

University  
Honors  
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# The Chronicle

The Official Oregon State University  
UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE  
Student Magazine

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Spring 2005

Free



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Cover photo by Lea Wilson  
Back cover photo by Stuart McKim

## Jenny Moser

In a farewell speech on the last day of class for winter term, one of my professors urged us to be more concerned with our own happiness than with money or prestige as we chose our careers. He reminded us that none of us have as much time on Earth as we think or hope we will, and we should make every day count as we live for what really matters. I was truly touched.

I went up to my professor after class to thank him. In the ensuing conversation, he asked what my career plans were.

"I'm not sure what I want yet," I replied, "maybe I'll just end up as a science writer on a local paper."

"Oh, but you could do so much better than that! A national paper at least!" he said.

This combination of events got me thinking. We Honors students spend a lot of time

feeling pressured to pursue prestigious and lucrative careers, simply because we know we have the ability to do so. But, just because we can, does that necessarily mean we SHOULD?

What about the students whose fondest ambition is to be an elementary school teacher or a stay-at-home parent? These two paths carry the most important responsibility within our civilization: providing our children with a strong foundation of knowledge and love. Isn't that a worthwhile mark to leave on the world? Shouldn't we be asking our best and brightest to at least be open to these options? Yet, in terms of pay and respect, teachers and stay-at-home parents are among the most undervalued. Where are our priorities?

I would ask all my classmates to consider this question: What shame is there in a humble future if it's the one you want?

## Casey Woodworth

Writing a letter from the editor is a lot like writing a college admissions essay. You've got to be original, funny, insightful, and *absolutely completely mind-blowingly brilliant or your life is ruined*.

Okay, maybe that last part only applies to the college admissions essay. I read something online yesterday that said it's pretty much the most important paper you'll ever write in your life. No pressure, right? I've never gotten much practical advice on writing this all-important document. In high school the sample essay they gave us concerned a boy who overcame great diversity because he only had one arm. That's kind of hard to top.

This year, the admissions essay reared its ugly head again when I applied to grad school. Grad school essays have become the bane of my existence. I pretty much spent an entire summer and fall term thinking about what on earth I was going to write. Now, I need to refine the

art of interviewing if I want to be more than just talk. In other words, it never seems to end. My advice to juniors: start now!

So maybe my letter from the editor isn't as agonizing as all that. But I still feel the need to offer some insight in this space, without sounding too much like an admissions essay. Honestly, the UHC made my college experience so much more valuable. I like where I am now—in terms of the people and experiences I've had through my major—but those connections can take four years to fully develop. The UHC was there from the very beginning, offering solid advice, a full jar of candy, and an office full of friendly ears ready and willing to listen. I wouldn't trade my experiences at the UHC for anything, and I hope that, at the end of four years, everybody here can say the same.

## WINNER!

**National Collegiate Honors Council  
Most Outstanding Student Newsletter,  
presented in New Orleans, Louisiana  
13 November 2004**





# Seeking Diversity - What Does It Mean?

by Jessica Varin

Every college admissions brochure refers to a mystical, loaded word that makes people cringe, rejoice, or question: "diversity."

The UHC and OSU Cultural Centers hosted a forum addressing diversity within the OSU community this past January. When asked to comment on this sometimes elusive word, Larry Roper, Vice President of Student Affairs, defined diversity as "all dimensions by which people may differ." With that said, difference can be divisive, but only if we as a community let these differences divide us instead of join us.

Ann  tte McFarland, a second year English and international studies major, acknowledges the importance of "highlighting the differences if only to learn from them." This begs the question: can we be different and the same simultaneously? We know that the legendary melting pot is bland and the tossed salad metaphor is masked by the overwhelming flavor of dressing. To continue the food metaphor, what if we were all tasty bakery desserts? They all look a little different, and yet they all serve the same purpose. Bavarian cr  me donuts are tasty, croissants are fabulous, and chocolate cakes are delicious. Yet somehow they all manage to share the same space.

di · ver · si ty (di-v  r'si-ti)

a. The fact or quality of being diverse; difference.

b. A point or respect in which things differ.

Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend.

Mao Tse-Tung

The real death of America will come when everyone is alike.

James T. Ellison

The highest result of education is tolerance.

Helen Keller

Although far from perfect, OSU is strengthened by a plethora of opportunities for students to explore different cultures. From community events to residence halls, the chance to meet someone different from yourself is everywhere. Start seeking! Jing Sun, a first year student in microbiology, grew up in Corvallis and has seen how easy it is to ignore how limited our individual perspectives can be. "I think it's really eye-opening and can expand your mind to immerse yourself or see a whole different part of life that someone else considers (relatively) normal." Sun believes that choosing to learn from people who are different than you is life-completing.

As citizens of the same world, we are called to explore more than just ourselves. Kenny Barrese, a second year student in math and mathematical sciences, reiterates something too often for-

gotten: "We all belong to some of the same groups as everyone else. We need to accept one another as people."

At the Student Diversity Summit sponsored by the Office of Community and Diversity, students expressed a collective desire to come together. Alex Johnson, who represents the Office of Community and Diversity, posed the idea of creating a location for this purpose. "I think people feel the need for a dedicated space to come together [for multicultural learning]." Jacob Mesa, Director of Multicultural Affairs with ASOSU, presented the idea of encouraging collaborative programs amongst existing cultural centers. President Ed Ray believes that holding individual units (colleges, departments etc.) accountable for diversity is one way to create an open environment for all people.

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# Art Missionary

by UHC Professor Charlotte Headrick

All right, you have me in a corner. I am a professor of theatre arts in the Department of Speech Communication in the College of Liberal Arts. To date, I have taught or supervised several colloquia for the Honors College; one series was on our 1997-1998 Shakespeare season and the other colloquia was on how to experience a play.

After 22 years at Oregon State, I sometimes still feel that I am doing missionary work for the arts on this campus. It is so hard for me to understand why all students don't take advantage of the wonderful theatre

program we offer here at Oregon State. The University Theatre belongs to everyone at this university, not just the theatre majors—and yes, we do have a major!

While we welcome everyone as actors and crew on productions, we want to see every freshman taking advantage of all five productions (sometimes more) every year and continuing to attend the theatre until graduation. That's 20 plays, 20 classics, hours of entertainment, fun, and knowledge. As I tell my students, the more you know,

## Faculty: Cornered



Photo by Drew Watson

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## Of All the Places in the World. . .

*We ask international students: Why OSU?*

by Lea Wilson

A thick file labeled "study abroad" hangs in my drawer, keeping the phone bills and old scholarship applications company. In it are brochures, maps, general requirements, lists of estimated expenditures, and possible class equivalencies, all with highlighting and careful notes-to-self in the margins. I cannot wait to get out of here. But it occurs to me that somewhere on the other side of the world, another eager college student rummages through a stack similar to my own, looking for the perfect school, and somewhere right here on campus,

probably not more than a couple of floors from me, is an exchange student who already made that decision. Why, when they had the entire world to choose from, did they choose Oregon State?

In fact, I do indeed live near a foreign exchange student. Miyuki Kurihara, from Kanagawa, Japan, is an international student at Texas State University. She is on exchange at OSU as an exercise and sports science major. Miyuki will spend all four years in the United States, returning to Texas when her year at OSU

is done. When asked why she chose OSU, she sat cross-legged at her desk looking very Oregonian in her fleece pullover and gave me a very honest answer. She is at Oregon State because her first two choices did not take foreign students. That, and OSU had a program that matched her major. She explained to me that she picked up a list of literally a hundred schools, and the easiest way to narrow down was by the programs. Like many in college, parental pressure was also pushing from the background, urging

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# Big Man on Campus

## What does Joe Hendricks do all day?

by Jenny Moser

We all know who he is. We've heard him speak at UHC events or seen him in the UHC office. But just what does Joe Hendricks, Dean of the University Honors College, actually do?

Dean Hendricks, known to everyone as Joe, describes his job as "attempting to manage the affairs of the Honors College and put our best face forward, [while] helping the campus realize that the presence of the Honors College enriches the whole campus."

He observed that all Honors students have an academic "double citizenship" within the college of their major and the UHC.

Joe's favorite part of the day is interaction with students.

"They're the real kinetic spark that makes the job worthwhile," he said, counting student interaction as a "front-burner item" in his day.

Joe's typical day begins at 5 or 6 a.m., as he arrives in the office to spend half an hour or an hour checking email and doing the work for his self-described "hobby job" in his field of gerontology. He



Photo by Lea Wilson

has been president of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, and he currently edits the Hallym International Journal of Aging. Joe stresses the importance of retaining a "knowledge base no older than yesterday" in your chosen field.

Before 8:00, Joe has made the transition to his workday job of ensuring the UHC's smooth function. He confers with Diana Hancock, the office manager, about scheduling and curricular issues.

After a round of conversations with Honors staff members, Joe reaches outside the borders of the UHC. He meets with higher administration, includ-

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### Wilson - Why OSU?

both her and her sister to study in the United States and learn to speak fluent English.

The decision to study in the United States is followed by the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Via the Internet, students find programs at Oregon State and other universities, but they have to pass the test first. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, OSU's English Language Institute (ELI), welcomes hundreds of students each year who come for the express purpose of studying English. To foreign students, being a fluent English speaker may not only get them into an American university, but

also improve their employability at home; some students are even sent to the ELI by their employers.

Most ELI students (80 percent) come based on word of mouth from family and friends or are directed here by the recommendations of other institutions.

ELI offers teachers who are trained to understand what Director Deborah Healey calls a "very wide range of accents" and a varying degree of English proficiency. Anyone who has been new to a language can understand the feeling of acceptance this can foster. An interesting advantage to this setup is that students are afforded the opportunity to ask questions that might

*Being a fluent English speaker may not only get them into an American university, but improve their employability at home.*

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Although ideas vary drastically on the topic, students and administrators at Oregon State generally value interaction with people who are different than themselves. James Simshaw, a second year student in computer science and math, participated in Upward Bound, a college prep program directed towards first generation and low income students in Portland. In this environment, Simshaw says, he “gained a greater understanding of different people.” While Simshaw recognizes that OSU is not as diverse as the community where he grew up, he still sees opportunities to interact with people different than himself. As it turns out, students echo one another.

As cliché as it sounds, college is an opportu-

nity to grow and change. Failure to learn from those around you is regrettable, especially when each of us is afforded so many chances to do so. If we expect to learn or grow, we need to truly seek diversity not only in groups but also as individuals. Each of us can marvel at the phenomenon that is life.

Talk to a stranger about alternative birthing. Ask someone else doing laundry where they’re from. Visit a cultural center. Take a class outside your major. Do what it takes to experience diversity. When we fill our days (or nights) with different thoughts, people, and experiences, we’re defining diversity. Our actions turn ambiguity into a reality. We learn. We grow. We change.

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*Ask someone else doing laundry where they're from. Visit a cultural center. Take a class outside your major. Do what it takes to experience diversity.*

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## Headrick - Cornered

the more you catch the jokes in life. Did you know that President Ray has a theatre minor? Did you know that Cliff Mead of the Linus Pauling Special Collections in the library was a theatre major? Or how about Brenda McCullough of French or Trischa Goodnow of Speech Communication or former Vice-President Joanne Trow? All have theatre background.

Did you know that Oregon State University is the only school in Oregon to have a graduate nominated for a Tony Award? Julyana Soelistyo was nominated for *Golden Child* in 1998 as featured actress in a play. Am I proud of our students? Yes, I am.

As for me....hmmm..... native Tennessean (First Families of Tennessee...my family was in the state prior to statehood, 1796). During football season, my blood runs University of Tennessee orange—nickname the Vols, rhymes with dolls, has nothing to do with Voles (small rodents) as the Oregon broadcasters are prone to mispronounce. This drives me crazy; I mean, hey, if the CBS and ESPN broadcasters articulate correctly, can't the Oregonians? They were the 1998 National Champions.

I read for pleasure. I have a wonderful 84-pound, Heartland Humane society rescue, Golden Retriever/Great Pyrenees/German Shepherd mix, Bantry, who is a Therapy Dog and one of my great loves. She shares my home (filled with family antiques and other debris—only dull women have immaculate homes) with a large blind orange cat named Bubba. I plant a garden in the summer—know your Voltaire, who incidentally was a man of the theatre (I also teach theatre history). When I have time, seldom it seems, I make baby quilts.

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*Did you know that Oregon State University is the only school in Oregon to have a graduate nominated for a Tony Award?*

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I do Irish Studies and have directed numerous Irish plays. I am a member of Actor's Equity, the 2003 CLA Excellence Award winner, and the 1994 Elizabeth P. Ritchie Distinguished Professor for Undergraduate Education (go look me up in the library—I'm on a plaque). I love to cook for my friends when I can, mostly in the summer. I live in the theatre. I travel to London, Ireland, and Northern Ireland as well as my native South on a regular basis. I always keep a bottle of Jack Daniels in my house (I must support the home state). I like to laugh at Eric Hill's jokes, go wine tasting, and read in my hammock in my backyard.

*Continued on page 10 . . .*





# Honors and Athletics

by Edward Lew

## Nancy Raskauskas - pulling her weight

Nancy Raskauskas never meant to be an OSU rower. As a three-sport athlete at Corvallis High School, Nancy concentrated on soccer, swimming, and track. Crew wasn't even a consideration—until she entered Beaver Nation.

"I stumbled into it," the senior in fisheries and wildlife says.

Nancy first experienced with crew in a PAC class her freshman year. She loved it. She recalls one of the coaches saying, "No one has ever died on the [rowing machine]. You faint before you die."

The decision was simple for Nancy. The instructor thought she should try out for the OSU team, so she did. "A Division I sport was nothing I expected to do in college," Nancy says. "I decided to go for it."

Flash forward three years. Nancy is now a four-year veteran of the women's varsity crew team. It's come at the price of time though. Her days usually begin at 6 a.m. lifting weights. Then rain, shine, or snow, at 3:30 p.m., she is rowing either on machines or on the river for two hours. She can't be late, or she'll "literally miss the boat."

When she's not practicing, she is sitting in a desk with a 15-17 credit class-load or playing tuba and percussion for the concert band. On top of that, she's an intern at the Environmental Protection Agency for OSU's Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability, working two hours a day on her juvenile coho salmon Honors thesis.

"I just never sleep," Nancy says. She has to "be hyperactive, enthusiastic."



Body loose, swinging round, energy focused – it's all natural on the uneven bars. It's all control, it's all grace, it's all mental. It's all D'Anna Piro.

"I go up there and do my thing."

At 5 feet 3 inches, the freshman gymnast is fearless in the gym and in life. Within the walls of the Valley Gymnastics Center, she's loud and isn't afraid to instruct teammates to keep their knees bent, even if they are frustrated with the move.

Not to mention, D'Anna has relentlessly attacked double-layouts, whip-halves and fly-aways since the age of the three.

The training shows.

D'Anna is a three-time state champion on bars, and she has qualified for the Junior Olympic National Championships. "[I like] the idea of getting better and better," the 18-year-old says about gymnastics. "[I like] pushing past what I can do."

That aggressive fire fuels her student life too. D'Anna graduated fifth in her Lake Oswego High School class, taking six advanced placement classes. This term is only her third at OSU, but she's already a sophomore by credit and is on the verge of demolishing her baccalaureate core requirements.

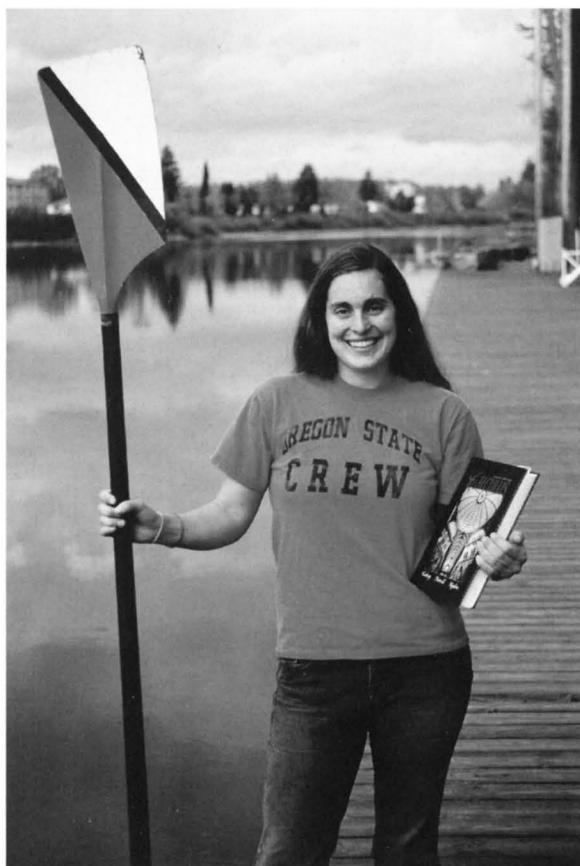
Not surprisingly, D'Anna is a morning person, always wanting to learn new things and meet new people. She loves life.

One night, on a whim, D'Anna and her friends decked out in prom dresses and ate dinner at an elegant riverside restaurant. It's quite a divergence from her typical devotion to the movies

She has to be to do crew. Crew competition consists of a grueling eight-minute race, full of intensity and anaerobic effort. The team travels to places such as Virginia, Seattle, and the Bay Area to compete against other schools.

"It takes so long to piece together," Nancy says about the team, "that it's satisfying to get [to the end]."

Along with the friendships of her teammates, that motivation keeps Nancy on crew in addition



to class and extracurriculars like volunteering at a soup kitchen.

But Nancy has always looked for a challenge, and never saw it as something that she couldn't do. After all, Nancy chose the fisheries and wildlife major though science is her worst subject. In fact, that's the exact reason she chose it – to improve.

"The purpose of undergrad is to expand yourself," she says. "I want to learn something new."

Next fall, Nancy will graduate with a minor in French. She would graduate in the spring if she worked at the Hatfield Marine Center, but she sacrificed a term to do crew instead.

"You just schedule for it," Nancy says. "If you really want to do it, you can."

## D'Anna Piro - balancing the load

*Finding Forrester* and *Dodgeball* and to the books *Jane Eyre* and *Dave Barry's Complete Guide to Guys*.

"Life is good," she says, "and deserves to be celebrated."

D'Anna, however, never needs that random jolt in her family. The five-membered Piro clan has always been close, continually eating family dinners as far back as D'Anna can remember. She doesn't need to be aggressive there. Her father, mother, two older brothers, and she are perfectly content with playing Rummy, Taboo, or Uno. The fun is in the family.

"We always pick on each other," D'Anna says. "And fight."

Gymnastics, school, and family are routine for D'Anna. After all, they've all been a part of her lifestyle since she joined the Multnomah Athletic Club 15 years ago. For D'Anna, life is good and always has been.



But if she ever needs a distraction, she looks to her favorite event – the uneven bars.

"When I'm up there, I'm very focused. I can block out everything in life and in gym."

Photos by  
Stuart McKim

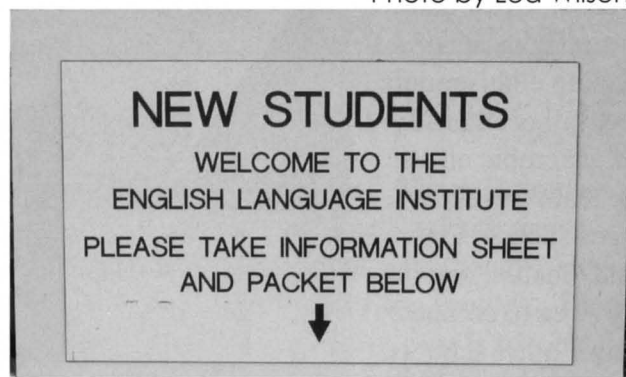


## Wilson - Why OSU?

normally seem “culturally inappropriate.” Another part of their education unique to the ELI is the conversant program, pairing each ELI student with an American student with whom they spend time, learning slang and informal English. This is an opportunity they might not otherwise have, since students may live with roommates who speak the same language. ELI also offers a way for more timid students to test the American waters in a group setting, and helps them to deal with culture shock.

Candace Pierson-Charlton is the co-curriculum and homestay coordinator for the ELI, and she and her family also serve as Faculty in Residence at West. She said, “Students want to see if American culture is like what they see on TV—it isn’t.” Healey added, “Corvallis is just not New York or L.A.” So what do students find once they get here? Living in a residence hall, Pierson-Charlton sees the best and worst of this cross-culturalization. Unfortunately, foreign students find some Americans are unhelpful or just do not care about other cultures. She stresses this certainly is not everyone, and great and lasting relationships are built between students of all countries. Next year, West Hall will be entirely cross-cultural, pairing American students with foreign, and Pierson-Charlton emphasizes how much we can learn from each other. We have the opportunity to be “armchair travelers” just by getting to know these students who choose to come to our country. She said many conversants feel

Photo by Lea Wilson



like they get more out of the experience than the ELI students do.

I find this reflected in all the exchange students I talk to. Hitomi Yamazaki, my fall term conversant student from Japan, spoke with great excitement about her Korean roommate. And Miyuki said that the first thing she likes about being here is making American friends.

“People who like it here enjoy the friendliness of Corvallis and OSU and appreciate the small town quality that helps them focus on studying,” said Healey.

Miyuki also wants to experience “new American people and new things,” listing Tennis Club and the Japanese Student Association among what she enjoys most here. I had to ask Miyuki: “Do you like Oregon or Texas better?”

“Texas,” she said without hesitation. Glancing toward the window she looked back, sheepish. “I don’t like rainy days.”

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## Headrick - Cornered

Come talk to me about being involved with the University Theatre, seriously. E-mail [cheadrick@oregonstate.edu](mailto:cheadrick@oregonstate.edu). Come on down!!! And come see *A Doll's House* (Ibsen's classic, set in 1955 Dallas, Texas) May 12-14 and 19-21. Or if you are on campus this summer, come see *Steel Magnolias*, which I am directing. Oh yes, I also just directed *Treehouses* and acted in *Infinite Variety*. Did I tell you I was busy.....

University Theatre (541)737-2853

Box Office (541)737-2784

Box Office open 12-5 M-F for Mainstage shows, 12-5 W-F for Lab shows the weeks of production

Season Tickets Available!

Check the website (<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/theatre/>) for information about auditions, the season, theatre courses, etc.



# Tunisia: Not Just Camels

## *But they have that too!*

by Douglas Van Bossuyt

Yes it's true. Tunisia does have camels. In fact, it has a lot of them. Tunisia, a Maghreb (North African) state, is located on the ancient caravan routes that spanned the Sahara supplying Imperial Rome with gold, spices, slaves, and other more exotic treasures. That's not all that Tunisia has though.

Tunisia is only about 150 kilometers away from Sicily. This has long made Tunisia an easy target for foreign powers. First the horsemen tribes of the East swept across Tunisia somewhere before 1000 BCE. A few hundred years later the Phoenicians set up shop. Rome came to control Tunisia after three long and bitter wars, which ended in the complete destruction of the capitol city of Carthage. Rome ruled Tunisia off and on from 146 BCE until the Islamic conquest of Tunisia in 647 CE.

The marks of Rome and of the Phoenicians can be seen all across Tunisia to this day. At almost every large town and many small villages Roman or Phoenician ruins can be seen or are known to be under foot. Many of the oldest mosques of the country are built with columns scavenged from Roman ruins. In the Grand Mosque in Kairouan alone there are 414 of these borrowed pillars.

With the coming of Islam, Tunisia came under the rule of yet more foreign powers, this time from



Photos by Douglas Van Bossuyt

the East and, occasionally, from the West. In 1881, France took over Tunisia just as it had Morocco and Algeria several years earlier. Tunisia still bears a heavy mark from French occupation. Finally, in 1956, Tunisia was granted independence. This was the first time since the horsemen of the East came out of the Libyan Desert that Tunisia was under its own self rule.

Today, Tunisia is a vibrant quasi-socialist and quasi-democratic state sitting at the crossroads between the Arab world, Africa, the Mediterranean, and Europe. The current president, Ben Ali, has ruled Tunisia since 1987 when the first president, Habib Bourguiba, "retired" due to old age. President Ben Ali just won a glorious victory at the ballot boxes in November, capturing an astounding 96 percent

of the vote for a third term in office. Okay, so democracy here might not be perfect, but at least people are voting.

Now back to the camels. When I first came to Tunisia I expected to see a camel in every garage and tied to every lamppost. Instead, I found that the vast majority of camels reside in the south in the desert. Tunis, the capital city and where I live, doesn't have many camels. In fact, I haven't seen any! The real spot to see camels is in and around the desert oases of the south. Douz is a particularly good spot to go camel watching. You can even ride a camel if you want; I rode one back in November. And, yes, I have seen a camel parked in a garage.

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## Moser - Day in the Life of Joe

ing the Office of Academic Affairs, in person or by telephone and email.

One of Joe's prime agenda items is the creation of a scholarship for UHC students.

Joe has a midmorning meeting with Assistant Dean Bill Bogley, at which they discuss, among other things, curricular requests made by faculty and students.

Joe then liaises with donors by telephone and email, exploring potential new opportunities for the UHC. One of these possibilities is a small travel grant for UHC student theses proposed by Anita Summers, who has become affectionately known as "Grandma Honors" for her dedication to the UHC. The fund has been established as an endowment, though usable funds are still a year away.

After lunch, Joe again meets with Diana to discuss budgetary and staff issues. By 3:00, he is discussing new initiatives with various staff members.

In early spring, this includes the process of UHC admissions, overseen by Carolyn Oltman, the UHC admissions specialist. Joe paints admissions in shades of black, white and grays: the students who obviously deserve admission, those who obviously don't, and everyone in between. Twelve to fifteen slots in each UHC entering class will go to students whose scores might be lower but who have unique extenuating circumstances or have "written their way in" with a compelling essay.

"We won't sentence anybody to their past histo-

ry," Joe says, "but help them live up to their potential."

Joe's day ends with another check of his email and a return to his gerontological work. Many days, he's at the office until 6:00 p.m.

In addition to busy days like this one, Joe often finds himself on the road for the UHC.

"[Travels to] five cities in three weeks have left me in town about two or three days," Joe observed jokingly. Often, this travel is for recruitment purposes as Joe travels within Oregon and even to other states in search of high-achieving potential Honors students. Sometimes, though, it has other purposes.

During the first week in April, Joe went to Spain in order to plan an international exchange program in which the UHC will participate. Universities involved will be OSU, San Francisco State, University of Miami, and University of Salamanca in Spain, Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, and Universitat of Heidelberg. The exchange program will focus on study in fields such as health, public policy, and aging. It will also "'internationalize' existing curriculum," Joe explained.

When Joe is in Corvallis, however, he urges students to come to him if they have problems or concerns about the UHC.

"That door is always open for a reason," he says, noting that students have made an "intellectual and monetary investment in OSU" and deserve to be treated appropriately.

"Nobody ever goes away from here with their issues unaddressed," Joe said with pride.

## Did You Know...?

### ***UHC Students can use the Graduate Student Multimedia Presentation Center***

#### ● ***What can I do there?***

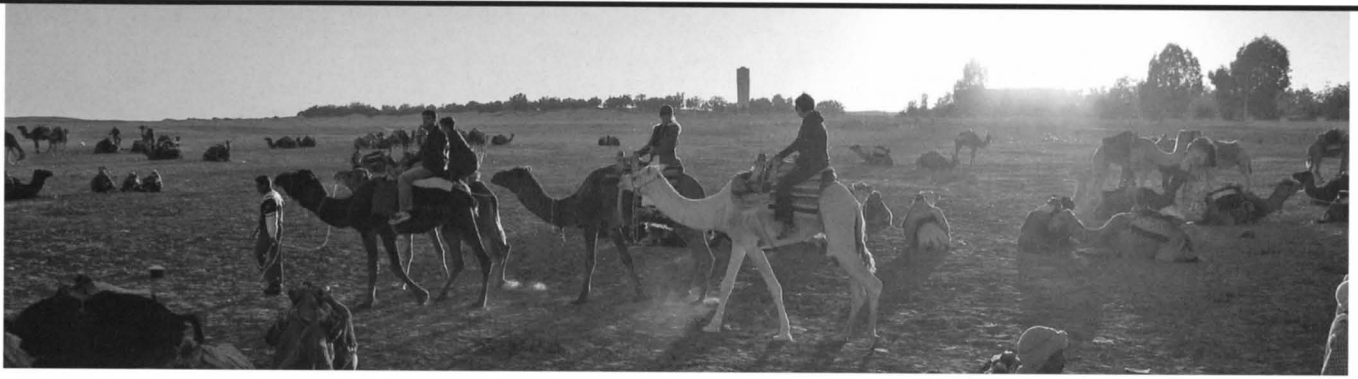
You can print posters for your thesis or classes, as long as you are the primary author. You can also check out equipment, like laptops, multimedia projectors, camcorders, and digital cameras. For more information, check the website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/is/gsmnpc>.

#### ● ***Where is it located?***

Valley Library, Fourth Floor, Room 4062

#### ● ***When can I use it?***

Spring Term Hours: MWF 9:00-5:00 and TR 9:00-2:00, 3:30-5:00.  
To contact, email [GSMPC@oregonstate.edu](mailto:GSMPC@oregonstate.edu), or call 737-7964.



## Van Bossuyt - Tunisian Exchange

Tunisia has more than 1600 km of coastline which means that, aside from a desert country, it's also very much a Mediterranean country. Houses decked out in white and blue in Sidi Bou Said, a ritzy neighborhood outside Tunis, look like they could be from anywhere in the Mediterranean basin. I've spent many an evening and some late nights sitting in one of the outdoor cafés drinking tea, talking with friends, and watching the sheesha pipe smoke rise into the warm night air.

Aside from all of the tourist attractions, the people of Tunisia are quite an interesting lot. Just about anyone from anywhere could pass themselves off as Tunisian. Tunisia has had so many different groups of people come to visit and stay that the people don't fit into any one group or classification. As long as I wear a hat to hide my American haircut, everyone here thinks I'm Tunisian. Of course, when I open my mouth, they know I'm not!

I've been studying Arabic for nearly three years now and I can tell you that it seems the more I learn the farther away I am from mastering the language. I'm studying Modern Standard

Arabic, something that you'd think would mean the language is standardized. This is not the case. North African Modern Standard Arabic pronounces several letters differently from Middle Eastern Modern Standard Arabic. To complicate matters further, people don't actually speak Modern Standard Arabic. Instead, they speak local dialects using many different words and, often times, different grammatical structures. It's a good thing I like a challenge!

*As long as I wear a hat to hide my American haircut, everyone here thinks I'm Tunisian. Of course, when I open my mouth they know I'm not!*

Many people have asked me why I decided to study Arabic and why I came to Tunisia. I used to have a bunch of grandiose ideas but being in Tunisia made me realize that I just wanted to do something out of the ordinary. Being only a mechanical engineer sounded so very dull and boring. I decided that I needed to expand my horizons. Arabic and Tunisia have provided the means for me to go well beyond the traditional engineering education. When I graduate from OSU, I plan to return to North Africa and the Middle East as an expatriate. I've fallen in love with the place, the people, and the culture. Let this be a warning to anyone thinking of going abroad! It's addictive!





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# Independent Study

## TV Time is Time Well Spent

by Rachel Claus Hector

I have my Emmy dress picked out: a black Vera Wang with a scoop neckline and smooth skirt that flows out of beautifully sweeping fabric. Or maybe it will be an Elie Saab, a whirlwind of colors draping elegantly off of my shoulders. Even a simple, white Ralph Lauren halter-top would suffice, as long as it looks perfect when I walk up on stage amid a crowd of my closest friends, drowning in wild cheers, and joyfully accept the award for Outstanding Television Drama Series.

Of course, that's a little ways off. Right now I'm studying—television, that is. I am a student of the four-act structure, the spec script, and the dialogue that is music to my ears. As a student should, I grouch about reality shows and idolize the likes of Aaron Sorkin, Jack Orman, Amy Sherman-Palladino, Deborah Cahn, and David Zabel. I don't go out; heck, I don't even go anywhere between 8 and 11 p.m. Sunday through Friday. Even though I have TiVo, there's something magical about watching a new episode

when it was meant to air. I read the Nielsen ratings, the Hollywood Reporter, the online TV forums: I am a true student of the beautiful medium that is broadcast television.

I consider myself to be a TV geek. Because a book is referenced in a show, I'll go out and read it just so I can spot the parallels the writer meant for me to find. When I see an outstanding episode of a show, I'll go online and write an extensive review, a critical analysis of the way the episode was written. Movies, sure, they're okay; they can even be a pretty satisfying art sometimes. But tele-

I watch much more than the average three and a half hours a day.

When you think of a person who watches that much television, you probably think of a couch potato with no future who has nothing better to do than live vicariously through the lives of the doctors on "ER." You think of a person who doesn't read, someone who cringes at the sight of a novel and hasn't read a book since being forced to in eighth grade. You imagine that college kid who has abandoned studying in favor of something

just a little less taxing: popping potato chips and clicking the remote control. When you think of that person, you get a picture of someone who is nothing at all like me.

I am a college student with two majors, one science and one liberal arts—Honors, no less. I read

voraciously, and I pay close attention to the news and politics. I am well traveled, well educated, and exercise



vision, in the scheme of things that are important in my life, comes in at about equal value as my family, my friends, and my schoolwork.

*Continued on page 18...*

# Determining the Morality of Online Cigarette Purchase

A student essay by Mandi Wilson

What's a smoker to do? Though their habit is disparaged by those who do not share their vice, the existence of smokers in the U.S. cannot be denied. The nation's anti-smoking climate represents a cause of frustration for this segment of the population, largely because of the high cost of cigarettes imposed by lawmakers who levy high taxes on them. In addition to the three dollars and ninety cents received by the federal government for every carton (ten packs) of cigarettes, states charge their own taxes, up to twenty-four dollars for every carton in New Jersey ("State Cigarette and Sales Taxes"). In Kentucky, with the lowest rate, the tax is thirty cents a carton; Oregon's per-carton tax is twelve dollars and eighty cents. The suggestion has been made to increase the federal tax by twenty dollars a carton (*ibid.*).

Because people are still interested in buying cigarettes—one estimate places the proportion of U.S. smokers at a quarter of voters ("Information [ . . . ]")—and because smokers balk at paying such hefty fees for their tobacco, a new means for obtaining cigarettes has surfaced. Now cigarette stores that can sell relatively inexpensive cigarettes because of their locations in cheap cigarette-tax states or on Native American reservations are providing websites where their cigarettes can be bought. Customers then have their purchases sent directly to them.

Although the federal govern-

ment receives its excise money no matter what state a carton of cigarettes is sold in, Internet sales are not state-taxed. Therefore, for instance, for every carton a New Jersey smoker orders online, the state loses twenty-four dollars in taxes. In 1949 the Jenkins Act went into effect, which requires cigarette sellers who send cigarettes across state lines to provide information about their customers to state governments (Jones 3-4). If a state knows who has purchased cigarettes without paying the proper tax, it can bill the smokers for the past taxes; thus states have an interest in making sure that the Jenkins Act is followed (Jones 8). Research in one article claimed that five percent of cigarette retailers conducting business online or by catalogue followed the Jenkins Act requirement of reporting consumer information ("Information [ . . . ]"). Sellers on Native American reservations "argue that they are not required to charge state cigarette taxes or report sales to state tax departments" (*ibid.*). Non-reservation sellers claim that paying their own state's cigarette tax is sufficient because "the sale takes place in the state in which their shop is located" (*ibid.*).

Aside from tax issues, Internet cigarette vendors cannot examine buyers' driver's licenses to check that they are of age for tobacco purchase. Customers are left to

abide by the honor system, signifying through their use of the vendor's website that they are over eighteen.

The question is, are online tobacco sales moral or immoral?

First, looking through a consequentialist's lens, what can be concluded from a rule utilitarian analysis: would more total happiness result from smokers following the rule that 'utilizing online cigarette purchase to evade excise taxes is acceptable' or from smokers following the law that taxes should be paid and using conventional means to obtain their cigarettes? A careful examination of the situation reveals that many people can be considered affected parties to some degree. These parties include smokers, online retailers, traditional retailers, state governments and their employees, and ordinary citizens who benefit from the services their state governments provide with monies gained from various tax sources.

The availability of cigarettes online motivates some smokers to stop purchasing them from traditional stores. Convenience stores' sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products can make up a third of their business (Eilperin).

*Continued on page 16 . . .*



If business suffers, workers may be laid off. Convenience stores might even be forced to close or reduce their offerings, presenting an inconvenience to their customers. On the other hand, if online retailers go out of business from lack of sales, it is probable that less total harm would be done because they form a smaller industry than convenience stores and so have fewer customers and employees to be adversely affected. However, in the case of tobacco sales proceeding from the Allegany Seneca Reservation in New York State, a portion of which are online sales, over 1,000 people are employed in connection with the enterprise (Adams). As Native American reservations have historically had high rates of unemployment, the further loss of jobs could be demoralizing.

RJReynolds' My Smokers' Rights site states that as of 2001, 20.8% of adult Oregonians smoke. If Oregon's adult population is around two million, then about 400,000 smokers reside in the state. These 400,000 people collectively pay \$154,600,000 in excise taxes per year (2001), which does not include money that cigarette companies pay to states due to the tobacco settlements (ibid.). This \$154.6 million would represent about one and a half percent of Oregon's General Fund, which goes to pay for human services, public safety, K-12 and other education, and miscellaneous programs (Oregon Archives Division). The average Oregonian smoker pays \$289 per year in cigarette taxes, or \$24.08 per month (RJReynolds). If benefits from cigarette tax revenue were distributed among all Oregon residents, numbering approximately 3 million for the sake of simplicity, the average gain would be valued at \$51.53 per person per year. Because smokers receive benefits from services provided by taxes, their net loss through cigarette tariffs to the state would be about \$237.47, or \$19.79 per month. Given the current struggles surrounding the state budget and the harm that can be caused by further program cuts, it seems that a twenty dollar burden per month tied to the consumption of a certain product on twenty percent of Oregon adults is a lesser harm than a fifty dollar loss of services for each Oregonian every year.

While a \$289 loss to cigarette taxes each year may seem like a harm to a smoker, it could instead be a benefit. Logically, the more expensive the habit of smoking becomes, the more encouragement is provided to quit. "The Internet sales really do have the ability to offset the impact of excise taxes, which is one of the best ways to get smokers to quit," according to Mary Hrywna, who oversaw a public health study in New Jersey on online cigarette purchase (National Association of Convenience Stores). The act of quitting tobacco carries far more utility than smoking, as the risk of smoking-induced diseases represents a major harm to smokers and their loved ones (as well as insurance companies and the state, who may have to pay for their health care).

How about a non-consequentialist view? How would a Kantian analysis treat this issue?

First, what is the will behind the actions of the customers who buy cigarettes online? While some cigarette smokers may have rationally come to the conclusion that cigarette and other existing "vice" taxes constitute unreasonable discrimination and should therefore be banned, most people who purchase cigarettes online to avoid state excise taxes are probably primarily thinking about saving themselves some money. They may be suffering from smoking addictions and unable to afford high-priced cigarettes. They may simply want to smoke because they enjoy it, and they want to find a good deal on cigarettes. In any case, the customer's will appears not to be good, but rather focused on securing benefits for the self, although how much control the smoker has over the desire for cigarettes would depend on the presence of an addiction.

Are smokers who purchase cigarettes online following a rule that they would want everyone else in the world to also embrace, as the first formulation of the Categorical Imperative requires?

Purchasers of online cigarettes who don't pay their state's tax are acting according to the rule that one need not pay a tax that the law commands one pay. If this rule were universalized, no one would feel the obligation to pay taxes. In the absence of the use of force to collect taxes, governments would be bereft of funds with which to govern and provide services to

*Continued on page 18 . . .*



Oregon State University obtains many of its boasting rights from its engineering programs. One branch of this field is bioengineering, a field of engineering that focuses on materials that work with the body.

Inside laboratory walls is a whirl of bioengineering-related research that few are aware of. Even I, a bioengineering major, didn't know of the research activity within Gleeson, the center for us "BioE's," until I was fortunate enough to work in lab room 306.

In January 2005, I began to work for Jeff Tai, a doctorate student in chemical engineering. He was working on the purification of nisin, an anti-bacterial protein that is extracted from lactobacteria found in cheese.

This material has recently gained attention because of other microbes' inability to gain a resistance to it. Anti-microbial agents such as penicillin kill bacteria by interfering with their ability to synthesize a cell wall. Nisin attaches to the cellular membranes of other bacteria and penetrates into the wall like water splitting open rock. The cell bursts open due to internal osmotic pressure like a submarine that has been punctured deep underwater. For a cell to develop a resistance to this would be like a building developing a resistance to demolition balls. It is

virtually impossible for a cell to evolve its structure without compromising the functions needed to survive (McGuire).

This unique property of nisin interested Dr. Joseph McGuire, who coordinates the research done around it. Because many problems arise from fighting bacterial infections in medical instruments inserted into the body, the ability to utilize nisin would benefit humanity all the more.

The instrument in focus in McGuire's research group is the suction catheter. Catheters are tiny plastic tubes inserted in the body to supply it with nutrients or remove wastes. Suction catheters are usually placed within a breathing tube to clear the airways of secretions in critically ill patients. Although these tubes are inserted sterile, the likelihood of patients developing pneumonia is high (Bothwell). This is due to the inability of the body's immune system—its main defense against infections—to fight anything "outside" of bodily functions. White blood cells do not jump into catheters to disinfect them.

Patients who have been infected with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* are placed under antibiotics such as penicillin. Unfortunately, these antibiotics have helped to develop superbugs, bacteria that have become resistant to conventional antibiotic treatment (Kovalich). It is ideal to be able



Photo by Drew Watson

to prevent the infection and should this safety guard fail, to devise a means to successfully eliminate the problem.

Initially, the method of preventing infection was to dip the catheter into nisin and then place it in vivo into, say, a pony at OSU's veterinary research hospital. Unfortunately, the nisin washes away in less than six hours, hardly long enough for an in-patient who stays in the hospital for days or even weeks on end (McGuire).

Here the necessity for research comes in. Our research team is

*Continued on page 18 . . .*



## Hector - TV

daily. I would say that I have a brilliant future—thanks, in part, to the large portion of my education I can credit to television shows. So a part of my future is that one day, I'll be writing for television. The television drama, to me, is the most beautiful art there is. The restrictions are many, the industry is cutthroat, the bad is really bad, but the good...well, the good is art.

There is definitely a place for television in my life, and in the life of anyone who enjoys it in a healthy way. Watching television makes me happy, and if I weren't happy, I wouldn't be so successful in life. Over the years, I've endured the attacks, the requests to go out and do something more "fun," and the disgruntled looks I get when I tell people to be quiet during the primetime broadcast. I've heard the word "obsessed" tossed around a time or two, and I know what people are thinking to themselves when I say that I want to spend a part of my life creating something they think is so pointless. I've met all different kinds of people, and everyone reacts differently when I talk about television as an art form. I know most people would never see it that way. I make a mental note to cross them off my Emmy invitation list.

## Wilson - Technology and Morality

their people. It is highly unlikely that smokers who look to save money by buying cigarettes online would be willing to go without such services as police protection, public schools, or road and highway maintenance. Thus the rule that excuses online cigarette purchase leads to a hypocrisy that demands that others follow tax laws while the smoker ignores them. This demonstrates using others as a means to an end (the second formulation of the Categorical Imperative).

Finally, how does social contract theory relate to the issue of online cigarette purchase and not paying the cigarette tax? Law-breaking undermines the social contract, and is thus immoral; smokers looking for inexpensive cigarettes are not breaking the law because they are "compelled to follow a higher-order obligation" (Quinn 173). Is the cigarette tax just in the first place? Smoking diseases cost money to treat, and if sick smokers are uninsured, someone must pay for them to be treated. If the government has to pay extra money because smokers have ruined their bodies, it is just that the government should levy an extra tax on them.

Although it may not appear so at first glance, evasion of the state cigarette tax through online cigarette purchase constitutes a life-and-death matter. With reductions in tax revenue, governments begin corresponding reductions in the services that they provide. Though governments spend money on unnecessary expenses, some funds go to programs that literally save people from dying. If enough smokers avoid paying cigarette taxes, states will not have the money needed to support various programs. Furthermore, by not paying the tax on cigarettes when purchasing online, smokers reduce one motivation (expense) to quit smoking, which ultimately could result in their untimely deaths. Both a utilitarian and a Kantian analysis support the idea that the online cigarette trade is immoral, and the social contract theory approach also backs up the claim. Internet cigarette sales may have seemed like a great idea at one time, but like a number of money-saving ideas, this one was too good to be without its catches.

*The above piece was a sample from the Winter Honors CS391H, Social and Ethical Issues in Computer Science.*

*Cited literature for the above article may be found at:  
<http://oregonstate.edu/groups/chronicle/issues/Spring2005/>*

## Kim - Bioengineering at OSU

trying to find ways to better extract nisin from commercial products and to increase the antimicrobial stability of coated materials so they will be effective for an indefinite length of time (McGuire).

Our team so far has made progress in obtaining sufficient quantities of relatively pure nisin and stabilizing nisin on certain surfaces. It is my job to help in established methods to filter and check the effectiveness of the nisin. Lab work is very interesting.

*Cited literature for the above article may be found at:  
<http://oregonstate.edu/groups/chronicle/issues/Spring2005/>*

# I Don't Think, Therefore I am Not??!?

by Naaman Horn

Recently the College of Liberal Arts (of which I am a proud member) distributed water bottles prominently sporting the saying, "I think, therefore I am... a Liberal Arts major." Of course this phrase is a modified version of an original quote by French philosopher and mathematician René Descartes (1596-1650). Descartes originally said 'I think, therefore I am.' Well actually, I believe he said it in Latin, which would sound something more like 'cogito ergo sum.' But, regardless of the language, the meaning remains the same.

When faced with Descartes' assertion via any medium, be it higher education or water bottle, one must ask: what happens in the opposite case of this assertion? If thought equates reality and therefore existence then what happens in the absence of thought? I am not trying to start a philosophical debate about the meaning of life, truth, reality or any other comparably ambiguous term. Great minds have spent many centuries debating these very issues; this rigorous debate has resulted in... well, more debate and the stimulus for many a thesis and dissertation. While I do not pretend to know the answer to these questions, I find Descartes' philosophy an interesting lens through which to view my college career.

Over the last four years at Oregon State University I have taken a variety of classes such as art history, chemistry, calculus, ethics of rhetoric, tectonic geomorphology, etc., etc. Although I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at OSU, like many of my peers I have wondered just how much of this information will be directly applicable or useful when I get out of college. Is higher education nothing more than a rite of passage, a meaningless journey full of trials and tribulations that one must endure in order to be an accepted member of progressive society?

But just seeing Descartes' bold statement on my water bottle makes me reconsider my somewhat cynical analysis of the higher education system. While I may never again directly apply Aristotle's artistic proofs, or randomly feel the need to differentiate an equation, college has nonetheless positively influenced my life. I may not retain all the information that I have gleaned from my illustrious college career, but I will leave these hallowed halls with something much greater than the knowledge I have gained.

College has cultivated my ability to be a critical thinker. No longer can I take a politician's speech, a news report, an advertisement, or even scientific research for granted. I analyze every stimulus my senses consume. Where the world was once black and white it is now a myriad of color and shade. And, I now have the choice to accept, deny, or amend information in order to fit my carefully nurtured paradigm.

Oregon State University has changed the way in which I think. If indeed thought equates existence then I am a butterfly hatched from a cocoon of ignorance, born into a bright new promising reality. I think, therefore I am... an Oregon State grad!

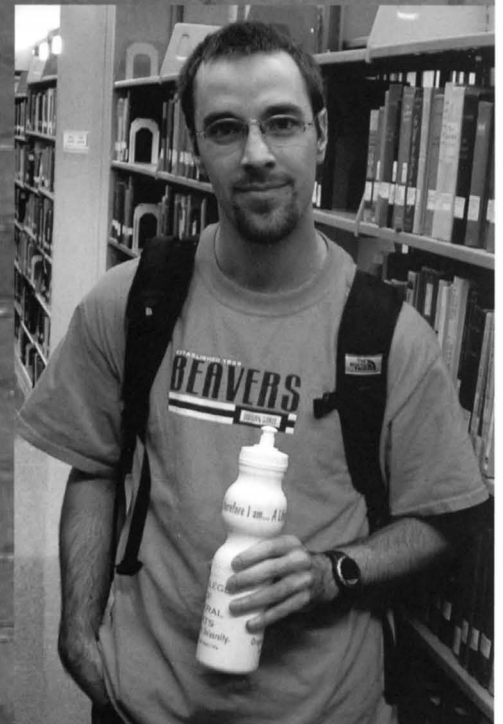


Photo by Stuart McKim





# Recommended Websites from Honors Students

<http://www.thehungersite.com>  
[http://www.usccb.org/cchd/  
povertyusa/](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/)

~Mandi Wilson, liberal studies  
(behavioral science)

<http://addictinggames.com>  
<http://homestarrunner.com>

~Annette McFarland, Sophomore,  
English

<http://russianinternet.com/radio/>

~Jordan Strawn, Senior, computer  
science

<http://www.petfinder.com>

~Janis Kuzma, Senior, animal science

<http://www.apple.com/trailers>

~Tom Wall, Senior, Civil Engineering

<http://www.motors.ebay.com/>  
<http://supercars.net>

~Jacob D. Cramer, Freshman, interna-  
tional business and German

[http://www.landmark-project.com/  
citation\\_machine/index.php](http://www.landmark-project.com/citation_machine/index.php)

~Maarika Teose, sophomore, Math-  
ematics

<http://www.sephora.com>  
<http://www.gap.com>  
<http://www.oldnavy.com>

~Leah Pepin, senior, history

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