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## Hilltopics: Volume 1, Issue 21

Hilltopics Staff

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# HILLTOPICS

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## Don't recycle paper! Contrary to popular belief, recycling may do more harm to Earth than good

by Craig Zieminski

My name is Craig, and I am a closet environmentalist. It's true. Despite the many hippie jokes and my offensive political agenda, I worry about the depletion of natural resources, global warming, and all the other subjects of lame summer blockbusters.

Until last week, I was an avid paper recycler, too. Honestly, I would bundle up all of the old newspapers and unneeded school papers at my apartment and bring them to SMU's recycling bins. Alas, it turns out, I was fooled. We all were. Believe it or not, recycling is potentially more harmful to the environment than just tossing those thousands of leftover *Daily Campus* issues into the garbage.

The Young Conservatives of Texas are cheering (ironically, they also are more harmful than good in advancing their agenda). Senate Environmental Czar Joseph Grinnell is furious (he will write his response to this article on, naturally, recycled paper). The rest of you are moderately offended and understandably wanting some sort of substantiation for my claim.

When you dump that packet of Powerpoint printouts into a recycling bin, it must travel farther to reach a recycling center than the city dump. Thus, a monstrous 18-wheeler has to haul the paper down our congested highways, billowing nasty toxins into the ozone layer and burning gas faster than a Beta with a Yukon and dad's Exxon card.

The paper arrives at a factory, which also sends plumes of gaseous poison into our air and operates on energy from fossil-fuel-burning power plants. Tons of papers are dumped into giant chemical-filled vats that "lift" the ink off the paper. The pleasant side effect of this process is the solidified ink

residue, which is used to produce kitty litter.

The leftover chemical detergent, unfortunately, has no such value to society and is barreled into giant drums.

Lord knows where these rusty tanks go. Formerly, the only detergent available was a nasty, water-supply-ruining bleach. New chemicals are being developed that are moderately better, though.

The bottom line is that we are saving renewable resources by consuming other, non-renewable resources. Trees grow. In fact, nearly all of the trees cut down for paper come from tree farms, which are specifically grown for paper production. Contrary to the pathos-inducing images, Yosemite is not being cut down to print the Sunday funnies. America has more trees now than it did one hundred years ago. The deforestation rate is negative, meaning that the number of trees is increasing. If trees were a scarce resource, the price would be increasing (hmm...gasoline?)

On the other hand, fossil fuels do not replenish (well, they do if you wait a couple million years). The ozone layer, the scientists are right, is not going to rejuvenate itself. However, in an effort to paper, we are encouraged to pollute the sphere and waste gas, other fossil fuels and time.

Why deplete these resources to save trees, an abundant material? No, the landfills are NOT running out of space. 1,000 years worth of American garbage would fit into 0.1% of our land (44 miles long by 44 miles wide by 120 feet deep). Try again. In the meantime, recycle *Hilltopics* by handing it to a friend. Don't waste our nonrenewable resources by tossing it in the blue bin.

*Craig Zieminski is a senior accounting and economics major.*



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## INSIDE this issue

**Campus:** Men with Integrity tackles issues of sexual assault and rape, page 3.

**Politics:** Republicans have squandered their political victory, page 2.

**Culture:** Eli Manning is not Pope John Paul II: Hero worship gone too far, page 3.

**Religion:** What do genetics, a cow, and the anti-Christ have in common? Page 4.

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## Time to fight back: Agreeing to pay higher gas prices only makes the situation worse

by Emily Jordan

As I contemplate my plans for an upcoming weekend, the one thing on my mind is something we all can't seem to get enough of: gasoline. Call it what you will, but we are all addicted to it. Gasoline (and its staggeringly high price) is the single factor controlling my upcoming plans, and I am completely at the mercy of something that is absolutely horrible for our environment.

Gas prices are astronomical, and they will only continue to rise as the demand increases and supply decreases. Considering the "China factor," the fact that China is becoming more and more industrialized, the demand is undoubtedly on the rise. With more and more Chinese citizens able to buy a car with every passing day, the sky is the limit for the future of gas prices. We are on a collision course for an all-out global competition with China for oil—not that it will lead to war, but gas is not as plentiful as we would like to think; therefore, prices will rise accordingly.

Disposable income is going down as a result of the recent spike in gas prices, and frighteningly enough, prices will only rise. I don't know about the rest of the student body, but I find myself really thinking about it before I get in my car to drive somewhere that I don't absolutely have to be, and about two out of three times I choose an alternative, whether it be to walk or to simply change my plans altogether.

In my disgust over high gas prices and the effects of the use of these fossil fuels, I find it impossible to believe that in our age of technology, we cannot successfully invent and implement an alternative energy source for running our cars.

In our college careers alone, we have gone from burning a CD for a road trip to bringing along the trusty ole' Ipod instead. Surely someone out there has the perfect solution for how to run our cars more efficiently. While I am glad to hear and see all the hype about "hybrids," I must ask why we haven't all been buying them since the 1990s?

I perused a copy of *Quick* recently, and an entire article was devoted to "chasing good gas deals." That's right. There are scouts whose sole purpose it is to find the best gas price. (Never mind that said scouts are undoubtedly using gas in their pursuits.) Websites like GasPriceWatch.com and GasBuddy.com have also become popular for SUV drivers so that the lowest price can be found. Does that not strike anyone else as odd? This is not a solution to the problem; instead, it is just a method of circumventing monetary concerns about gas prices.

Much to my pleasant surprise, however, on the opposite page of *Quick* was a *positive* response to rising gas prices. DART had placed an advertisement for a free concert at the West End DART station. Call me crazy, but someone in the PR department at DART is thinking. Public transportation must appeal to all strata of society, and not just those who can't afford a car.

Let's do something good for both our own pocketbooks and the world we share by taking a walk or taking the DART next time. Better yet, invest in a hybrid. With gas prices continuing to rise, you'll be glad you did.

Emily Jordan is a senior political science major.

## Americans cry foul: Political missteps translate to low second term popularity for Bush

by Michael Hogenmiller

After securing his re-election last year, President Bush described his victory as a "mandate from the people." Voters across the nation spoke out and confirmed that the President and the Republican Party had the right formula for a better nation. But if President Bush had this political capital in November, then what is the explanation for last week, when President Bush hit the lowest approval rating of any president for June of his second term of office according to a Gallup poll? Bush's 45% approval rating lies 24 points behind LBJ, 12 points behind Nixon, and 14 points behind Clinton, who at this point in his presidency was tackling the Lewinsky scandal and still maintaining a 59% approval rating. Why does the President sit so low in public approval? Consider the GOP's recent political missteps:

**Political Misstep #1 – Social Security:** The majority of polls indicate that the public is strongly against Bush's push for private investment accounts. Britain implemented a similar private investment system, which replaced social security, back in the 1980's under Margaret Thatcher. Today, British politicians are trying to figure out a way to bring back social security after private accounts went bust due to expensive commissions and a stock market collapse. Moderate Republicans facing midterm elections are finding it difficult to hop on board. Good luck with the Democrats.

**Misstep #2 – Terri Schiavo:** The politics surrounding the emergency Schiavo legislation have disturbed traditional Republicans who value small government and state's rights. The

country, which had listened to Republicans complain about "activist judges," during the presidential campaigns in '04 watched the administration sign legislation that ordered a federal judge to review the findings of multiple state judges. That's not exactly a pinnacle of judicial restraint.

**Misstep #3 – Tom Delay:** The House Majority Leader, Tom Delay (R-TX), is under investigation for accepting two overseas trips indirectly funded by lobbyists and is suffering public disapproval for having family members on the payroll of his political action committee. Republicans are beginning to speak out against Delay, including Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT) who called Delay "an absolute embarrassment to me and the Republican Party."

**Misstep #4 – Nixing the Filibuster:** For some reason, when a political party gains control of both houses of Congress and the Presidency, politicians start suggesting ways to fiddle with the rules of Congress. With midterm elections next year, and the downward spiral in the public approval of the President, what makes Republicans think they'll be in office long enough not to need the filibuster?

**Misstep #5 – The John Bolton Nomination:** The administration's latest appointment, John Bolton, is being challenged in hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the grounds that he tailored intelligence to suit the administration's political agenda. He also has a long public record of attacking the United Nations, and bullying intelligence analysts who questioned false statements he intended to make

see GOP on page 4



## The mating game: Why does a man meeting a sports star look so much like a seductive woman?

by Trent Redden

We've all see it before, the playful toss of the head, the smiles, the laugh forward to show off cleavage, and the classic "all my friends left me so I need a ride home." But never have I seen anything more brazen than the events at Home Bar last month.

There was a celebrity sighting in our beautiful little bubble last month when Peyton Manning's little brother, Eli Manning, was at Home Bar with a couple of his friends. Eli plays quarterback for the New York Giants and was paid like \$22 million up-front just to sign his name to a 50 million dollar contract.

The groupies were swarming to him, and watching it was marvelous. My favorite might have been when someone asked Eli for a ride to an after-party. Eli smiled and quietly rebuffed the advances. Finally the groupie just got really bold, grabbed a napkin, scribbled a phone number on it, and told Eli to "call anytime."

The only thing odd about the situation was, well...it was a dude!

That's right, a guy! There was nothing sexual about his advances...just good, old fashioned hero worship - the kind that makes guys look like 13 year-old schoolgirls trying to get N\*Sync's autograph. I swear, one guy started crying when Manning accidentally brushed up against him at the bar.

Don't get me wrong, girls don't get a free ride in this regard. I took a very scientific poll and asked five girls if they thought the guy standing in the corner was hot. All five said no, but when informed that the guy was worth about 50 million and played quarterback in the NFL, their eyes lit up. The girls tried to play it cool, but within ten minutes, I saw all five with their tongues in the ear of the ugly guy in the corner (or at least trying to talk to him).

The other night, one guy told me that shaking Eli's hand was the greatest experience of his life. What a horrible life he has lived if shaking the hand of some punk who refused to make tens of millions of dollars playing football in the most beautiful city in the United States (San Diego) tops the charts of things he's done! If Eli had asked the kid to play catch,

would he have gone into convulsions, fainted, or peed his pants? It's a question that I really wished I could have seen answered.

An explanation rests in the fact that athletes get to fulfill the dreams of so many guys. Actors don't get the same hero worship from men because most guys didn't grow up acting in plays. Almost every guy at some point, though, has played a sport, and the vast majority wanted to be a pro athlete. When guys finally meet an athlete in person, they want to glorify him just because it brings them so close to the athlete's lifestyle they've always dreamed about, even if just for a minute.

Guys need to remember that athletes are simply human beings with an unbelievable talent. Some jocks are nice (Andre Miller) while some are horrible (Barry Bonds comes to mind); some love it when people approach them while others just want to be left alone with their close friends. Guys need to remain calm, keep breathing, and think through these five easy steps to keep a shred of dignity when meeting an athlete:

- 1) Never, under any circumstances, cry.
- 2) No inviting the athlete to the pool or beach! It appears as if you're hitting on him.
- 3) Be yourself.
- 4) Put the cell phone down! Friends don't let friends call every number in the cell to say that they're partying with Eli Manning.
- 5) Wash your hands after touching the athlete. It's just dirty...and try explaining that to a girl.

These easy steps should allow men to walk away from athlete encounters with their heads held high and a story to tell their children. In wrapping up, women get crap for how they act around athletes, but their behavior can't hold a candle to that of guys. As for the guy that gave Eli his number, I hope he calls and you have a wonderful life together.

*Trent Redden is a junior finance and public policy major.*

## Would the men stand up? Men with Integrity strives to tackle issues of sexual assault and rape

by Matt Houston

When someone says the word "rape," what comes to your mind? A mother, daughter, wife, friend, loved one?

People usually think of the women who are victims of this assault. They rarely contemplate over the ones who commit this act. Something has to be changed.

Let's clarify something before we get started. Men With Integrity is not an organization that is limited to men. All are welcome. The purpose of this organization is for men, who are fed up with the stereotypes (or statistics) of men committing sexual assault and rape, to enlighten others. We want to change the negative stereotypes of men by stopping sexual assault.

This week is Sexual Assault Awareness Week, and for the first time at SMU, a new organization, Men with Integrity, will spearhead the activities concerning sexual assault.

All week, Men with Integrity will have a table set up for individuals who can pledge not to commit a sexual assault against any individual. This oath to themselves and to the

SMU Community is a first and vitally important step in ensuring a safer, more comfortable environment for everyone here at SMU.

Also on Tuesday at 6 PM, Katie Koestner will be speaking in the Hughes-Trigg Ballroom. At age 18, Katie was raped on a date with a fellow student at the College of William and Mary. She spoke out nationally and publicly, breaking a long national silence on the most under-reported crime in modern America. She appeared on the cover of TIME magazine's date rape issue, giving a name and a face to a crime that is recognized as a critical problem currently facing America's students.

The purpose of Men with Integrity is to stop rape and sexual assault on the SMU campus. We feel that in order to do this, we must reach out and educate those who have been forgotten: men.

*Matt Houston is a junior economics and finance major.*

## Holy Cow! Cattlemen of the apocalypse show how Christian Right want to destroy the planet

by Jared Dovers

There are people, right now, trying to end the world. They're not super-villains, though they do collect vast sums of money from the poor and sometimes gullible. They influence national policy, and they intend to ignite an entirely different kind of "holy war." Luckily, if we know about their plans, maybe we can stop them. Well, or at least get a good laugh out of it. Here we go:

You wouldn't think it strange to be driving through Nebraska and pass a large compound that seems to be devoted to growing harmless cattle. However, if you noticed jumbo jets on the compound, that might peak your interests. If you also saw a team of Orthodox rabbis inspecting the cattle, then you might be starting to ask "what the hell's going on here?"

What you are seeing are the "Cattlemen of the Apocalypse," and they're living in Nebraska. These farmers are working day and night to genetically breed the "Numbers 19 Heifer," a cow mentioned specifically in the Book of Numbers (one of the less-fun books of the Bible). This heifer is a key in a fundamentalist plot to bring about the end of the world.

It goes like this: in order for the Third Temple to be built in Israel, a heifer without blemish must be born and sacrificed, as laid out in the Hebrew Bible. In the Christian New Testament, this third temple definitely needs to be built before the Anti-Christ and Jesus can square off. Only problem is the last red heifer that met biblical requirements was born well over a thousand years ago. So millions of donated dollars from fundamentalist Christians have been sent to this compound to genetically engineer the perfect heifer.

Ironically, my first reaction to this started with "Jesus tap dancing Christ..." What are these people doing? Why are people spending millions of dollars on some obscure passages in one of the less important books in the Christian tradition? Why the hell are those people trying to build the Third Temple?

Weird. But, some of those people on the religious right are kind of weird. Then I remembered flipping through my trusted copy of totally politically neutral work the Left Behind series, which, besides teaching me that the UN will spawn the Anti-Christ, has also told me that the Third Temple needs to be rebuilt in order to stage the final showdown between the good (read: a certain brand of American Fundamentalist Christians) and the bad (those heathens that would follow things like the United Nations over Jerry Falwell).

Those books lay out the plan that is being hatched. Some-

time soon, American foreign policy will for no apparent reason vehemently support Israel in all that it does, and Christian religious leaders will start infomercials to raise money to support the Jewish state while at the same time confirming that Jews are hell bound. Scary part is, it seems that this part of the plan has gone forward!

Then, eventually the Al-Aqsa mosque, the second holiest site in all Islam, will have to be destroyed so that the Third Temple can be built (with the help of the now-bred red heifer).

Now, the kicker is that the Jewish supporters of this think that the Third Temple will usher in their Messianic Age. But, no luck—our plotters are sneakier than that. What actually happens is mostly bad times for the Jews as they end up serving under the Anti-Christ (from the UN), until a handful convert to Christianity.

Eventually, a big battle ("apocalypse") happens, and most end up dead except for a few elect who interpreted Revelations in the correct fashion.

This is more than a plot to not have to take your finals, people!! We're talking serious intentions to bring about some pretty horrible stuff (read: plague, war, starvation, all around death). If it were announced that the Islamic faith was plotting like this, some people in the West get kind of antsy. I'm beginning to think the favor should be returned to these pre-millennialist!

My false assumption up to this point has been that the ending of the world is a bad thing. For the pre-millennialist, however, the world just can't end fast enough. Needless to say, I dissent.

My advice to the pre-millennialist: Stop it! Stop it right now. Don't try to end the world. And especially don't try to end the world by a hatched scheme that will end up costing pain and suffering to most of the planet for years while you're in the sky with the popcorn. Instead, why not just try to fix the world? Stop reading those Left Behind books and go volunteer some of the places where hell already is on Earth.

For the rest of us: be weary. They're among us, and they're trying to stop the party.

FOOTNOTE: All information, and title for the article comes from Gershom Gorenberg's *The End of Days* (Oxford: 2000).

*Jared Dovers is a senior philosophy and religious studies major.*

## GOP rapidly losing political ground

continued from page 2

about Cuban weapons. Sounds like the perfect candidate for U.N. ambassador— a guy who could really assemble future coalitions of the willing.

In short, it's not looking good for Republican Congressmen as the calendar moves closer to the midterm election season. If the administration continues to attract negative headlines with questionable political moves, GOP members in both branches will begin to establish a more independent political base in order to avoid alienating their constituents at home. Without votes in the legislature, there's no Republican agenda, the election honeymoon will be long over, and Bush will be left a sitting (lame) duck.

*Michael Hogenmiller is a junior political science and music major.*

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