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Hilltopics Staff

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HILLTOPICS

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Whining and dining on campus: A cafeteria veteran's survival guide to eating at Umphrey Lee

by Courtney Hebb

A couple of years ago when "Real Food" was introduced to Umphrey Lee, the most common reaction was "So what were they serving us before?" It seems as though cafeteria food is never preferable, so no matter what is served, a side dish of complaints will always accompany the plate of mystery meat. However, after two years of whining and dining, I am here to share some of my survival secrets.

Timing is a big factor to surviving Umph. Although some may try to avoid the long lines, the very best time to go and grab some grub is during the primetime meal servings. Think about it; when are the prospective students and faculty members visiting the cafeteria? That's right, during lunch. It is at this hour that a variety of food stations offer the widest selection ranging from gyros to couscous to calzones.

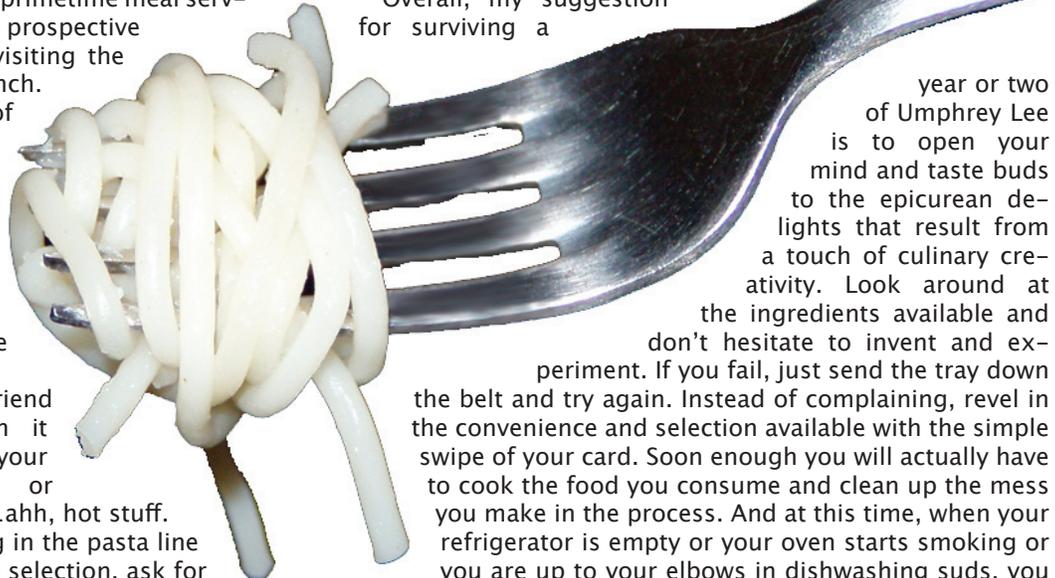
However, I realize hunger can't be limited to such a restricted time block so here are some tantalizing tips for your taste buds to hopefully add some "umm" into Umph.

- The bagel toaster is your friend and is more versatile than it first appears. Try running your hamburger bun through or even a chocolate chip cookie...ahh, hot stuff.
- If you are impatient standing in the pasta line or don't favor the heavy sauce selection, ask for just a bowl of pasta. Then take it near the salad dressings to add a dab of olive oil, some white shredded cheese, olives (or whatever else looks good), a sprinkle of lemon and a dash of salt (seasoned to taste).
- A healthy option for the carb conscious is to take a bowl of salad, walk over to the sandwich line and ask for a scoop of chicken salad to be placed on top. This typically goes well with vinaigrette (I like the mixture of a bit of balsamic and olive oil) or the Italian dressing.
- Breakfast bagel sandwiches are also yummy. Ask the

omelet maker to scramble some eggs (adding any extra ingredients that you crave). Then, warm a bagel and put the two together to make an "egg"cellent morning meal.

- When it comes to beverages, adding a slice of lemon (from salad bar) gives your coke a splash of color and a zestful zing. Also you can mix juices, like the tart cranberry with sweet fruit punch or combine hot chocolate and coffee for a quasi mocha.

Overall, my suggestion for surviving a



year or two of Umphrey Lee is to open your mind and taste buds to the epicurean delights that result from a touch of culinary creativity. Look around at the ingredients available and don't hesitate to invent and experiment. If you fail, just send the tray down

the belt and try again. Instead of complaining, revel in the convenience and selection available with the simple swipe of your card. Soon enough you will actually have to cook the food you consume and clean up the mess you make in the process. And at this time, when your refrigerator is empty or your oven starts smoking or you are up to your elbows in dishwashing suds, you might actually want the real food that is offered real fast, at good ole' Umph.

Note: Initially there was an entire section devoted to the wonders of the frozen yogurt machine until this writer recently visited Umphrey Lee to find it gone! For all of those who have enjoyed the magic of "Fro Yo" over the years, please honor a moment of silence in its remembrance. May it rest in peace.

Courtney Hebb is a junior political science and marketing major.

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On the web: Go to www.smu.edu/honors/hilltopics to read all of the stories in this issue and more. You can also submit your thoughts 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 8:00 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.

Dating, the Hilltop, and Jose Cuervo: How to mix alcohol and romance without being a tool

by Ghazzaleh Rezazadeh

In last week's article Ms. Slater quite eloquently portrayed the lack of dating practices among SMU students. As many of my acquaintances can predict, I am going to take the crude route to explain the extinction of courtship on this campus.

From the outside, SMU looks like the perfect place for men and women to engage in traditional dating practices. We are generally considered to be a school with predominantly conservative values and good ole Southern charm, complete with KA's, cowboy boots, and pearls. But, somewhere down the road, this Southern school in the midst of a metropolitan city lost the consistent dating rituals that still flourish at schools like Ole Miss and Georgia.

So, the question is: what went wrong? Well, I'm here to tell youready for it? The culprit is a good friend to many, always there when you need him.....his name is ALCOHOL. Yes, friends, somewhere along the way alcohol turned on us. Nobody can deny being a victim of alcohol at least once in his or her college career. Four dollar pitchers? Two dollar you call its? Any way you take it, enough alcohol will give you the confidence of Paris Hilton and the libido of...well, Paris Hilton!

This will lead you to one of two doomed fates: the random "hook up" with the sketchy guy from your Spanish class or an intentional "hook up" with that guy you've been eyeing all semester. Now, you may wonder, "Why is the latter route so disastrous?" Well, ladies, I'm here to tell you that Mr. Dreamy is never going to pay to take you on a "real" one-on-one date when he can just as easily call you up and tell you he'll be at Jack's tonight...or worse, ask you to "stop by" the fraternity house. In addition, more times than not, I am going to assume that these calls will be made just minutes before what would be considered clear "booty call" hours. Don't believe me? Check your Thursday night call log. Then, before you know it, you are headed on the downward spiral of what you have convinced yourself is "baking a cake," (a relation-

ship cake that is) with a guy who has no attention of being baked! Or, maybe the cake just stops calling at all.

Now, before the ladies in relationships that started as a "hook up," and all those guys just longing to settle down with the right girl (because there are so many) jump at my throat, I would like to point out that there are exceptions. No, they are not urban dating legends, and yes, they can lead to the most meaningful and perfect connections. However, we all know how many of these situations actually turn out so perfectly. You could even ask one of these girls in the success story relationships what her "hook up" toll was pre-Mr. Right, and I am willing to bet it's not in the single digits.

So, what's a gal to do? Say farewell to Jack, Jim, and Jose? Hang up her beer bong and pocket flask forever? Heck no! That would be college life blasphemy! As easy as it might be to blame intoxication for your love life's shortcomings, the only place you should be pointing your finger is at yourself. So, I leave you with the wise words of Dr. Laura and my favorite political science professor, "STOP SHACKIN' UP WITH YOUR HONEY!"

Wait, that was just more college life blasphemy...so, more realistically "SHACK AWAY!" But, at the end of the day, don't sit there waiting by your cell phone or AIM for that "dinner and a movie" invite. Feel free to hold on to your intrinsic childhood expectations of "first comes love, then comes marriage," but you should know that even the SMU optimist can admit that the college translation goes more like "first comes 'hook up,' then comes date.....but probably not!"

So, hang up your Paris Hilton bang me boots, and stop answering those booty calls! Until you do, you're feeding the bad habits of those same dogs, better known as guys, and ruining it for the rest of us in the process!

Ghazzaleh Rezazadeh is a junior political science and Spanish major.

Don't knock it 'till you've tried it: Living in Boaz isn't a punishment. Some even like it...

by Matthew Bengloff

Before I get started, I just want to point out that just like Craig Zieminski and Darci Spencer (who wrote the two previous articles on Boaz and the possibility of a new Honors community). I, an Honors student, have lived in Virginia-Snyder, but unlike them, I have actually lived in Boaz Hall.

After living it up in V-S as a first-year, I made the move to Boaz this year to be the 4th Floor R.A. I won't lie: the adjustment wasn't easy, and Boaz is much more social than V-S ever was. However, that is, in no way, a negative attribute. Darci stated that "RLSH is trying to save Boaz from itself," and I find this really insulting. Have you ever lived in Boaz? Boaz is a unique first-year community where doors are always open and people really get to know each other.

I understand that *Hilltopics* is an opinion-based publication, but, in regards to Craig's article, fact checking is still necessary. In addition to being an RA, I serve as Boaz's Learning Enhancement Assistant (LEA). I presented just as many certificates of Academic Excellence (recognizing first-year students with GPA's over 3.75) as any other hall's LEA at the Academic Excellence Reception last Tuesday. Based on what evidence do you state that Boaz's GPA is always the lowest

every year? Take a walk down to SMU's Office of Institutional Research, and you'll find that isn't true. Moreover, RLSH does not control campus dining. In fact, SMU has a contract with Aramark, who brought us "Real Food on Campus."

Boaz may be SMU's "24/7 Animal House" when compared to the Service House (where Craig lived last year), but plenty of residents from other halls go out. That isn't even a bad thing! SMU students should work hard academically, but they should go out and have fun, too! This is college!

Have you noticed that I haven't even once brought up the issue of Boaz's 4th Floor becoming an Honors community? It's because I think it could be a fine idea if properly implemented; but, whether you believe 4th Floor Boaz would or wouldn't make good Honors housing, making fun of Boaz and putting down its residents is not the way to go about justifying the change. You should swing by Boaz and apologize. It's next to the Business School in case you've never been here.

Matthew "Matty B" Bengloff is a sophomore real estate finance major.

Special interest senate seats should be opened up to all students to ensure fair representation

by Andrew Baker

In addition to the ridiculously uncompetitive general election, an amendment to the Student Body Constitution is coming down the pike. Rather than discuss the insanity of handing someone the presidency without her having even a single opponent, I instead would like you to consider the amendment.

Student Senate seats are set aside by school. Dedman, Cox, Meadows, Perkins, Engineering, and Dedman Law all have senators, and the senators are supposed to represent the interests of those students enrolled in those degree-granting schools. However, four so-called "special interest" seats exist within the Student Senate.

Currently, the special interest seats must be filled by students belonging to certain ascriptive groups as recorded by the registrar. In other words, the African-American, the Asian-American, the Hispanic-American, and the International senator seats must be filled by members of those respective communities.

The amendment being brought to the students for a vote proposes that the special interest seats be made available to any student regardless of his or her information on file at the registrar. So, a white student could run for and potentially win the Hispanic-American seat, or the African-American seat could be occupied by an Asian-American.

An African-American student running for the Hispanic-American seat, however, must rely on the Hispanic-American population at SMU to elect him or her because only Hispanic-Americans can vote for Hispanic-American candidates. Non-Hispanic-Americans running for the seat will not be able to vote for themselves, for they are not listed at the registrar as

being of that population.

Already, the amendment has stirred up some controversy, especially within minority communities on campus. Those seats that have traditionally been set aside for minority interests would be up for the taking by any student, and many minority students feel that the amendment will rob them of a much needed voice within the Student Senate chamber. I disagree.

The goal of the amendment is to ensure that the best possible representation is made available. If a white student feels that he or she can represent the African-American community, then by all means we should let him or her try. If an Asian-American really feels that he or she can represent the Hispanic-American community, then let's give him or her a shot.

Why do some minority students feel threatened by this amendment? As stated above, only members of the affected groups can vote to fill those seats, so the likelihood of an African-American student winning the Asian-American seat is negligible. If minority groups are afraid that they will lose their voices within the Student Senate, then they should rally together to elect someone in whom they believe. Minority communities should spend their efforts campaigning for qualified candidates and supporting their senators.

Perhaps the real issue here is that some minority groups are scared of being squeezed out of the Student Senate: first we will lose the right to elect members only from our communities, next we will lose the seats, and then we will be without a unique voice for our interests. It seems the amendment is just a pearl on the string.

But what about the possibility of the elimination of the special interest seats altogether? Is this thought really all that frightening? Not having the special interest senator seats would not be detrimental to minority communities mainly because the interests of those senators are in line with the rest of the senate's thinking. We all know that diverse programming is a good thing and that funding minority interests is critical to SMU's success. Moreover, all groups on campus, no matter what their purposes or their makeup, are allowed and encouraged to approach the Student Senate and to fight for what they want. Minority groups do not need the special interest seats to vocalize their concerns.

Instead of fighting to protect the special interest seats, minority groups should strive to run candidates from within their respective schools, i.e. Dedman, Cox, etc. Those minority voices should be part of the main body of the senate and not allocated special seats on the fringe. The Student Senate needs diverse opinions and myriad perspectives on issues, but those viewpoints should come from informed senators. Period.

Hopefully, the amendment will pass, as it should. If anything, opening up the seats will galvanize minority communities around strong student leaders and make the voices of those groups even more powerful. By compelling minority groups to fill their seats, minority communities will be giving themselves a more booming voice within the Student Senate and will be one step closer to not relying on special seats in order to be heard. Be heard as a senator: nothing more, nothing less.

Andrew Baker is a senior English and political science major.

HILLTOPICS
wants YOU!



Hilltopics is currently searching for members of next year's editorial staff. An **info session** will be held in the Reading Room in the basement of Dallas Hall on **Tuesday February 22 at 7:30 pm**. All are invited.

Tenure ought to be used to save the great professors SMU has, like Dr. Scott Bartlett

by Kelly Anderson, Jared Dovers, Adam Hawkins, and Marietta Synodis

When was the last time you were truly interested in what your professor was saying? Totally engaged, your senses tuned in to every word that he or she spoke, your mind working overtime, and you loving it? Can't remember? Never had a professor do that for you? That's a shame.

Luckily, we can attest that these professors *are* here at SMU. SMU has great educators, people who are committed to their students and to their craft, people who actually think of that craft as "teaching" and not churning out books. However, the undersigned are still pissed off.

While SMU has amazing professors, they're not nearly as common as the mediocre ones. This sudden fury on our part comes from the fact that one of SMU's best professors will no longer be teaching here next year. His name is Dr. Scott Bartlett, and he teaches philosophy, as well as advises students. Put simply, he rocks our world.

Now, we cannot impose our love for the humanities on all of you. That's the GEC's job. However, envision a professor in your preferred field of study who not only knows the material inside and out, but who also possesses such a passion for what he teaches that he infuses you with a desire to learn. He takes abstract and seemingly sterile concepts and makes you understand how you can use them to interpret the world around you. He changes what you know and how you think. That is Dr. Bartlett; he is a wealth of knowledge. What's more, he somehow manages to apply esoteric concepts to music (we all know and love Jazz now), art (nobody else seems to be able to tie philosophy and art together with trips to the DMA), and society in a very tangible way. Those of us writing this love him, and we're not alone. He encourages students to comment and to ask questions. He doesn't patronize. He is accessible. Yes, he actually enjoys talking to his students. He speaks of a "calling" to teach.

At this point you must be wondering: so what's the problem? Don't be naive; a calling to teach coupled with an amazing ability to do so won't equate to a job in academia. Currently Dr. Bartlett is a lecturer. That means he's ill paid. How ill paid? Picture yourself with a PhD and making less than a DISD teacher. Sound fun? Top that off with zero job security, little to no benefits, and you'll start to see the life of many of the PhDs that get turned away from universities.

Having been given no possibility for rising in the ranks, Dr. Bartlett will be leaving SMU. This brings us to the heart of the issue: tenure. Understandably, a university's reputation resides in several factors: the success of its alumni, the suc-

cess of its athletic teams, and the success of its professors. But how does one judge success? The first two are fairly straightforward: career achievements and financial contributions, game wins and titles all display, indirectly, the caliber of a university. This connection becomes less logical when applied to professors. To obtain tenure, a professor must show "success" through the publication of works. However, that same professor may have absolutely no concern for his or her students. The quality of a professor's research takes precedence over the effectiveness the professor displays in the classroom. That ain't right. Why are we paying thousands upon thousands of dollars for a person to write a book while we sit and draw bad comics in the margins of our notes?

To Professor Bartlett: thank you, thank you, thank you. We are sad that there aren't more people like you— people who are here to answer a call to teach and not because they never wanted to leave school. We're also sad for all the students that will never get to have you. You really are our loss.

Skip a class. Go to Brown Bag. It's worth it.

by Gaines Greer

If you have class at noon or 12:30pm this week, you should skip it at least once, maybe twice. And if you don't, you'll be making a huge mistake. No, *Hilltopics* isn't advocating truancy— at least not on a regular basis. Instead it's advocating the arts, specifically the Brown Bag Dance Series that will take place during lunchtime all this week.

The Brown Bag Dance Series is held in the Owen Arts Center Lobby (i.e. the Bishop Boulevard entrance into Meadows) once each semester and is choreographed and performed entirely by current Meadows dance students. The show, which consists of about a dozen performances, is one of my favorite SMU events; and I am proud to say that I have never let a semester go by without seeing Brown Bag.

Over the course of this week, I will make multiple pilgrimages from Dallas Hall to Meadows and will sit in awe as I watch my peers display both their hard work and overwhelming talent. What I love most about Brown Bag is that it isn't a typical dance concert. There's no raised stage, no curtain, no theater seating. Instead, you sit on the floor surrounding the "stage," which is actually just a large mat, and watch dancers who are just a few feet— and sometimes just a few inches— in front of you. You don't feel like a member of the audience, but rather a part of the show.

Another great thing about Brown Bag is that you don't have to be a dance expert in order to love the performances. Never having taken a dance lesson in my life, I don't know anything about the various styles of dance or the movements they require, but I've never felt that my dance-illiteracy detracted from my enjoyment— if anything, not being able to understand the technicalities of the performances makes them all the more impressive.

A college education is about more than just sitting in a classroom for 15 hours a week. So take advantage of the cultural and artistic opportunity that Brown Bag presents and spend your lunch break in the Owens Art Center lobby. Brown Bag performances are free and begin at 12:00pm MWF, and 12:30pm TTH.

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