

Texas Travesty: Hey...hello... HELLO?!? Could you take me to Red River and 7th, please?

Rob McElroy: How about you let me finish my whiskey sour and stogie? You pedestrians think you can boss all of the pedicab drivers around.Well, let me tell you something. Nobody can tell me what to do. My father couldn't do it, my parole officer couldn't do it, and you certainly cannot do it either. Now where the fuck are we going? TT: You still haven't even finished

vour drink RM: Very observant, Einstein. I was merely establishing my dominance in this relationship. If you want a pedicab driver who's going to wipe your mouth and give you kisses, then go see Doug down on Barton

Springs for an ultra lame trip. But if you're riding with "Rough and Rowdy" Rob McElroy, then expect a fair amount of action, adventure, and a little bit of blood. TT: Wait, are you really a pedicab driver?

RM: Technically, no. I lost my certification last year when I took a hill too fast and hit one or more Boy Scouts. I haven't

enough business lately to fix my brakes, so you're going to have to drag your shoes on the pavement so we can come to a complete stop. Also, I'm missing a wheel.

Turn-ons: downhill destinations, out of towners, Rage Against the Machine, whiskey, yellow lights, stogies, shortcuts through the park, loose women, exact change, the smell of burnt rubber, lightweight customers, the open road

> five, stingy pedestrians, that dirty Yellow Cab cuts you off, children, slow guy who drivers, people who want to see the damn bats, small talk, other people on

> Turn-offs: Snakes, actual snakes, parties of

bikes

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SHOUT OUTZ TO...

Andrea yelling HEY!, Rec, where zombies don't wear ok the time to tweet, all the writers who nt to the OU game, EER VE GO!!!; Mrs. Johnson game like a pussy; Nintendo at Marshall's house; Big Vodka Daddy Kyle—don't the cookies look good! Fucking Zak, who finished all the cookies within ter ninutes; Suzanne needs a car; Bill Cosby, you got a lotta nerve; Broken Lizard knows Thej; Free Texadelphia not worth it; Evan Pearson; Good ol' Fritz; The House of Torment was more literal than expected; Chris Phelps choking on deez nuts; Roland Alonzo is almost too cool Central Market Chili < Wendy's Chili; A-Ha's "Take on Me"; Dan's Blood Runnings; Aaron's Iron Lung; Annie's a

around campus

- I shall choose trick! En garde, you candy hoarding fiend!
- I've got a fever, and the only prescription is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pain reliever.
- · Congratulations, Parkour. You've given Austin dudes yet another reason to take their
- In this economy, simpler costumes save money, so expect to see a lot of "stressed-out twentysomethings struggling with sexual

frustration" at your Halloween shindig.

- Linguistics professors still can't contain their amusement over the word 'diphthong'.
- Everybody will agree that they prefer corn on the cob, creamed corn, and KoЯn to candy
- Stoner Jews sabotaged the holy Sukkot holiday by hotboxing the tent in the West Mall.
- · If you got excited to finally own all three cows: pink cow, brown cow, and original cow, then you're probably a horrible, horrible human being.
- Batman has been spotted on campus. Austin has a very high Batman population. If you a see a Batman on campus, do not touch him, and immediately contact University Health Services.
- Being a C-League volleyball intramural champ won't win her heart, bro.
- Riverside residents have a great sense of humor about local crime, but only after they triple-

Halloween

check the deadbolt and reload their shotgun.

- •1/100,000th of your tuition was just spent buying President Powers a pack of Skittles.
- · Students well versed in the word "fail" and its best placement in conversations still don't comprehend the penis and its best placement into the vagina.
- · Stadium event staff will be shocked when they find Bevo pounding the Chick-fil-A cow in the bathroom during halftime.
- I guess Mr. Weather saw you in your wool cap and sweater and decided to send a cold front
- · Merely saying "OU sucks" fails to acknowledge that they also blow, blunder, and, on occasion, dabble in the fine arts.
- · Mark your calendar; online registration for next semester starts once all the classes you want are full.

In This Issue...



Pro-choice children's book character shooting down every stork in sight



Gold speculator puts down Bigfoot cited Golden Retriever for failing to retrieve gold



Balloon makes daring escape from deranged







Power walker kicks it into low gear



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NEWS • 3

Downsizing company introduces "Bring Your Kid and Make Them Work" day

J<u>on Neal</u> staff writer

AKRON—Local tire manufacturer Treadwell Wheels observed what company President Alan Gainesboro is calling its first official "Bring Your Kid and Make Them Work" day last week in order to fulfill labor needs after a string of layoffs within the company.

The event is an adaptation of the traditional "Take Your Daughter to Work" day, which was originally observed by the company on the third Wednesday of April. However, the company's recent labor issues have forced the children of employees to stamp time-cards and work up to twelve hours at the office.

"We used to have this nifty tour where visiting children got to see Research and Development, enjoy craft time, and even eat a slice of cookie cake," explained systems analyst Jeff Harden as he greeted the new 12-year-old security guard, Johnny Vasquez. "But when George in the sales department got laid off last quarter, we decided that we could give kids a real-life education on how to take part in the work force."

"And also get some free labor," added Vasquez.

Parents participating in the program are eager for the opportunity to introduce their little workers to the tire industry, combining both hands-on job experience and quality family time.

"Junior finally gets to see how Daddy pays for the colorful breakfast cereal he enjoys so much, and since he is already on the health insurance plan, it really helps the company's bottom line," said Jordan Bishop from Marketing as he showed his son Brian, 8, how to visually inspect for splicing imperfections and why he should not put screwdrivers in his mouth.

"Mommy says that my little hands are perfect for machine calibration," reported new child employee Patricia Swells. "But I will be in sooooooo much trouble if I don't fix that defect on the rubber prototype before 5:00."

While most employees have embraced the new holiday as another chance to interact with their kids, the company has faced nationwide scrutiny for exploiting child labor. Treadwell Wheels have denied all allegations, and claim that the special holiday does nothing but educate children on how to be proficient tire factory employees.

"We wanted to avoid outsourcing to other countries, and as far as cheap labor is concerned, it doesn't get any better than hiring your own kids," explained sales manager Tom Davis as he showed his son how to refill the water cooler. "Having a 6-year-old who just wet his pants as your coworker is much better than having to deal with those know-it-all college interns," added Davis.

"Mommy says that my little hands are perfect for machine calibration."

The young professionals seem upbeat and optimistic about their new employment opportunity. "It's really easy," claimed nine-year old Travis Jacobs. "It's a lot easier than convincing [Mr. Jacobs] to let me stay up and play video games. Plus, instead of going to school, I get to play with big machines."

Vacation days and health benefits have not yet been provided for the new employees, but the company has reportedly been in talks to begin providing lollipops-and-a-half for every hour of overtime.



■ This boy is headed to Mickey's for a tall, frosty pint when he gets off work.

School of Business makes strides in educating students on how to effectively dismantle economy

Matt Ingebretson EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AUSTIN—Despite budgetary cutbacks and a recent string of layoffs, faculty at the McCombs School of Business have vowed to continue taking steps in educating students on the most effective ways to drive the US economy into oblivion.

The McCombs School has established itself as one of the top schools in the country at which to learn how to enter highly lucrative business ventures that could potentially lead to the destruction of financial systems as we know it. The Dean and his staff have made assurances that they will continue to uphold that standard.

"Our goal is to ensure that every graduate leaves the McCombs School of Business fully prepared to handle all challenges presented in the business world, and that they understand how to properly take unnecessary risks with volatile financial securities," said Dean Thomas Gilligan. "We employ the best professors in the country who are fully adept at educating students on the fundamental ways they

can exploit the stock market for personal gain and, in the process, achieve total macroeconomic destruction."

"I personally guarantee that a Mc-Combs student will be an integral part of the next major US economic failure," added Gilligan.

"I personally guarantee that a McCombs student will be an integral part of the next major US economic failure"

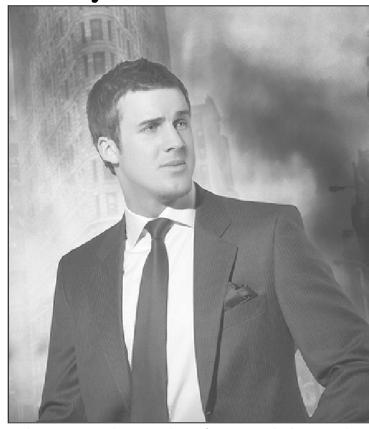
In recent years, much of the business school's curriculum has been restructured to comply with new governmental regulations that inhibit the ability of investors to tear open regulatory loopholes that allow short-term, unsustainable gains, while simultaneously destroying any chance of long-term, stable economic growth. However, many professors find the

government's stricter financial policies to be unfair.

"It's been a challenge teaching students how to maneuver through the ever-tightening legislative actions in the world of investing," said Finance professor Eliza Hershwell. "Ever since they put the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in place to prevent more so-called 'Enron incidents,' it's been nearly impossible to teach students how to finagle the system to make millions of dollars at the expense of America's financial security."

"'Nearly' impossible," added Hershwell with a chuckle. "I've still got a few tricks up my pant-suit."

Marketing professor Jennifer Andrews explained how her course work has adapted to reflect a more modern economy: "An integral part of our new curriculum is an emphasis on group work. Many employers have reported that the best dangerous investment decisions come from well-educated men and women working together to find ways to cripple the American financial system. And not just for the here-and-now, but for the long term



■ This aspiring young business student can't wait to start his first Ponzi scheme.

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US students score ahead of world in recess aptitude tests

<u>Michael Prohaska</u>

MANAGING EDITOR

WASHINGTON—American educators and parents have been in a state of celebration due to the release of a report by the International Student Development Center that ranks the United States as number one in recess aptitude tests for children aged 5 to 11.

"The US surpassed the average score in every area, dominating former powerhouses such as Germany and Kenya in remarkable fashion," explained ISDC chair Norm Frinkley. "American pupils should be proud of their accomplishments and can be certain that they will be able to put their recess skills to good use someday."

"From now on, studies in geography will be replaced with sandbox time."

The study took a sample of young boys and girls across the globe and measured their aptitude in overall sliding

course

Struggling professor

CAMPUS—After realizing that he had taken on too much work for the semester, a panicked Professor Richard Labenski contacted the Office of the

Registrar last Friday and attempted to Q-drop the World Literature class that he was teaching. When he was told that professors are not allowed to drop

courses they are teaching, Labenski responded by skipping class for the re-

attempts to Q-drop

speed, monkey-bar hanging proficiency, dodgeball throwing and a wide variety of other recess activities. Researchers made sure to account for outliers, such as boys who went through puberty early and girls who sit by the fence and play with Barbies for the entirety of recess.

US teachers have attributed their success to a willingness to regularly extend recess past its normal 30-minute allotment, which they feel is especially helpful when kickball games go into overtime.

Brooking Elementary School gym coach Gene Wisakowsky did his part in increasing students' recess abilities by placing a greater emphasis on playtime in gym class

"We were going to do some running exercises, but then I figured that they were just kids and they should just play some games by themselves," said Wisakowsky. "I think my 'hands off' approach has really taught these kids a valuable lesson, even if I have absolutely no idea what that lesson is."

Serbia, which ranked near the bottom of the list, has already taken steps to improve its standing in recess aptitude rankings. Among the many reasons cited for the incredibly low-rankings were the inability of students to stop working hard and excessive focus on academics,

which must be rectified in order for Serbia to catch up with the United States.

"The Serbian government greatly regrets devoting so much time and resources to subjects such as arithmetic, science and social studies," said Stefan Simović, president of the Serbian Board of Education. "From now on, studies in geography will be replaced with sandbox time."

"And as a supplement to sandbox time: mandatory duck-duck-goose every morning," added Simović.

Other countries have also struggled to match the success of the United States' recess aptitude in recent years. French Minister of Education Jacques Devereux shared his resentment of the US at a recent conference, where he blamed inconsistencies in the scoring of games of hopscotch for France's drop to 18th place in this year's study.

"Despite obvious errors in scoring, it appears as though our children are simply not as adept as the Americans in the subject of recess," said Devereux, who has already made significant policy changes in the area of wall-ball. "But mark my words: we will force our children to have more fun on the playground—only then will they learn to love the red bouncy ball and the jungle



■ This girl is the top monkey-bar hanger in her grade. Photo Creative Commons

Man not sure what to make of homeless guy urinating on him

AUSTIN—UT junior Colin Siu stood confused on the corner of 24th Street and San Gabriel yesterday afternoon as a homeless man was urinated on him. "I was walking down the Drag and decid-

ed to stop and check my iPhone when I felt it," explained Siu. "Yeah, I don't really know what to make of this. I should probably burn these clothes; his urine smelled like Windex." The homeless

man, who refused to speak with reporters, reportedly urinated an excess of two minutes. As of press time, the homeless man in question was defecating on a brand new Schwinn bicycle.

Lucky child finds listing for free candy on Craigslist

WESTLAKE—Local nine-year-old Bobby Sanders was having a very special day Thursday when he stumbled across a listing for free candy on Craigslist, a popular website for community events. "The man said that he had free Gobstoppers in the back of his white van," said the child as he waited by himself near a dumpster for the candyman to arrive. "My mom always said not to take candy from strangers, but Craigslist said it was okay because he was dealing locally." According to the listing, the mountain of candy could only go to a very special little boy with dark brown hair and big blue eyes, and preferably to a child no older than nine, which confirmed the child's suspicion that the candy was meant just for him.

Daring student unplugs iPhone without ejecting it first CAMPUS—In an act of unparalleled computer, LaSalle looked deep inside in her hand. "It was like I was on

cAMPUS—In an act of unparalleled bravery, political science major Kim LaSalle unplugged her iPhone from her MacBook without first disconnecting it from the iTunes menu. Despite repeated pop-up warnings from her

herself and summoned the courage to simply remove the white cord from the bottom dock of her phone. "I don't know what came over me," said LaSalle as she stoically held the cord in her hand. "It was like I was outside myself—I've never felt so alive." As of press time, LaSalle was contemplating whether or not to iron her silk blouse with a hot iron instead of a cool one like the tag said.

mainder of the week. "My students completely dominated my exam—the class average was 98," said Labenski. "It was so embarrassing. I just don't think I'm cut out to teach English. I'd rather be doing RTF." There's no indication of what Labenski plans to cover for the duration of the course, as the syllabus he distributed at the beginning of the semester had nothing but a large "TBA" printed across the top.

TATTLETALING SINCE 1997

Student to join whichever organization serves Jimmy John's at meetings

CAMPUS—After attending meetings for various student organizations across campus, Sam Manhower decided to join the one that serves Jimmy John's at every meeting. "It was a tough decision," said Manhower as he put an extra roast-beef sandwich into his backpack. "I can't tell you how close I was to joining the one that serves Chipotle. It was one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make in college." As of press time, Manhower was seen exiting a UEC meeting holding two party-trays of assorted fruits and dips.

Impatient serial killer tired of waiting in bushes for next murder victim

AUSTIN—Notorious serial killer, Leathermask, grew impatient yesterday after waiting for hours in the bushes outside of accountant Stephanie Wright's home so he could brutally massacre her with his chainsaw. "Christ, she's taking forever," said Leathermask as he finally resigned to sitting down. "This is getting ridiculous. Some people have absolutely no concept of time. I have places to be." While waiting in the bushes, Leathermask bought some new apps for his iPhone, but spent most of his time torturing whatever small animals he could find. As of press time, Leathermask was walking to the neighbors' house to see if there was anyone else he could murder.

Study: New lamp looks best in dining room

ARBORETUM—A new study by the Franklin Household Council of Inquiry has concluded that the lamp recently purchased from Ikea by Paul and Shirley Franklin looks best in the north end of the dining room. "We're tremendously excited with the results," said Shirley Franklin, wife of Paul and head researcher for the council. "Soon we'll have double-blind, peer-reviewed and scientifically concrete answers for every decoration option in the house." The study was conducted as part of a larger investigation by Mrs. Franklin, who also sought to determine the correct ceiling fan speed, comfortable soup temperature and proper spooling of toi-

Fork clean enough for local man



WEST CAMPUS—Local man Robert King decided to use a moderately dirty fork last Wednesday, stating that the utensil was "pretty much clean." Although King had proper cleaning supplies and plenty of free time to adequately wash the fork, he decided that it was sufficiently clean and proceeded to eat his bowl of Chef Boyardee ravioli. "I gave it a quick look, and after I flicked off a piece of shredded cheese that was stuck to the side [of the fork], I decided that we were good to go," explained King as he licked the remaining tomato sauce from the lid of the can. "It's not like I'm going to get AIDS or anything." King has also come under fire in recent months for repeatedly wearing dirty underwear, which, according to King, "are good for several days if you don't get too sweaty."



Ultimate Frisbee game particularly "ultimate"

AUSTIN—Players of the regularly scheduled Wednesday night game of Ultimate Frisbee noted after the game that this week's match was, for some reason or another, particularly "ultimate." While none of the players could describe what was different about this game, they unanimously agreed that it was much more "ultimate" than usual. "I don't really know how else to describe it," said James Langley, one of the players in the game. "It was just exceedingly ultimate—like, there was a mind-blowing amount of ultimate in it." After the game, the players walked past a game of Frisbee Golf and commented on all of the ways in which it was not "ultimate."

Ambulance-chasing attorney actually in need of medical attention

SANTA MONICA—Power attorney Ricky Ambrose, a notorious ambulance chaser, was spotted at 7th and San Vincente Boulevard earlier today running behind an ambulance and pleading for medical attention for his life-threatening injuries. Despite Ambrose's critical conditon, the emergency medical staff questioned his cries for help and refused to fall for the lawyer's tricks again. "I'll

tell you what; those lawyers will do anything to get in the back of the ambulance and hustle up some clients," explained paramedic Dave McCradic. "Look at him: crying, flailing his limbs, coughing up blood...he's really starting to make me sick." As of press time, Ambrose was found lying at the scene with a weak heart rate, which no one was going to fall for again.



Name: Veggie Heaven-Display; Width: 22p9; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black, Veggie Heaven-Display; Ad Number: 00037094

Name: Trey Kaliher DDS; Width: 22p9; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black, Trey Kaliher DDS; Ad Number: 00036204

Belligerently drunk man shows light post who's boss

WAXAHACHIE—After exiting Marty's Pub on Wednesday night, a belligerently drunk Frank Brewster stopped in front of a light post and claimed that the post called his mother a "filthy lion whore." "My mother is a goddamned

saint, you son of a bitch," said Brewster to the 20-foot-tall light source. "I'm gonna hit you so hard you ain't gonna be able to feel your feelings or stuff no more." Brewster then charged at the light post and accidentally bashed his head against the concrete base, rendering him unconscious. This was not Brewster's first drunken late-night confrontation as just last week he had a stare-down with a Coca-Cola bottle that reportedly gave him the "stink-eye."

6 · INTERVIEW

Texas Travesty Interview

David Cross

By Matt Ingebretson

David Cross is a comedian that you're afraid to say something stupid around. His hilarious and pointed comedy and unflinching drive to ridicule everything from right-wing politics to the Virgin Mary has left no doubt in anybody's mind that he is one of the most ambitious comedians in the industry. While Cross is most recognizable from his roles in cult hits Mr. Show and Arrested Development, he has played roles in numerous movies (Scary Movie 2, Men in Black, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind), released CDs (Shut Up, You Fucking Baby! and It's Not Funny) and written books, including his most recent effort I Drink for a Reason. He is also releasing a pilot TV show made with Spike Jonze and Will Arnett called The Increasingly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret, which will come out in the UK later this year. The Travesty recently got a chance to talk to Cross, and we found the conversation to be smart, funny, and surprisingly informative.



Photo by Marina Chavez

Texas Travesty: You grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. Did your reaction against conservatism begin at a young age? When you were in elementary school, were you calling people out on intelligent design?

David Cross: It was literally at the hospital when I was in an incubator. My doctor, who delivered me, was against a public option and I didn't understand why. Well, part of me didn't understand why because the concept of language was new to me and I was just kind of crying constantly. I spent those first couple days crying. Anyway, I looked the doctor up when I was ten and went over to his place, but he had died a couple years earlier but was still there—he had been stuffed. And we had a sit down and had a heart-to-heart. I think that's really when I became what would be considered "progressive," I guess. I hate the word "liberal", but I'll take it.

TT: At what point did you realize that you wanted to be a comedian?

DC: Actually, it was about a month ago. I was at a little grocery store upstate where there were a lot of farm stands and stuff like that and they had this corn stand. And I wanted some corn, but I didn't have

enough money. But it occurred to me, "What if I do an hour of stand-up, and then they give me the corn?" And they said yes, so I did a quick hour and then thought, "You know, there's something to this. I could probably parlay this to get fresh corn." So that's when I decided to be a stand-up [comedian].

TT: When you started doing stand-up about a month ago, what was your experience like? Did you develop your persona right away, or did it take you a little while to pick it up?

DC: No. I ordered it over the Internet, and they give you a kit that's sort of like a mix and match thing. And I took certain elements that I thought were cost-effective, and this is what I came up with from their kit.

TT: So it was purely a business decision?

DC: Yes.

TT: When you set out to write a joke, are you just trying to make people laugh, or do you start out with a point you want to make and derive a joke from that?

DC: I sort of want to make a point, but not all jokes have to have a point to it. I mean, I never write, per say. I have ideas that occur to me and I'll write them down on a piece of paper and the bring that piece of paper on stage and sort of write while I'm

on stage and then do a bunch of sets and then take the sets and say, "well, these jokes and observations worked, and these didn't." And then that eventually becomes the set. So that's my writing process. I don't really sit down and go, "Ok! I'm going to write ten jokes about whatever today."

TT: Have you ever had to perform in front of a mostly conservative audience that is probably not very receptive to your style of comedy?

DC: Oh, God yeah. My first 12 to 15 years were like that. I grew up in Atlanta—that's where I started doing stand-up.

TT: So did you mostly just disregard the reactions you were getting and keep going with your set?

DC: Yeah, yeah. That's fun—being in front of pissed-off people that you don't agree with or don't have a full amount of respect for. And it's only a combination of believing in what I'm saying and also having a sense of humor about it. A lot of people don't have, and this applies to liberal-progressive people too; they just don't have a very evolved sense of humor. And it's fun to rile them. There are plenty of left-wing people who don't care for me as well.

TT: I recently read a blog that

listed the top 14 replacements for Jon Stewart. You were number eight. Do you think you would enjoy doing a show like that?

DC: Yes and no. I think I would be a little frustrated in not being able to do other things because of how much time that would command. I really do like my bike right now where I work in two-speed for two or three months on this thing and then I step off and then I get to do stand-up and then I get to work on the show in London and then I fly back home. I would be hesitant to give up that life—it's quite enjoyable. But just as far as doing that kind of thing, I think it would be a lot of fun. In a way it would be a little bit much. But I'm only number eight, so there's seven other guys ahead of me.

TT: You recently wrote a book called, "I Drink for a Reason." Did you enjoy writing a book versus doing stand-up comedy? It seems like it would give you a chance you stretch your legs instead of being confined to an hour-long set on stage.

DC: Yeah, that's definitely implied. I do enjoy doing standup more than writing. The process of writing is solitary and there's no feedback—comedian feedback. It's a much different form of communication. But I'm happy with the book and I'm glad that there's this permanent, tangible thing that you can pick up and that's not going to go away. Whereas a stand-up set, each one is different and they're fleeting and temporary. I mean, I'm happy with the end result of the book, but the actual writing process was not nearly as much fun as a stand-up set.

TT: Did you not get a chance to sit back and sip scotch late at night and...

DC: [Laughs]. No. Well, I probably did actually. That was occasionally part of the process. But, you know, it was over two or three months. I was really busy.

TT: You do a lot of comedy at rock shows. What's the difference between performing along side bands vs. at a typical comedy club?

DC: Well, there are several

differences. In a comedy club, you're restricted to a certain amount of time, and the audience, it's not an all-ages show, and you don't set the ticket price. And there's like a two-drink minimum. Whereas in the music clubs I controlled all of those things and can create a fuller show.

TT: I was listening to an audio version of a very pointed, open letter from you to Larry the Cable Guy. What is the history of that disagreement?

DC: I was approached by Rolling Stone and did a brief interview where they asked me some stuff about Larry the Cable Guy. Then they printed it in this article about him and took a rather inflammatory remark I made and then printed that, and then Larry the Cable Guy wrote a book where he had a chapter about me and people like me and the liberal, "PC" left. He kept referring to me as the figurehead for that broad, brushstroke of left-wing, liberal PC. And I'm about as un-PC a comic as you'll find. I mean, it's absurd. So then I wrote the letter in response to the chapter in the book and posted it online.

TT: Could you tell me a little about the project you're working on in London?

DC: It's a pilot I shot for Channel 4 that I wrote and am starring in and created with a production company up there. It will air at the end of November, I think, in the UK. And I'll know by the end of the tour whether or not it's getting picked up and going to series or not. But I'm very happy with it. It's very funny.

TT: What's it about?

DC: It's called "The Increasingly PoorDecisions ofToddMargaret," and it's a lot of fun. The cast is crazy good. Ridiculously good.

TT: How often do you make it to Austin? I know you're going to be here later this month to perform.

DC: I used to go to South-by-Southwest all the time, but I think I'm kind of over it now. I love Austin and I have really good shows there, and it's one of the handful of places that I really look forward to on a tour. It's always a good time there.

www.texastravesty.com

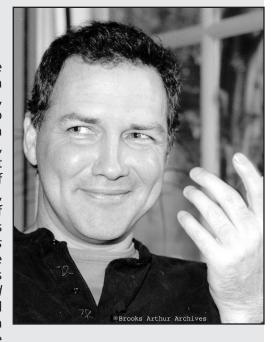
TATTLETALING SINCE 1997

Texas Travesty **Interview**

Norm MacDonald

By Matt Ingebretson

Norm MacDonald doesn't seem to care whether or not he gets a laugh. With a seasoned wit and disarmingly blunt delivery, MacDonald garners respect in the stand-up community for his willingness to explore a wide (and sometimes esoteric) variety of topics, regardless of the outcome. His commitment to comedy brought him from the clubs of Canada to a career in film and television, including a memorable run as anchor of Weekend Update on Saturday Night Live (he's only person to receive approval from *Update's* originator, Chevy Chase), a starring role in the cult film Dirty Work, and roles in films such as Dr. Doolittle with Eddie Murphy and Screwed with Dave Chappelle. The Travesty managed to get a hold of MacDonald and received an education in dealing with hacky fifth-grade humorists and the business side of comedy.



Texas Travesty: You are the quintessential smart ass. Were you a smart ass or a class clown growing up? Norm MacDonald: No, I was not. I was extremely the other way. I always loved comedy, but I would notice in school that the tremendously unfunny guys were the ones who people considered funny. So that was very frustrating. I would be kind of quietly saying something and not get any response, and then some hack would be the funny guy [laughs].

TT: So you were already identifying hacks when you were in the fifth grade?

NM: I hated them so much. The class

clown was always the hacky guy, you know? But he'd be the guy getting all the girls and the funny guy at the party. And I'd just be seething quietly to myself [laughs].

TT: Do you think your comedy was underappreciated when you were younger?

NM: Yeah, I would talk kind of quietly and people would look at me. I always had the kind of comedy that girls would look at me and say, "You're weird."

TT: So you were not a ladies' man growing up?

NM: No, not at all. They thought I was retarded or something.

Name: El Greco: A Greek Taverna; Width: 22p9; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black, El Greco: A Greek Taverna; Ad Number: 00037188

TT: When did you start doing standup comedy?

NM: I started doing it eighteen years ago.

TT: Do you feel that the stand-up comedy scene has changed much since you started doing it?

NM: Yes. I think there are too many comics. I think there were too many comics when I started, as well. See, I never knew there was this comedy club circuit when I was a young boy. I thought there were only a few comics such as Bill Cosby, Robert Klein, George Carlin and Richard Pryor. When I was a boy, there were only about fifty or sixty comics around and only five or six of them were good. Now, there are about five or six thousand comics and only five or six good ones. It's not like supply and demand works in this scenario. Just like comedy writers, people began to do stand-up as a way to make money rather than be funny. When I went to Saturday Night Live, I met a couple of guys who were genius writers, especially Jim Downey who had been at the show from the very beginning. He went to Harvard and took Russian literature or something like that. Sometimes he would write something down for the Harvard Lampoon. He was tremendously smart and funny, and the Lampoon consisted of genius writers who eventually went to Saturday Night Live, The Simpsons and so forth. Eventually people began going to Harvard to become comedy writers. It wasn't just super geniuses that happened to be funny; it was guys on purpose knowing that, if they had the Lampoon listed on their CV, they could get work.

One time we did a sitcom with this

older guy who was very funny. They wanted to fire him because he was 70, but he was so funny. He told me that when he started out people thought he was a retard. When he told people that we wanted to get into comedy, people were like, "What the hell?" He was just this odd duck who was a funny guy. It wasn't like he thought he'd make money or anything. I think that comedy went off track when it became a big business.

TT: So you don't think that comedy is something that can be learned?

NM: No. Unfortunately, the craft of it can. For instance, when I was in stand-up I would go to clubs and then come back to the clubs and recognize the opener on stage. I would ask, "Who is that guy?" and they would tell me that he was the door man. So, people can observe and learn the tricks of comedy. It's almost like if you see a magician, you know what I mean? You know he is not sawing that lady in half! It's still very impressive, but you know that he buys his tricks from the magic store. Now, if you saw an actual sorcerer like Richard Pryor, an actual guy that is funny and has notes for everything, those are the guys who astonish me. The guys who throw away all the tricks and are genuinely funny, you know?

TT: Whenyousitdowntowritecomedy ,what's your writing process like? Do you sit down with a newspaper? Do you watch other comedians? What's your approach?

NM: I started out lame like everyone else, but what I try to do now is try to take a subject... I kind of do long form comedy. I try to take something that I find interesting. When I was younger I was doing this show, really funny jokes, but on inconsequential subjects. I was talking to [Sam] Kinison and he said "You can talk about anything you want on stage. If you want to talk about a fucking dog that you owned and how it was different from a cat, go ahead. It's your life, if you really find that interesting to you." That opened my eyes because I wasn't interested in the jokes that I was doing. I was pretending to be interested in them.

I started looking at comics—and I love Jerry Seinfeld—he takes the minutiae and blows it way out of proportion. He's very upset about a sock or something. So, that is a funny way to go, but I realized, after Kinison said that, that that's not really what interests me the most. The greatest comedian that I ever saw was Pryor. He would just talk about things. So I tried to work more towards that way. So, what I try to do now is whatever honestly interests me. I kind of try to ruminate on that subject for as long as I can, and if I can find some dissonance—like for instance just

yesterday I was thinking about my friend who is a vegetarian. Now this is not very funny, but I know it will be very funny when I've figured it out. But I suddenly realized, as I was talking to this girl, who I always kind of thought was nuts, and I suddenly realized as she was talking to me that I agreed with her. Ethically, it's not right to kill animals if you don't have to to survive, but I will never be a vegetarian. I do now kind of believe it is akin to murder, but I'm willing to do it for a juicy Carl's Jr.

TT: Yeah, no doubt. I feel the exact same way.

NM: I know that there is comedy right there in that dissonance between what I do and what I believe in my heart. I know there is comedy in there and I know that if I ruminate long enough, I know that I will have fifteen minutes of material on that exact subject, because there are things that are always percolating in the back of your mind that you are too lazy to catch and grab. It's very hard to be aware of what you're thinking of because you are just thinking of it in the moment.

I never write stuff down or anything like that. People will come up to me and say "Do you remember that thing you said? It was so funny." And I go, "I said that?" I just told them as I was talking. And I think, "I should've written that down or something. That's what I try to do now. I just try to really stick on a subject and go over and over and over it until I have it. My comedy has become very long form. Last time I brought up the death penalty, and in two weeks that went to eight minutes. As long as the subject is important enough—I shouldn't say important—as long as the subject is interesting enough, then I can find variations on the theme. A thousand variations on the theme. Just attack it from every possible angle.

TT: Do you improv much on stage?

NM: I improv a great deal. It's good, for me especially, because I have basically, no moment. So when I

for me especially, because I have basically no memory. So when I used to write jokes word for word, I had them so rote that I could hardly deliver them because I was so into trying to memorize the perfect wording. I really admire comics who have perfectly structured jokes, but I don't have that. So what I do is I have the idea, and then I go on stage and just talk for as long as I can until they stop laughing. And then usually well beyond when they stop laughing. Then eventually it winds down and becomes very strong after that. have to take a beating before I get

Read the rest online at www.texastravesty. com!

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HIDDEN PICTURES BANK\$

Can you find these things hidden in the picture above?

ended up in a gun fight •That cop who was a total bitch and gave you a DUI that one time when you were only a little buzzed

•Puddle of Mountainberry Punch Kool-Aid •Goldfish dying in puddle of Mountainberry Punch Kool-Aid

SCIENCE CORNER

In today's world, science is becoming ever more important, and being able to do science is a good skill to have. Here are some science experiments that you can try on your own!

How to be your own balloon boy



Have you ever wanted to go flying through the air like the original ballon boy almost did? Follow these instructions and you can be your own balloon boy:

- One balloon Determination

as you can!

- 1. Grab the biggest balloon you can find.
- 2. Stretch the balloon until you can pull it over your head 3. Once the balloon is pulled over your head, blow out air
- 4. After it's inflated, get a running start and jump as high

Now you're the balloon boy!

How to kidnap a scientist

to make them do the projects in science corner for you

Sometimes the experiments in the Science Corner are too hard for you to do. Whenever that happens, the solution is to kidnap your own scientist. Here's how you do it: Materials: Butterfly net Microscope

Tranquilizer

1. Place the microscope in a place where there are a

lot of scientists and wait until one walks up to it. 2. Sneak up behind the scientist while he is looking over the

specifications of the microscope, capture him with the butterfly net, and place him in a giant iar.

3. Scientists need oxygen, so be sure to punch holes in the top of the jar before going to bed.

4. Tell the scientist to do the Science Corner experiments. If they refuse, withhold food until they comply or starve to



Advice for Kids, From a Kid!

Wise William is back again to answer all your burning guestions!

How do I get the blonde-haired girl in Social Studies to notice me?

You should try to be the tallest boy in class. Also, you should pull her hair and trip her dur-

What's happening in my pants?

Did you just walk past Michelle Bergursong while she was on the swings? I think your pants get angry when you see girls. I heard that girls drool a lot.

What happened to mommy's face?

One time, my mommy came home from the hospital with bandages all over her face, but later on she was okay. Her face looked way skinnier after, and her nose was different too. think that sometimes old people get new noses because their old noses get plugged up with legos. Sometimes, I put legos in my mom's nose when she's asleep.

How do I make Mommy and Daddy get back together?

The first obstacle in getting parents back together is eliminating the New Boyfriend. I suggest playing a lot of tricks on the New Boyfriend, like shooting him with a Nerf gun and putting worms in his underwear drawer. That should teach him a lesson.

Is there food that doesn't come in cans?

Sometimes my mommy brings me a bag with a burger and fries from Mr. Jack's Box. Mommy really likes the tacos. My friend Jimmy says his mom only sucks on ice cubes. So, burgers, tacos, and ice cubes don't come in cans.

Where did grandma go?

My daddy told me that when we get old we all have to go to a happy place far away where we can all live well with all of our friends. He said that we will have all the food we want and do whatever we want to do! I think it's called Hamilton Oaks, and it's in Florida.

Doofus, Daniel, & Schmaniel -

Doofus spends all of his

Doofus doesn't wash his

hands after he plays.

Doofus forgets to put his

Daniel saves his money.



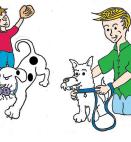
Schmaniel's piggy bank is his best friend.

Schmaniel likes to put his Daniel is always pet iguana in his mouth



Daniel always puts his doa on a leash

Schmaniel hates it when his parents put





CENTERSPREAD • 9



Refrigerator ◆Puppy ◆Invisible gun ◆Italy ◆Bunny money ◆Frightened Jesus ◆Old man with dementia who has no idea how he

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10 • FEATURES TEXAS TRAVESTY • OCTOBER 2009



Someone is Following You Home

It was a dark and stormy night, and Katie hated leaving campus so late. She got inside of her 2009 Mercedes S-Series that her dad purchased and headed back toward the Tri-Delt house. Suddenly, this guy in a really big truck pulled up behind her and started following really closely while flashing his headlights every couple of minutes. Katie took unexpected turns and even ran red lights, but the guy kept following her. Finally, she pulled into the Tri-Delt driveway and jumped out of the car screaming. Her sorority sisters came outside to see what was going on. The guy in the truck pulled in right behind her and yelled, "Stop! Don't go inside the house!" Katie asked him, "Why not? Is there an axe murderer in my backseat or something?" The guy in the truck shook his head. He simply thought Katie was a sweet piece of ass and wanted her number. They ended up dating for four years before breaking up because Katie wanted to go to law school and he wanted to go to medical school, and they didn't want to do the long distance thing.

The Story By the Guy Who Didn't Know Where He Was Going With it Vefore He Started the Story

It all started on a dark and stormy night, and there was this bad guy. Like a really mean guy, right, and he was like this serial killer who was just like super scary and stuff. Um...and then there was this girl that he wanted to kill. And then this one night he tried to kill her but she was all like, "No, don't kill me! I don't want to die yet because I need to go to college tomorrow," and then he was all like, "MWAHAHAHAHAAA, I have a giant knife so I don't care what you think!" And then she was all like, "No! What if we go back to my place and I do you!" And he was like, "Yeah...let's do it."

Cool Runnings: Fright Sled

On the dark, impoverished island of Jamaica, four men were joined together by fate. Unknowingly, they would be sent to the frozen hell known to the ancients as "Canada." Their only guidance came from a reluctant Ogre, a beast that stood 20 hands high, weighed 100 stones, drank mead by the barrel and was a former disgraced Olympic athlete. The Ogre forced the unsuspecting men down a never-ending frozen path, where they flew into the dark unknown and were equipped with inferior brakes. The men crashed and the only survivors were Senka's lucky egg and the men themselves. As demons from all the land chanted on, they marched on the frozen path to the finish line, with a moral victory as their only prize.

Terror on San Pedro

One dark stormy night, your roommate got angry at you and pissed in your shampoo bottle...AND YOU NEVER FOUND OUT.

The Silent Killer

On a dark stormy night, Lilly walked to her bullshit Anthropology class that she hadn't yet attended that semester. When she found a seat in the auditorium, her professor revealed that today the class would be taking their mid-term. In sheer panic and terror, Lilly sat next to the artsy kid with square glasses that looked smart. Once she received the exam, she carefully reached into her bag but realized she didn't have a No. 2 pencil or a blue book. Terrified, Lilly sprang towards the doors of the exam room, desperate to Q-drop the class, but the deadline to do so had passed and her GPA was MURDERED! She was then eaten by zombies shortly after.

The Haunting in the Student Union

One dark and stormy night, a famished student waited in line at Wendy's for 10 minutes only to discover that they only had Frosty's available in vanilla. Fucking vanilla.

Name: Buffalo Exchange; Width: 34p6; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black, Buffalo Exchange; Ad Number: 00037027

Name: Lite Foot Bikes; Width: 22p9; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black, Lite Foot Bikes; Ad Number: 00037165

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TATTLETAILING SINCE 1997

Brand New! Google Mave

What's a Google Wave, you ask? Why, it's the future, you see! Sure, it's 2009, but with Google Wave you'll feel light years ahead. Google Wave provides beauty, performance, aptitude, longevity, fantasy and sheer value all in one

on technology inside Google Wave means you'll never be out of the loop again! Wellcut and gently trimmed, Google Wave is available at respected retailers in your town.

The In-Crowd is using Google Wave! At the heart of every Google Wave is the swingin' space-age power of Wave-On Technology. Have you gotten your Wave-On lately?

Ladies, Google Waves are not just for the men; you can use them too! Keep in touch with fellow homemakers by chit-chatting about the latest ways to clean the house, prepare meals, and grant your husbands every wish. Ensure that your husband continues to love you by purchasing a Google Wave today!

Hop on a bandwagon and buy a Google Wave! Sure, you could get by with your old Google,

but who would want to when there is a Google Wave about to crash down on top of you? Get on a Google Wave as soon as possible! Here's what people have been saying about Google Waves:

"I tried to surf on a Google Wave, but after an hour of it I realized I was standing in the middle of the study wearing nothing but my swim trousers and singing the Beach Boys!"

-Marty Saunders, Satisfied Customer

"You could do business without Google Wave. But why on Google Earth would you want to?"

-Lawrence Jacobson, Editor of Time Magazine

"There be a dark magic in those Google

Waves, and I don't trust 'em. I don't trust 'em one bit. I've been praying every night for God to come down and kill the Google Waves before they get too powerful."

—Melvin Lymans,

-Melvin Lymans, Concerned Citizen

Brought to you by the most trusted company on the World Wide Web.

ose Google Mom! It's a Google Wave!

Name: Ellen Noble - RE/MAX; Width: 34p6; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black, Ellen Noble - RE/MAX; Ad Number: 00037187

Name: Koi Sushi; Width: 22p9; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black, Koi Sushi; Ad Number: 00037184 12 • FEATURES

TEXAS TRAVESTY • OCTOBER 2009

TRAVESTY's

ollege Football Tour 2009

The Texas Travesty caught up with our old pal, the Sports Wizard, to

discuss sports, wizardry, and how to deal with unruly apprentices who don't even know how to conjure fire. We were delighted to hear the Sports Wizard recently took a trip across the country to visit college campuses in preparation for this year's football season. Here are the Wizard's personal diary entries and photos from the trip.

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL

"The first stop on my college tour was to the mythical land of the Floridians, where I visited my old apprentice Bobby Bowden and discussed receiver depth as well as how to avoid those pesky NCAA academic inspectors."



Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK

"When I asked wide receiver Dez Bryant about his recent NCAA suspension, he replied, 'What's a Deion Sanders?' I knew he was lying; I used my powerful mindreading abilities to find out what he was actually thinking: he'd had chicken fried steak at Mr. Sanders' house the other night and still thinks that Stillwater is a terrible place to live."



University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN

"After meeting with Lane Kiffin, the head coach of the Volunteer football team, I discovered he had absolutely no idea how to properly coach a team. I mean, how many teams hold practice on a tennis court? His wife, however, was well-versed in the 'magical arts'—she had two very large mystical powers in her blouse, if you catch my drift..."



Waco, TX

"Despite using all the mystical powers within me, I was still unable to get the Bears to a bowl game. That would take more power than all of the wizards combined."

Notre Dame

South Bend, IN

"Leprechauns. Let me tell you why I hate leprechauns. Ever since the great Leprechaun-Wizard War of the Golden Age, leprechauns and wizards have battled endlessly over the coveted Pot of Gold that resides at the end of the rainbow. As it is well known, the Wizards had always possessed the Pot, but those pesky paddies stole what truly belonged to us centuries ago. Henceforth, all leprechauns became the mortal enemies of Wizards. So I came to Notre Dame to tell everyone that they're jerks."

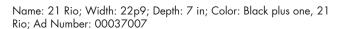




University of Oregon

Eugene, OR

"I simply asked the Oregon Duck offense about their lack of a rushing attack, and this brute came out and punched me in the face. I decided to give him a four-month suspension from the Magic Kingdom of Aranthon."





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TEXAS TRAVESTY • OCTOBER 2009



Name: Texas Spirits - trade; Width: 58p0; Depth: 5.75 in; Color: Black, Texas Spirits - trade; Ad Number: 00036688

OPINION • **15 TATTLETALING SINCE 1997**

Well, when you explain it that way, I still have absolutely no idea what you're talking about



Geoff Payne

You know, I never thought of it like that before. Normally, most things make sense to me, but every now and then I find something that I have trouble wrapping my mind around. That's why I come to you for help. I was struggling with this concept for my philosophy class, but then you explained how it parallels a 7th-century

It was at that exact moment when I realized that I have absolutely no clue what you're talking about. I totally

I usually don't have too much trouble understanding things. Kant's theothe exact moment you told me how

Nietzsche's ideas relate to a boa constrictor strangling its prey that I lost faith in my ability to comprehend anything ever again.

Has anybody ever told you how good you are at turning complex theories into complete nonsense?

I want to get back to what you were saying about The Stranger by Albert Camus. So, you're saying that the main character is like a blind King Henry

"Ok, I think I might be starting to ... nope. That makes no sense to me. My brain feels numb."

VII, that his best friend is acting like he's a tree without bark, and that the love interest is like a bit of volcanic rock in the Pacific Ocean?

Ok, I think I might be starting to... ries were a piece of cake. But it was at nope. That makes no sense to me. My

Do you girls want to go clubbing and talk about the side effects of this new birth control pill?



Lauren Patterson

Hey ladies! I'm so glad we finally got a chance to have a night out on the town without our boyfriends. Don't get me wrong...Brad's a great guy and I totally love him and everything, but I just need a little time for my girls and a few rounds of Cosmos. Lately, I've been in such a bad mood around Brad. I thought I was just PMS-ing really badly, so I asked my doctor about it. She prescribed this great new birth control pill called Uteraz.

Uteraz is a new kind of birth control pill that may increase potassium levels, so don't take Uteraz if you have kidney, liver, or adrenal disease, as this may—I said, DON'T TAKE UTER-AZ IF YOU HAVE KIDNEY, LIVER OR ADRENAL DISEASE AS THIS MAY CAUSE SERIOUS HEART AND HEALTH PROBLEMS. ALSO, SWELLING OR TENDERNESS OF THE BREASTS MAY OCCUR.

I said SWOLLEN BREASTS! IT'S TOO LOUD BY THE DANCE FLOOR! LETS GO UPSTAIRS.

That's better. As I was saying, before taking Uteraz you should always tell your doctor if you're on long-term treatment for a chronic condition such as cardiovascular disease or-hold on—HEY TIFFANY! TIFFANY! TEQUILA SHOTS ALL AROUND! GET FIVE OF THEM! PUT IT ON MY TAB!—or chronic inflammatory

Here's to a night out with the girls! Cheers! Woo! Jose Cuervo sure goes down smoothly, doesn't it?

Other side effects of Uteraz include mood changes, weight gain, and cramping. Also, if you experience blurred vision or soreness in your lower limbs, talk with your doctor, as those can be signs of a more serious condition.

No Tiffany...you retard! Your vision

is blurry because you're fucked up! I need another shot.

Wait... I forgot what I was talking about. Oh yeah ... Uteraz. Some studies reported like, stroke and suppression of the immune system, or something like that. So ... you should always ... hold on, Brad is calling.

Hello? What do you want, Brad? I'm out with the girls! I can't hear you! I'm busy talking about birth control and stuff. Oh, stop being an asshole. You're always being a fucking asshole and I fucking hate you. No! Fuck you! Bye.

It's important to remember that hormonal contraceptives like Uteraz don't protect against HIV or STDs such as Chlamydia. Did you hear that, Tiffany? Just because you start taking Uteraz doesn't mean you can keep slutting

Yeah, well fuck you Tiffany! Stupid bitch! I know you've been calling Brad behind my back! Yeah, you better walk away from me! Bitch.

So anyways, you should know that in some studies, Uteraz was found to cause vaginal discomfort and discharge. You know, like the kind of stuff that comes out of Tiffany's nasty bitch-

Ugh, I feel like shit. I think it's my goddamn birth control.

Learning from you is like ... something. It's like something really difficult. Something that feels kind of pointless. It's like something that makes me want to throw this book into the wall and then vomit.

Plus, nobody is better than you at seeing the similarities between something you're trying to teach and something I have no understanding of. Remember that one time when you showed me how a game of cricket and the first Russian Revolution are practically the same thing? How about when

you showed me how Italian is just like a vanilla latte? We have a long history of you completely undermining my propensity to understand things.

Can I be candid with you for a second? Sometimes when I talk to you, I feel as though I might have a learning disorder. I wish I could understand the things you say to me...I really do. But whenever you start talking I become mentally challenged. Could you

Name: Derm Research; Width: 22p9; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black, Derm Research; Ad Number: 00037181

Name: House Ads-Travesty; Width: 22p9; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black, House Ads-Travesty; Ad Number: 00036225