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Hilltopics Staff

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HILLTOPICS

month of February, 2010

Vol. 6; Issue 6

THE iPad: THE iWHAT?

By: Stark Riedesel

Apple has done it again with the iPad. The great creator of fads, Steve Jobs, in all of his great technical and consumerist wisdom, has unveiled the next must-have gizmo, soon to be in the hands of young aristocrats and middle-aged gadget connoisseurs alike. Everyone wants one, but there is still a question yet to be answered: What is it?

For anyone comatose for the past three years, Apple's iPhone has risen to celebrity status alongside funny pictures of cats and status updates. The reason for the popularity is obvious: everyone already had iPods and cell phones (some cutting edge gadget hounds already had smart phones), so combining them into one, easy-to-use device was clearly the next step. Combined with a clever pop advertizing campaign targeting the 18-40 year old upper middle class, the iPhone became *iPAD continued on page 4*

WHY I WENT TO COLLEGE

By: Jonathan Price

A little more than a week ago I had an epiphany. Revelation stuck me as I sat in my tiny dorm room. Amidst an intense conversation about the existence and nature of God and his impact on human morality with my roommate and a mutual friend, I realized that this sort of experience is the exact reason why I went to college.

I fear today that many of my peers are wasting this great opportunity that all of us have been given to really find ourselves. I feel that there has become too much of a focus on grades, connections, and social life and that we are too concerned on building our future careers as opposed to building ourselves. Not to say that those things are not

REASON continued on page 5

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

By: Mary Fan

Why are criminology classes so enticing? What is it that draws so many students—females and males alike—to want to learn about the dark and hateful side of human beings? On the first day of my "Crime and Delinquency" class (taught by Dr. Richard Hawkins), our professor posed a challenge: Name one television show today that does not involve any violence. He was met with silence. Indeed, that is the truth: violence, whether physical, mental, or emotional, dominates parts of our lives whether we like it or not. Suffering verbal criticism from a friend, engaging in alcohol because of peer pressure, or being beaten by your significant other all constitute as some form of abuse. So what should we do? Tolerance isn't the answer because it won't last for long. Sure, you can brush off a negative comment once, twice, and maybe thrice, but can you really bear living in the shadow (or in someone else's shadow, in this case) forever?

Let's focus on women for now. Statistics attained by the Women's Prison Association shows that

CRIMONOLGY continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE...

CONTEMPLATION AND INSIGHT

"REFLECTION IN BLUE"

EXCLUSIVE

DR. DOYLE DISCUSSES A NEW CLASS



REFLECTION IN BLUE

By: Jack Swearingen

In the course of the cold, rainy weather lingering around campus, the armchair philosopher has arisen in many of us, and while perhaps our English and GEC perspective professors are most appreciative of the added level of insight displayed in their classes, I have always wondered why gloomy atmospheric conditions inspire us to look at life from a more profound point of view. What is it about overcast skies that makes us want to forgo the Guess jeans and the Burberry jackets (and perhaps even a class or two) and don more comfortable garb, snuggle into a soft bed and warm sheets, and read and sleep and dream the days away in the quiet bliss of soft repose? Is there something inherent in the rain that makes us think about our lives in a deeper, more meaningful way, which the bright sun and cheery blue skies suppress into the far recesses of our mind as we toil like ants, slaves to our schedules and checklists? Or is this simply the natural and necessary outburst of value that, if dammed for too long, burst our minds to madness, for the cold drizzle and deep thought share a correlation only in a break from the status quo, and not a relationship of cause and effect?

From an early age, I have always loved the rain, and more recently, I cannot rid my mind of the association between the downpour and that enduring moment in *V for Vendetta* that "God is in the rain." Perhaps He is, as it seems that when

we find God, what we really find is ourselves, not broken and disappointed as we are now, but rather our ideal self, free from the bonds of our menial existence and allowed to fly with the Forms and soar with the Absolute. It could be that that is exactly why the rain has such a deepening effect on so many—it forces us to change our routine in such a way that isolates us from our usual schedule and our standard company. Left silent in the flood with fewer events to distract our attention, our conscious turns inwards, and we begin that sweet

"There we explore the depths and meaning of our past, the real condition of our present, and the tiny, longing hope of our tomorrows. It is in this hushed, still euphoria among the dripping leaves and splashing cars that we find peace."

Proustian art of reflection. There we explore the depths and meaning of our past, the real condition of our present, and the tiny, longing hope of our tomorrows. It is in this hushed, still euphoria among the dripping leaves and splashing cars that we find peace. As Shakespeare

wrote, "We are such stuff as dreams are made, and our little life is rounded with a sleep." The rain is the gentle hand that rounds our life and sends it drifting among the spheres.

When writing of our thoughts and inner consciousness, we writers always run the risk of being alone, and worse, being exposed as such to our public. Perhaps the reader has never felt this way about the rain, or perhaps, by the time this makes its way through publication and distribution, the climate has changed, and the sun blasts out any thought of less vigorous activities than the responsibility we take up as we slide out of bed and into the bustling world of rush and noise. In this menagerie we lose ourselves, and, for many, the escape is vital toward continued existence. But we cannot hide forever, and one day the skies will darken once more and we will be left with the rain. For some, it is a nuisance involving rain boots and rebellious personal umbrellas, but, for a few, and maybe for you, it is an opportunity to see beyond the disappointing façade of our lives, and into something incomprehensibly more fulfilling.

Jack Swearingen is a freshman Political Science and Philosophy double major. He can be reached at jswearinge@smu.edu



SMU COMES TO DALLAS: UHP & 'THE DALLAS EXPERIENCE' A NEW CLASS ON THE CITY TO BE LAUNCHED FALL 2010

David D. Doyle, Jr.

Director, University Honors Program

For many Dallas natives SMU seems a remote gilded tower—far, far removed from the grit and grime of America's 9th largest city. Indeed, a long tradition exists of our university as a place where the elite of the South is prepared to assume the reigns of power. Still, look around our campus and many signs indicate that this venerable tradition is on its way out: increasingly SMU is connected to, integrating with, and educating the myriad populations that altogether constitute our city. Provost Ludden's Big iDeas Program is only one example of many. In this vein, the University Honors Program launches "The Dallas Experience," an interdisciplinary course that places the city of Dallas at its center, next semester—in the fall of 2010. Using the city as its laboratory, the class will study history, race, gender, and class relations, immigration, the natural environment, governance, high and popular culture, architecture, and literature—all through the lens of Dallas.

The class's central purpose is not only to introduce students to our Dallas environment, but also to teach them how to understand and think about a city from multiple perspectives. How is it that this city came to be in the middle of the Texas prairie, so far from a viable port? Using the idea of the myriad "landscapes" found in Dallas—from the Trinity River (and its recent bridge and park project), to the cultural scene, to the ever evolving ethnic composition—the class will emphasize the relationships among people, institutions, and places.

The readings are going to be exciting—ranging from David Kaiser's study of the Kennedy assassination (one of the defining moments in the city's history), *The Road to Dallas* (2008), to Thomas Alexander's new book on the owner of Dallas's most famous department store, *Stanley Marcus: The Relentless Reign of a Merchant Prince* (2009). Other readings include Michael Philip's *The White Metropolis: Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in Dallas, 1841-2001* (2006), Rachel Adler's *Yucatecans in Dallas, Texas: Breaching the Border, Bridging the Distance* (2004), Don DeLillo's novel, *Libra* (1988), and Harvey Graff's recent study, *The Dallas Myth: the Birth and Death of an American City* (2008)—along with selected articles, book chapters, and primary documents. In order to engage students directly with the city in which they

live, invited speakers, such as the authors of some of the readings, and those who have made a contribution to the development and understanding of the city, will be brought in to address the class. A panel of Dallas Business leaders, for example, is planned. Also toward that direct engagement, students will be sent out to participate in the city through historical and architectural tours, attendance at local museums, performances, and political events. Each student will keep a field journal through which they will report on and react to these events. In addition, the Dallas Morning News will be required reading—keeping us all current on what is happening now.

The class will meet three times per week with lectures on Monday and Wednesday with everyone meeting together, and small discussion groups of 15 students led by Honors Professors on Friday. Each discussion section will focus on a single Dallas neighborhood and its various "landscapes." Each section will then report on their neighborhood at the end of the semester and collectively the class will produce a Dallas neighborhood website.

The class is an effort at a common experience for all University Honors and Hilltop students—and the goal is that the majority of students take it during their second year—continuing the sense of community fostered by the first year Honors Rhetoric classes. Overall, "The Dallas Experience" is another sign that the University Honors Program is not a static entity—but one that is always seeking to improve and evolve. We want to hear what you the students think, so please contact me with your feedback. And do not be surprised if I e-mail you one day asking for your presence at a focus group—this class is only one idea that the UHP has on the table.



CRIMINOLOGY CONT...

currently, over 200,000 women occupy the jails and prisons of the United States. Two-thirds are mothers and almost 80% of sentenced women are between the ages of 30 and 45. Being that a large proportion of women prisoners have children, it is somewhat reasonable to assume that the crimes these females committed were related to some member of their household.

Case 1: Her children. Drowning her children due to postpartum depression, stoning her child to death because she had a calling from God saying that her child was the Devil—yes, these have all been done before. But since many of these cases can be attributed to temporary insanity or some form of mental illness, let's move on to a more intriguing case.

Case 2: Her husband. It has only been in the past decade that the defense "battered women syndrome" surfaced and became more credible-sounding (and looking) to judges. This is a tough defense to justify because there isn't a

firmly established procedure to follow; the medical proof varies from case to case. The cases we have gained in class reveal women on both ends of the scale: those who show up in court with horribly swollen and scarred faces, and those in perfectly good condition. However, both claim to have two things in common. One is the emotional damage that had been brought on by the husband's verbal denigrations and physical assaults, which largely decreases their self-confidence and self-worth, and causes them to live in constant fear. The second correlation is their unwavering love for their husband. This would seem incomprehensible to many people, not excluding myself, but let's attack this from another angle. The fact that their husband, who they've loved, lived, shared, dined, and slept with for so long, would suddenly want to kick or shove them around is just so out of the blue. What did these women do to drive their husband into such a furious, dangerous state of rage?

Women in these cases often did not cheat. So what was the trigger? Do we dare label these women as "victims?"

That being said, it is extremely difficult for any outsider to be able to understand the full range of emotions that were swimming through these women's heads at the time of the abuse. The best I can do for now is attempt to see this baffling trauma from the other person's side of view—the husband. Why do these men enjoy beating their wives senseless? Is it because the wives do a poor job of taking care of the children? Is it because the image of the wife is frequently seen as more vulnerable and submissive, and thus makes a good punching bag? Or is it simply unexplainable—something instinctual, a primitive need to prove their machoism? We are then left with one burning question: Why don't these women retaliate?

Mary Fan is a freshman Finance major with a Sociology and Spanish minor. She can be reached at (mfan@smu.edu).

Do you have an opinion about...

politics? music? class? television? football? shopping? intramurals? fraternities? movies? tests? the Mavs? club sports? sex? religion? driving? Umphrey Lee? technology? baseball? the weather? dating? books? nightclubs? the Daily Campus? pets? Texas? study abroad? sororities? news? the war? magazines?

or anything else?

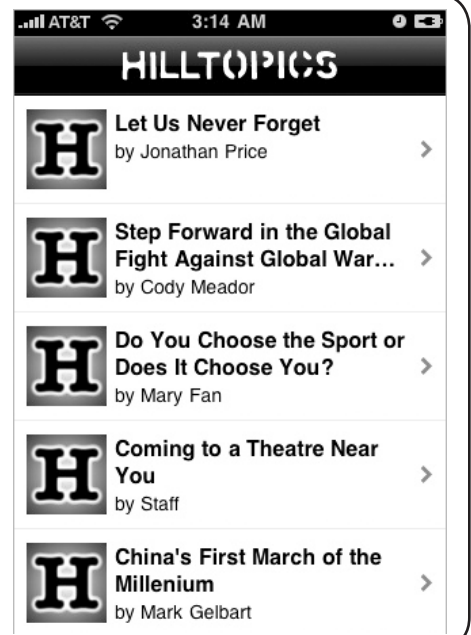
*we're listening at
amhowe@smu.edu*

DID YOU KNOW?

Hilltopics has its own iPhone App?

While nothing can really replace a paper copy, getting a free update on your iPhone is pretty close

Get it for FREE at the App Store today!



REASON CONT...

important; I aim to get straight A's, I seek out people and organizations that would be helpful to me in the future, and I am currently pledging a fraternity, but I am determined to take full advantage of the most important resource at every University including ours, the people.

Here we are surrounded by, most likely, the most gifted and intelligent people we will ever encounter in our lives. Our peers are bright and accomplished, and our professors are experts in their respective fields. From each and every one of them I believe we have something to learn: a different viewpoint, a different experience, a vault of knowledge collected over a lifetime. From each of them we should discuss openly our viewpoints honestly but respectfully and endeavor to learn from each other or at the very least expand our horizons.

My recent conversation fit these criteria perfectly. In the middle of the conversation my roommate said one of the most poignant things I have ever heard in relation to the purpose of college. My roommate, a staunch Christian who went to a private Christian school from K-12 is now enrolled in a class which is currently analyzing what type of God may exist. In connection to this debate he made the very real comment that he realized he had been spoon fed ideas about God by his Baptist teachers without any questioning on his part, but, now that his beliefs have been challenged, he is excited about the prospect of finding absolute truth for himself. If by challenging his beliefs, they stand to be true (as they will if they are) then he can be sure of them but if they don't stand to be true then he must throw them aside and find the real truth. In doing this, he says he will become a better person and his own person. Furthermore it is our collective intellect, our collective knowledge, experiences, viewpoints that will point each of us to the truth and to being fully ourselves as we challenge each preconceived notion and separate the truth from the lies. This is what college is all about; this is our greatest opportunity both here and possibly ever to grow and become our own persons, not the children of our parents, not the student of our teachers, but our own men and women. I will not let this opportunity pass me up. Will you?

Jonathan Price is a freshman Finance and Political Science Major and can be contacted at (jdprice@smu.edu).

Hilltopics Annual Essay Writing Contest

This spring semester, Hilltopics is hosting its annual campus-wide essay contest, and you are invited to participate! The contest is open to any current undergraduate or graduate student. Contestants will write one essay according to the prompt and guidelines below for a chance at \$750 worth of prizes—grand prize, \$500; two honorable mentions, \$125 each. In addition, the top three essays will be published in the May issue of Hilltopics. Entries are due as an email attachment no later than midnight, Friday, April 9 to amhowe@smu.edu.

Prompt:

SMU is enjoying its first winning football season in many years. Why are the reputations of universities so sensitive to the success of its football team? When a team has a strong season, applications to that school go up. What does this say about our culture and the way we see our college experience? Are the amounts of money spent on college football justified? How does football benefit the university, the students, and the university's future? Are universities forced to spend heavily on football to stay competitive?

Submission Requirements

Contestants should follow the instructions below:

- Essays should be between 600 and 750 words.
- All essays should have a cover page with the following information: contestant's name, email address, telephone number, classification (year graduating), and major
- If resources are used or quoted, students should create endnotes in the style they wish
- All pages should be numbered, not including the cover page.

Adjudicating Criteria

Essays will be judged according to the following elements:

- creativity and style
- spelling, word choice, grammar, fluidity
- use of specific examples, personal experiences, and details to support assertions
- clarity of thought, argument, and logic

Questions? contact Ashley Howe at amhowe@smu.edu

How POKÉMON PAYS OFF IN THE INVESTMENT WORLD

By: Ashley Howe

No, you can't trade in your Pokémon for a stock portfolio, but the time you spent playing might have taught you the skills employers desire most. Chances are, the further you got in the game, the more of these skills you now possess.

For those of you who are too old (or cool) to have played Pokémon when you were a kid, you missed out. Pokémon is a Japanese game gone worldwide phenomenon in the 1990s. The game ran about \$29.99, and if you were young, you had to have it- (like having a computer today). The object of the game was to win a series of battles with gym leaders as you walked around in a fantasy world and collected all 150 Pokémon. Of course there were two versions of the games, each with only 120 of the 150 so you had to buy both or buy the cable and trade with someone for the other 30.

I'M NOT GONNA



A LOVE SONG

Rule #1: Diversify

Although you can collect as many Pokémon as you want, you can only carry 6 with you at a time. There are different types of Pokémon, such as rock, electric, and psychic. The different types of Pokémon have different strengths and weaknesses, so you want the six you carry with you should be as diverse as possible so that you are ready for a fight with anything.



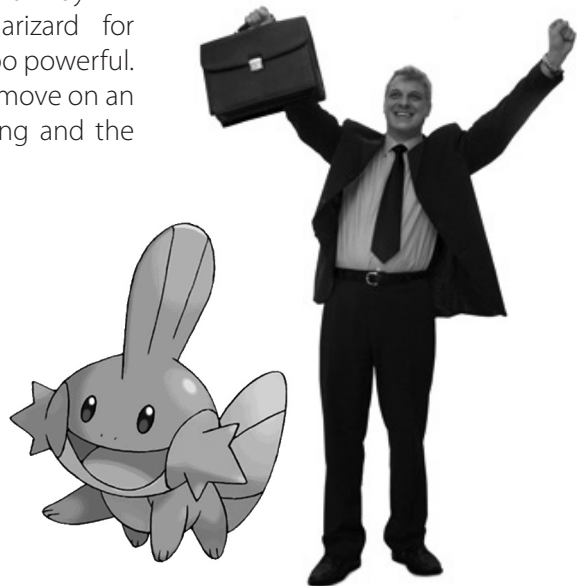
-Matata

Rule #2: Trade on Favorable Terms

In the quest to acquire all 150 Pokémon, you have to trade with someone- it's inevitable. You can have more than one of a certain Pokémon, and this will come in handy when it's time to trade. Watching a six year old negotiate a trade with a friend can teach you a lot. First, they are brutally honest about what they want, and they rarely relent, especially if they know what they want. "There's no way I'm going to trade you my Charizard for your Weedle. Charizard is too powerful." In other words, they don't move on an investment unless the timing and the price are right.

Rule #3: Do Your Research

Second in the Pokémon franchise only to the games and videos themselves are the advent of the Pokédex and Pokémon guides. They detailed the different powers and success rates of each Pokémon. They taught to not just collect your favorite Pokémon, but to make the best decisions to insure your success. Do your research. Don't make an investment on speculation.



WORD SEARCH



AROUND SMU II

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Airline</i> | <i>Fondren</i> |
| <i>Binkley</i> | <i>Heroy</i> |
| <i>Bishop</i> | <i>Hillcrest</i> |
| <i>Blanton</i> | <i>Hilltopics</i> |
| <i>Boulevard</i> | <i>McFarlin</i> |
| <i>Bridwell</i> | <i>Meadows</i> |
| <i>Caruth</i> | <i>Moody</i> |
| <i>Daniel</i> | <i>Mustangs</i> |
| <i>Dyer</i> | <i>Perkins</i> |



The Music of Steve Reich
 Monday, February 22, 2010
 8:00pm - 9:15pm
 Caruth Auditorium

Join the Meadows Percussion Ensemble as they feature the music of Steve Reich. Monday, February 22, 2010, 8pm, Caruth Auditorium.

The concert is FREE and no ticket is required!

Born in 1936, Steve Reich is now considered one of the great "minimalist" composers, although his influence on contemporary music far transcends any labels. He has been hailed as "America's greatest living composer" (Village Voice), "the most original musical thinker of our time" (The New Yorker), and "... among the great composers of the century" (New York Times).

The MPE, with Director Jon D. Lee, is pleased to welcome guest artists Dr. Sam Holland, Drew Lang and Kristi Janczyk, with special guest artists Dr. Robert Bridge, and Dr. Jeffrey Moore on a performance of "Sextet". Also on the program is "Music for Pieces of Wood", and "Nagoya Marimbas".

"Harry Potter: and the Deadly Splashes"

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IZRA07

THUMBS UP

- SNOW!!!
- Mardi Gras AND the Super Bowl
- Hot chocolate and ice cream (together)
- Trampolines
- Winter Olympics



THUMBS DOWN

- Midterms
- Insomnia
- Broken heaters
- Computer problems
- Classes when it's snowing



MY LIFE IS AVERAGE...

Today, I found who has the locker next to mine. His name is Davy Jones. MLIA

Last night, I was informed that my dorm will be decorating our lounge to look like the Great Hall and throwing a Harry Potter party next semester. I was disappointed because I will be studying abroad so the only way I can attend is through Skype. Then I realized if my friend puts a picture frame around her laptop screen I would look like one of Hogwart's moving portraits. Guess who's attending as the Fat Lady? MLIA

Today, I had to write a paragraph on motivation. I couldn't bring myself to do it. MLIA

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We welcome submissions from all members of the 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 amhowe@smu.edu to be included in the next publication. The opinions expressed in *Hilltopics* are those of the authors solely and do not reflect the beliefs of *Hilltopics* or any other entity.