

11-12-2007

Hilltopics: Volume 4, Issue 6

Hilltopics Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.smu.edu/hilltopics>

Recommended Citation

Hilltopics Staff, "Hilltopics: Volume 4, Issue 6" (2007). *Hilltopics*. 76.
<https://scholar.smu.edu/hilltopics/76>

This document is brought to you for free and open access by the University Honors Program at SMU Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hilltopics by an authorized administrator of SMU Scholar. For more information, please visit <http://digitalrepository.smu.edu>.

HILLTOPICS

always 100% smu-written
www.smu.edu/honors/hilltopics

volume four, issue six
week of november 12, 2007

INSIDE this issue

Television: When did bad television get so good? Find out how VH1 has made a business of making bad television that you just can't turn away from, page 2

Politics: James Longhoffer weighs in on Michael Mukasey and how his political career could affect the US stance on torture, page 3

SMU: Hilltopic's Todd Batty sits down with University Chaplain, to discuss issues facing, and hopes for, SMU, pages 4 & 5.

Shopping: Why one student will think twice before making a purchase from the Gap, page 6.

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



Nuclear Power for Our Future!

When people hear the word atom they think about three different things. One, an arcane mystery that can only be cracked by the best and the brightest – that is to say nuclear physicists. Two, a microscopic weapon of untold power and horror that can obliterate a city with one bomb. Three, a source of greenhouse gas free power that taps into and burns the stuff of supernovas itself. Nuclear power is often viewed by members of environmental movements with suspicion, by members of the energy community with interest, and by the public with a misunderstanding of the fundamental principles, powers, and dangers of nuclear power. Science education is something that is sorely lacking in the United States' general consciousness so it is not surprising that myths, misinformation, fear, and paranoia abound around the issue of nuclear power and nuclear energy. It is my belief that the only way to solve the looming environmental crisis is to diversify our energy holdings with a mix of more renewable energy and nuclear power and a reduction of greenhouse emitting coal plants. To do this we must first investigate the problems with coal, the arguments against nuclear power by an un-scientific public and environmental movement, and the very real issues that need to be assessed, analyzed, and solved

for nuclear power to truly be a viable option. The atom is complex in the physics class, fearful and loathsome in bombs, and promising and progressive when applied to the production of power for our energy hungry modern world.

One cheap and effective means of power generation is the burning of fossil fuels or petroleum. While this method is both cheap and guaranteed to work it is also harmful to the ecological makeup of the planet not to mention the health of the citizens living in areas where greenhouse emitting production ensues. Mercury, by-products of carbon burning, and heavy metals are emitted into the atmosphere and often the air and food of humans living in areas where coal power is used. A BBC article states that, "The World Health Organization (WHO) says 3 million people are killed worldwide by outdoor air pollution annually from vehicles and industrial emissions, and 1.6 million indoors through using solid fuel." This simple fact shows that there is a problem with the United States' current means of power production – a point that both opponents and proponents of nuclear power production agree on. Unfortunately this is where the agreement ends.

continued on page 7

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@gmail.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.

An Ode to VH1, Indulger of Short Attention Spans and Creator of Good Bad TV

by Monica Chavez

Being a full-time student in my final semester of college, TV isn't high on my list of priorities. I think the last prime-time drama I followed with any regularity was *CSI* during its summer re-runs. Truth be told, I'm a product of a generation of short attention spans, and mine in particular is so short I can't even latch onto the diabolical twists and turns of popular programs like *Grey's Anatomy* and *Lost*. Besides, these shows air in the middle of the week, when I'm generally too busy with work, or sleep, to consider slicing out an hour of my time to sit down and watch a TV show.

But on the week-ends, all that changes. Because on the weekends, all the new episodes of the worst shows on television have their premiere, all on what I consider God's gift to cable TV. I am talking, of course, about VH1.

As an on-again, off-again pop-culture addict, VH1 has been my go-to channel ever since they started running those decade nostalgia shows (*I Love the 70s, 80s, 90s*, and all sequels thereof) and *Best Week*

Ever on Friday nights (think a televised tabloid with tongue very much in cheek). With generous re-runs all weekend long, there's no excuse to miss an episode. And more importantly, VH1 has succeeded where other networks could not: it has me addicted to reality TV.

Why? Because with that same irreverence present in *Best Week Ever*, VH1 does not deign to take these shows as seriously as the network TV stations, or even its sister cable channel, MTV. Instead, we have such fabulous programs as *Hogan Knows Best* and *I Love New York 2*, which take advantage of pseudo-celebrities' need for media attention, and broadcast their exploits for our entertainment.

Actually, let me take a moment to talk about *I Love New York 2*, because the way this show came into being is unbelievable. First, there was *The Surreal Life 3*, where rapper Flavor Flav and B-movie actress Brigitte Nielsen's odd relationship started and was later taken up in the spin-off show, *Strange Love*. When that didn't work out, Flav continued his search for true love in the *Bachelor*-styled *Flavor of Love*,

in which Tiffany "New York" Pollard won and temporarily stole Flav's heart. With the inevitable break-up came *Flavor of Love 2*, and when New York was rejected again, she got her own show, *I Love New York*. (And somewhere in the ruckus, a spin-off of Flav's two series, *Flavor of Love Girls: Charm School*, also got the go-ahead.) And finally, when New York's first winner dumped her, it was time for *I Love New York 2*. So what do you get with a sequel of a spin-off

of a sequel of a spin-off of a spin-off of a sequel to a sequel? Television gold!

But my favorite new show in all this hullabaloo has got to be *America's Most Smartest Model*. (Yes, that's two superlative adjectives in a row, you're not seeing things.) An obvious parody of *America's Next Top Model*, this show gathers together a varied bunch of C-class models and puts them through challenges testing their brains and high-fashion modeling skills, and eliminates one at the end of each episode. The winner takes home \$100,000 and the

dubious designation of "America's Most Smartest Model." Ben Stein, the academic and former White House advisor with a penchant for appearing in type-cast nerd roles in movies and on television, hosts this nutty show, which has featured among many amusements an ethno-centric "Soviet" with anger-management issues; a stick-thin blonde whose nutrition-deprived brain thinks some guy named "Brad" killed John F. Kennedy; and, of all things, a PhD. Best challenge yet? Fetal pig dissection and organ classification. Awesome.

Better than any of this, though, is how seriously the contestants seem to take the competition, and how unseriously we, the audience, get to enjoy it. Unlike those ordinary reality shows where you actually pick a favorite to win, with VH1 reality, you root for the most ridiculous of the bunch to stay and keep you entertained for as many episodes as possible. This is guilt-free trash TV at its finest.

Monica Chavez is a senior political science and foreign language major



Mukasey Nomination: Bad Sign for Democrats and America's standing abroad

by James Longhofer

Last week the Senate Judiciary Committee voted out the nomination of Michael Mukasey to the full Senate and he will likely now be confirmed as the new attorney general. This is disappointing not because Judge Mukasey is a partisan hack like his predecessors but because he has refused to explicitly say that waterboarding is a form of torture and is therefore illegal. Instead, he equivocated on the issue and promised to look at it only after he is confirmed as the new attorney general. This is depressing for two reasons. First it shows that Senate Democrats won't stand up for in their belief that waterboarding and torture in general have no place in America's campaign against terrorism. Second, the fact that our government won't disavow the use of waterboarding even though it makes America look bad in the eyes of the world shows how tone deaf the government is when it comes to the view of America abroad.

Waterboarding has been described in different ways in the press but here are the basic details. It simulates the feeling of drowning by covering the victim's mouth or face so that they can't breathe while pouring water over their head. According to ABC News, CIA officers have described the technique as terrifying. On average, CIA officers who have had the technique practiced on them only last for 14 seconds. While waterboarding may not cause any permanent physical harm, it places the victim under extreme psychological pressure.

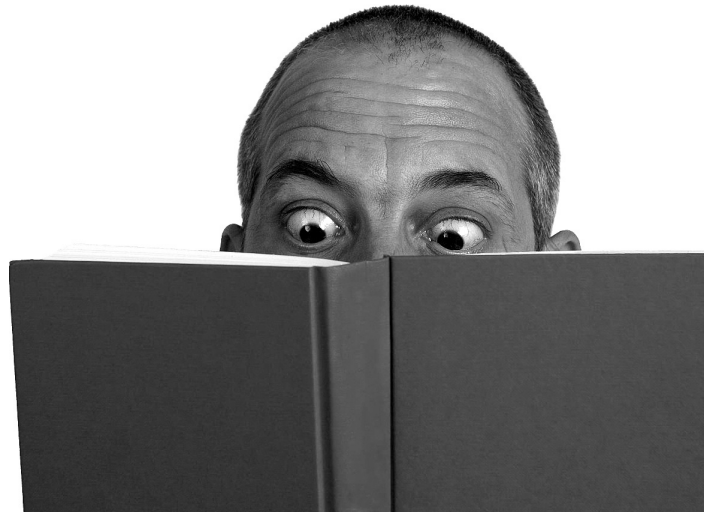
Judge Mukasey has tried to claim ignorance of what waterboarding is and has promised that he will learn about it and make a ruling about its legality if he is confirmed. This is hard to believe because Judge Mukasey was involved in several trials involving terrorist subjects who allegedly were the subjects of multiple forms of interrogation, including waterboarding. This equivocation on waterboarding shows Mukasey will continue the policy of his predecessors of pro-

tecting executive power at all costs. The Bush administration's willingness to defend the use of waterboarding also shows how little progress America has made in winning the War on Terror. The president has often described this as a conflict that depended on winning "hearts and minds." It's hard to see how defending the use of waterboarding helps us win the hearts and minds of anyone. Instead it allows people to portray America's rhetoric about freedom as being false. If we want the world to see America as being a beacon of liberty, we need to act like one and reject the use of interrogation techniques like waterboarding.

Finally, Mukasey's refusal to declare waterboarding a form of torture unless he is confirmed is a particularly aggravating because it shows the way that the president is playing politics with this appointment. When President Bush appointed Mukasey, many people were surprised because Judge Mukasey had no previous ties to the president and was seen as a less partisan pick than someone like former Solicitor General Ted Olson. Democrats are terrified of having a Bush crony

running the Justice Department during the 2008 election, and because of this, they were already inclined to nominate Mukasey just because he seems like the least bad option. Now that the Mukasey nomination is in trouble, there are rumors that the president will nominate Olson if Mukasey is rejected by the Senate. If Mukasey is confirmed by the full Senate this week, it will only be because the Democrats are too scared of who else the president may nominate. The fact that Mukasey will likely be confirmed as the next attorney general despite his willingness to condone torture doesn't say anything positive about the Bush administration or the Democratic majority in Congress.

James Longhofer is a senior political science, economics, and public policy major



Do you have an opinion about... politics, music, class, television, football, shopping, intramurals, fraternities, movies, tests, the Mavs, sex, restaurants, religion, sororities, driving, study abroad, Umphrey Lee, fashion, news, the war, parking, technology, magazines, bars, baseball, the weather, professors, the Mustang Band, dating, books, nightclubs, Texas, the Daily Campus, pets, club sports, or anything else ?

we're listening at hilltopics@gmail.com

Chaplain Dr. William Finnin sits down with *Hilltopics* and weighs in on many issues facing SMU

by Ben Wells

This academic year, Hilltopics will be sitting down with various members of the SMU community in hopes of initiating a very open and frank conversation about our university and its future. This week, I spoke with Dr. William Finnin, Chaplain to the University. Dr. Finnin has served in this capacity at SMU for over twenty years.

How did you come to SMU and how long have you been here?

I came to SMU from a position at Louisiana State University with the Presbyterians and Methodists there. I was a campus minister and directed a student center for a community of about 200 students over the course of a year. I had been there for about eight and a half years; I had just finished doctoral studies and I was invited to come here after a series of interviews in 1980. So, I've been here about twenty-seven years plus.

How was the campus different when you came in 1980?

In many respects the campus was different. Certainly, the physical plant was much smaller. Dr. Turner has been a remarkable driving force for envisioning a campus that provides physically for our academic vision. As the campus has changed the vision has enlarged. The institution I came to in 1980, in many respects, had more visionary boundaries than there are today. I think in 1980 the school was at a very different place than it is now... What was exciting back then was the new curriculum that was in the process of being implemented. It was called the Common Educational Experience, or the CORE. Over the years that has changed markedly. There are literally faculty members here who gave their professional lives to see that implemented because it represented a philosophy of education that would provide a solid broad platform for work in any of the professions. There are vestiges of that program

still around today, but that has been significant change in the undergraduate educational philosophy of the university.

Is it fair to say that is the biggest change you have experienced at SMU—that change in philosophy

No. There has been a change at the undergraduate level, but I think one of the most significant changes has been the rise of business education at SMU, and the continued growth and development of the professionals: law, engineering, theology, Cox [School of Business]. Still, the CORE and CEE have certainly become less prominent at the undergraduate level.

What do you think is SMU's future? What "warning signs" do you think we should heed as we approach our centennial?

That's a very difficult question, Todd, because it can be answered in each one of our schools from a very particular perspective. Perhaps that reality has been one of the dominant features of our institutional life. Some have described SMU as a loose federation of independent schools. Some have been less charitable and called us a feudal association with units that have been relatively autonomous. Throughout my time here the vision of SMU has always, as a university, been as institution

comprising of an association of relatively autonomous undergraduate and professional schools—that may very well be changing... And if that indeed is the case, then SMU's future as a university -- not only a compendium of relatively autonomous academic units held together by a central administration -- indeed, will be quite confident. I think that many folks hope for that.

What do you think the three deaths last year show about SMU's academic culture?

continued on page 5



continued from page 4

You do have a way of asking questions that are multilayered and [have] intricate interfaces, but I think the question is a legitimate question. It may attempt to simplify an incredibly complex web of relationships and I would not presume to be able to unpack them. The perspective I bring to (1) the tragic deaths we experienced last year and (2) the question of assessing the intellectual vitality of the community is as a person who is involved with what might be considered the spiritual dimension of this place, which I believe is an important component. We have such a small vocabulary to use in conversing about these issues. I think it is possible and necessary to talk about the spiritual climate of the university, and to ask how conducive that spiritual climate is to the support of rigorous intellectual pursuits, as consuming pursuits, or whether our spiritual climate is more easily distracted by what might be considered issues of entertainment, as opposed to the passionate pursuit of the life of the mind... Where does the balance get struck here? My perception is that it is struck often on the side of the area of entertainment... I really appreciated what John Lewis offered in his interview last week, related to the connection between residential scholarship and commuter realities and how we, as an institution, deal with that set of challenges will, I think, shape what SMU can become. If we create for example, a sophomore village comprised of only residential units—apartments, suites—without provision for that serious component of intellectual life that makes the university what it can be, then we will create a kind of ghetto. How we deal with the question Professor Lewis raised on the interaction between residential learning, faculty, identity, [and] community is a crucial issue we've got to face strategically... That doesn't deal with the specific student deaths, which I think are tragic. And while I think each one was unique, that we experienced three chemically related deaths in this community in such a short period of time has awakened us to a component of our life here that could easily be denied, shunted-off into a dark corner. That would be irresponsible and we have chosen not to go that route. The first step of recognition has been formalized in the Task Force; that is just the first step. How we deal with the ways to confront it—my friends call it the elephant in our living room—will in large measure have an impact on how we can frame our future... So to respond to your question specifically, I would say: yes, there is a network of interrelation-



ships and part of our task as members of this community is to begin to follow those lines of connectivity and essentially connect the dots to use another metaphor. Then as a community we must wrestle with this issue.

You have been an outspoken advocate for a pub on-campus. Do you think SMU will ever achieve that goal, and what is its biggest obstacle?

I brought up [the issue] now because I think how we deal with alcohol on campus is a very important matter related to how we understand ourselves as a learning community. I think now is perhaps the best time to bring it up because the issue to how we shape policy and how we make access available or shut it down to alcohol and how we conceptualize the purpose of our policies are up for grabs right now... I think when you ask the question what space is there on this campus that is conducive in healthy nodes and you look at other institutions, [those] which we consider our peer or to whom we aspire, in many cases we find that a campus Ratskeller or pub may have a place in the life of the community.

How do you think the official Methodism of SMU will influence the decision whether or not to establish a campus pub?

The policy of the Methodist Church is to affirm the value of abstinence and I have always affirmed the value of abstinence. And as soon as that statement is made, one must acknowledge that this choice is a radically personal choice that everyone has to confront and not everyone will confront it and respond to it in the same way... The Methodist Church became involved with [the Temperance Movement] politically and morally, and the territory staked out by the church was the territory that claimed the relationship between the God given attributes of human personality and the threats that alcohol played in subverting the human possibility. I think that space is still defensible... We are in a different age; as the church still holds a standard, the reality is that we have begun to talk about what it means to be responsible, and to be responsible today is to understand the impact of alcohol and to shape community life in ways that support health and wholeness... We've already said that in our institutional law if you are 21, it is ok to have a few beers in your frig. And as other Methodist related institutions have said: better we should have a controlled environment where persons can see that alcohol is one component of a social scene and not the dominant or only component. And a pub, whether that's at

continued on page 6

Interview, continued from page 5

Duke, or Emory, or Syracuse, or Boston, or Northwestern, USC, or Vanderbilt, all of which have Methodist heritages, I believe all of which have taps, may be something to consider. But why is it more appropriate in the athletic complex than to have it in another venue? Those are the kind of questions, I think, that benefit from public discussion. So far I haven't seen anybody discuss that...

What is the most influential book you have ever read?—would you recommend it to students? Why?

That's a very difficult one. I have to repair to a book that I've gone back to almost every year in the fall since ninth grade. And I owe the gift of that text to an English professor that was a graduate student at Tulane University who taught English in my high school, Richard Lawson. The book is *Go Down Moses* by William Faulkner and the chapter that I have probably read and reread twenty times is "The Bear." It's a

short story; it stands on its own and is one of the reasons he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. In it we see the microcosmic location of a young man coming of age—a young man, a young person, struggling with his identity, family, and culture; a young man aspiring to a future outside his culture as an alien—the primal struggles between civilization and wilderness; the spiritual struggles of making sense where we are placed in the universe and what our purpose is—all that is in a very tightly woven story that takes place in central Mississippi. And as I have grown, the layers of meaning have simply not stopped; there has always been another dimension to what Faulkner was trying to convey.

Hilltopics would like to specially thank Dr. William Finnin for taking the time to share his thoughts with us.

Todd Baty is a senior history and music major

Child labor allegations raised: Why I'm a little less inclined to "fall into the Gap"

by Janet Arnold

While eating dinner with some friends the other night, someone complimented the shirt I was wearing. "Oh, thanks, it's from Gap."

"You know Gap still uses child labor, right?"

Now, I know there are many way cooler places to shop, but I love Gap and Banana Republic (both run by Gap, Inc). The clothes fit well, are somewhat trendy, and are fairly priced. It was a heart wrenching to think that the dress I'm currently wearing could have been made by a 12 year old that was sold by his parents to a garment factory, working from dawn until 1:00am, (as reported)-- so I tried to deny it. I'm embarrassed to say, it felt much more comfortable assuming that a big friendly company like the Gap is just not capable such shady business.

Immediately after dinner while looking at headlines on the internet, I came across the article *Gap: Report of kids' sweatshop 'deeply disturbing'* on CNN.com (<http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/10/29/gap.labor/>). The article details a report from Britain's Observer newspaper, where they interviewed and videotaped children as young as 10 years old producing hand-stitched tops that were to retail in Gap Kids stores for about \$40.

Gap's response came through President Marka Hansen, saying that the sweatshop was an unauthorized subcontractor for one of its Indian vendors. Gap assures customers that it's an isolated incident, the subcontractor's relationship with Gap had been terminated, and that the garments will not make it into retail stores. Hansen continued to say that "[Gap] has 90 people located around the world whose job is to ensure compliance with the[ir] Code of Vendor Conduct."

That's all well and good Mrs. Hansen, but these are not things that I would share to make things better. With 90, probably well paid, employees on the task, it takes a British reporter in India to call your attention to this. Really?

And what of the Gap's relationship with a contractor,

who subcontracted garment construction to a child sweatshop? Clearly there is a disparity in business practices and standards of ethics. Gap claims that ending their vendor relationships in India would cost many people their jobs, and cause just as much, if not more hardships, but that just isn't good enough.

I don't expect Gap to no longer buy from producers around the world, but why continue to do business with a contractor that has a reputation for ethically misguided actions?

Ignorance is just as disconcerting as awareness in this case. Gap's lack of knowledge communicates that they, as a clothing company, are more concerned about dollars than they are ethics or their moral obligations. But it seriously concerns me that they are one of the world's largest specialty retailers; what of smaller companies that are just trying to compete? What of companies that do not have the means to employ a staff of 90 to assure ethical production practices?

I would be more prone to understand Gap's position if they hadn't faced similar criticism back in 2000, when a BBC documentary revealed that child labor was used in one of their contracted factories in Cambodia. These instances make the publicity they gain through their GAP (PRODUCT) RED line even harder to stomach. Half of their profits from this line are donated to the Global Fund to help women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. They advertise themselves as being socially conscious on a global level, but their business practices prove otherwise.

Ultimately it is up to Gap, as a company that brings in upwards of \$15 billion in revenues to set an example, and my apologies Mrs. Hansen--but continuing to do business with an ethically questionable contractor does not make me want to do business with you.

Janet Arnold is a senior marketing major

Nuclear, continued from page 1

Opponents of nuclear power claim primarily that it is “pointless” because “alternative renewable energy” power generation methods exist. This is an admirable and commendable belief but it is one that is fundamentally flawed (at least at our current technological level). Alternative energy generation technology has not developed to the point yet that a minimum power output can be guaranteed. Windmills will only produce power when conditions are right, solar panels will only collect energy when conditions are favorable, and all of these require a large economic and material investment at the present time that do not necessarily offset the amount of carbon they would displace. That is not to say that we should rule out renewable power but at this point in time the “France model” is the only feasible way to link renewable energy with mass consumption – in France 80% of power production comes from nuclear and the rest from renewable sources. A 60 Minutes report recently states that nuclear power gives France the cleanest air of any industrialized country. Not to be dissuaded, opponents of nuclear power also state that accidents, economics, proliferation, and corporate mistrust are all causes for concern and abandonment of nuclear energy. Green Peace itself states on its website that “We have always fought – and will continue to fight – vigorously against nuclear power because it is an unacceptable risk to the environment and to humanity”. This shows that the issue of nuclear power (like most issues) has become polarized – with an anti-nuclear power camp and a pro-nuclear power camp. The true answers to the solution of nuclear power and subverting deadly greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels lies in neither an all nuclear or all renewable approach but (at least at this point in time) the answer lies in a middle way – one that addresses the very real concerns brought up by anti-nuclear activists but also understands the misinformation and emotional rhetoric, fear, and paranoia that often take hold of the nuclear debate.

One misconception is that nuclear reactors are similar to nuclear bombs. Nuclear reactors require only 4% of enriched uranium whereas nuclear bombs require much more. Nuclear reactors run at almost sub-critical levels with neutron hungry control rods that control the amount of fission in order to not allow a chain reaction to get out of control. This one simple tidbit is the tip of the iceberg in what the public needs

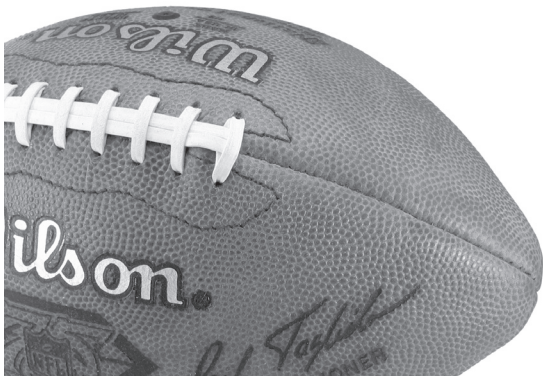


to learn about nuclear information and communicating these fundamental facts is the one way to fight nuclear misinformation. Misinformation is not the only problem however. The nuclear industry itself is complicit in not being entirely forthcoming about nuclear data and especially nuclear accidents. During the Chernobyl accident the top-down Soviet controlled society did not release information until it was too late for many. The recent earthquake that rocked Japan and caused a nuclear facility to leak a minimal amount of radioactive waste was not disclosed to even the government until a few days after the incident – prompting public anger and outcry. This culture of pursed lips only leads to fuel the boisterous claims of organizations like Greenpeace that

nuclear industry is a lumbering giant controlled by shady figures that have only their own monetary interest in mind.

On that note nuclear industry should be heavily regulated (as it is now to some degree in the United States) to ensure thorough safety and control procedures both in the operation of the reactor and the management of possible-weapons grade Plutonium. Waste management is a serious issue that has different philosophical and scientific underpinnings in different countries and is the major hurdle that the nuclear industry must overcome. America chooses to store all of its waste and if it continues to pursue this path it must do so in a means that is ethical, safe, and effective and ensures safety to future generations. France reprocesses most of its waste and must vigilantly protect its assets from terrorism, loss, and accident in the reprocessing fuel cycle. Nuclear power is not something that, in my opinion, should be the end all solution to the problems of greenhouse gas emissions but it also isn't something that we should rule out in this time of need. A diversified energy portfolio not only makes good sense economically but allows us to use, experiment, and expand different technologies in order to progress towards a cleaner, safer, and more efficient world. Nuclear power research and expansion should begin again – but it should be guided, regulated, and triple tested so that failure is nothing more than an (almost) impossibility and the benefits of nuclear energy or carbon energy will outweigh any of the claims made by dogmatic (but good intentioned) opponents of nuclear power production.

Ben Wells is a senior anthropology, history and Asian studies major



SMU vs. UCF
Saturday, November 17, 2007
2:00 PM



Headline of the week:

“Ozzy Stung by Sting”

The prince of darkness is upset about Fargo, North Dakota sheriff using his name to catch locals with outstanding warrants before his show.

<http://www.eonline.com/news/article/index.jsp?uuid=d48d7dab-aff3-4f1e-af35-ff1be-09ac0ce>



Thumbs up:

- To Fall Break being one week away
- To Turkey and Football
- To Phil Bennett being fired



Thumbs down:

- To Stephen Colbert is being allowed to run for president
- To the tv writer’s strike
- To \$750,000 deficit for the Athletics Department

Events of interest spotlights:

Discussion of Drugs and Alcohol on Campus

Wednesday November 14, 11:30 AM
HT Commons

SMU Fact:

In 1937, 48% of SMU undergraduate students are members of social sororities and fraternities. (Mustang Magazine, 1937)

Sixty years later, 35% of SMU undergraduates are members of social sororities and fraternities. (SMU-greeks.com)

The national average for affiliation on a college campus is roughly 10%.

Hilltopics Staff

- James Longhofer: Editor-in-Chief
- Todd Baty: Business Manager
- Ben Wells: Managing Editor
- Jenny Simon: Submissions Manager
- Beth Anderson: Distribution Manager
- Monica Chavez: Copy Editor
- Josh Wood: Copy Editor
- Janet Arnold: Graphics Editor

Hilltopics is published every other Monday. It is sponsored by the University Honors Program.