act on major policy initiatives. More likely, Republicans will be able to paint Democrats as the "party of no" as the Democrats were so adept at doing to the Republicans in the late 2000s. Mitch McConnell and John Boehner can point to a long list of Obama vetoes to rally the Republican base in 2016. Democrats like Hillary Clinton will have to go far to distinguish themselves from the President if they want to win in 2016. This makes the Senate race particularly desperate for Democrats if they don't want the "Republicans are obstructionists" narrative reversed and applied to them. For Republicans, the Senate win will only energize the party going into 2016. They already have an advantage because the GOP has a wide range of prospective candidates, while the Democrats have only Hillary Clinton, who is under relentless, unified scrutiny from the right, has worked in Obama's cabinet, and is seen by many as a Washington insider and cunning politician. Beyond the wide range of people who have already expressed interest, many Republicans are trying to persuade Romney to run in 2016. Romney polls ahead of Obama and he may be the perfect anti-Obama candidate to defeat Hillary Clinton, should both of them choose to run. This makes momentum from the midterm elections going into 2016 all the more important for both parties because it may change the political narrative for the next few years to come.

Blue Lights on Campus in Need of Repair

by Alexa Maffei

The SMU Police Department has provided several services in order to ensure that our campus is safe. One of these services is the Emergency Blue Light phones placed throughout the campus. If a student presses the always-lit blue button, he or she will immediately be put in contact with the SMU Police Department. In addition, the police can track the Blue Light locations so that officers can dispatch to investigate as soon as the call is made. If people on campus are ever in a threatening situation, they can find direct contact to the SMU police with ease. This service is extremely helpful and provides many with a sense of safety, especially at night.

Unfortunately, a few students mentioned that the Blue Light near McElvaney was never lit, and when some of the Student Senators decided to investigate, they found that a few of the Blue Lights were not functional. Legislation was immediately written and passed unanimously by Student Senate requesting that the Blue Lights and some of the other on-campus lighting be fixed and regularly inspected. The bill was sent to maintenance along with an invitation to attend a Student Senate meeting in the future. That was September 30th, but the Blue Lights have not been repaired. No one from SMU maintenance workers has attended a Senate meeting yet, but as of October 7th, they said that they are working on fixing the Blue Lights. Hopefully, they will be repaired soon to ensure that our campus is safe.



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