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Feelin' Groovy

Certainly when compared with the rest of Texas, Austin has the “grooviest” vibe of any major city in the state. Those who market the city say so, and I’ve observed plenty of grooviness there myself. Austin offers a variety of activities, places to shop, and eating experiences that cater to those seeking this vibe. With the new Whole Foods flagship store/ headquarters, Book People, Waterloo Record & Video, and a variety of shops appealing to an upscale eco-friendly market, one could spend too much time window shopping.

Of course, one also has to eat and drink. In keeping with the Austin “vibe,” you would feel awkward going someplace corporate. Not that you would want to, anyway, because Austin has too many wonderful local restaurants. (Well... we did have to get a Starbucks fix on our last visit.) You cannot go wrong with Romeo’s



Jason Neal discovering the 60s

(Italian), The Clay Pit (Indian), Chuy’s (Mexican), or Katz’s Deli & Bar. Katz’s is a New York delicatessen that “never closes,” owned by unofficial mayor of Austin, Marc Katz. For dessert, 11 branches of Austin-based Amy’s Ice Cream offer all-natural frozen delights. Diane and I usually visit the one on Guadalupe, which is catty-corner from the Groovy Lube. (Yes, even getting an oil change can be groovy in Austin.)

Austin also offers plenty of other things to see and do. Diane and I have already been to Austin three times this year. We went in January to see the Austin Lyric Opera perform Richard Strauss’ *Elektra*, and we went in April and July on TLA-related business. In April, we squeezed in a visit to the Texas State Capitol. During our more recent trip, we visited the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum. The

main level focuses on U.S. history from 1908-1973 (the life-span of Mr. Johnson), with an emphasis on the years of Johnson’s presidency (1963-69). At the end, one ends up in either the gift shop, or at the bottom of some stairs with Johnson’s presidential limousine.

Oddly enough, we could not even escape grooviness in something as stereotypically staid as a presidential library. The floor above the Johnson exhibit contains a temporary

Connections

Feelin' Groovy (cont.)

exhibit called *Signs of the Times: Life in the Swingin' Sixties*. Since the exhibit downstairs already covers political and social issues during that time, *Swingin' Sixties* looks more at the culture and (of course) the counter-culture.

Entering on the west side of the exhibit, we were greeted by the Beatles, Rolling Stones, and other leaders of the British Invasion. After passing a screen containing a succession of go-go dancer holograms, we examined mod fashions, passed a model of a typical 1960s living room, heard the sounds of Motown, and regarded excerpts from the campy comedy and adventure television series of the time.

After walking past Mohammed Ali's boxing gear, we ended up in the psychedelic room. (I was a little leery at first, but we entered anyway.) As we walked in, Jim Morrison crooned and screamed about needing someone to light his fire. It made for an interesting coincidence. Diane and I, along with my father, spent a few days the previous week visiting my oldest brother, whom I had not seen for several years. He grew up during the 1960s, and he became quite a fan of Morrison's band, The Doors. An

apocryphal family story says that my brother played *Light My Fire* so frequently that my father apparently grumbled, "I wish someone would light his fire."

As one might expect, the psychedelic room had projections of bright multicolored oozing blobs. The spectral specters flashed on the walls, as well as on anyone unfortunate enough to walk in front of the projection equipment (see illustration on page 1). It also contained artworks from the time and a multicolored Volkswagen bus. That's what I remember, but maybe I wasn't really there.

Upon leaving the psychedelic room, we saw books from the 1960s, accompanied by summaries and their cultural significance. Works by Roth, Vonnegut, Mailer, Capote, and Wolfe were hang-ups in a hallway. Moving to the audio-visual, we entered a small theater that played excerpts from Mod Movies at the east side of the exhibit. Accompanied by the flamboyant opening visuals and fired up quasi-jazz theme from *Goldfinger*, we examined posters and read about the significance of quintessential 1960s movies such as *The Graduate*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, and two of Stanley Kubrick's films (*Dr.*

Strangelove and *2001*).

Before leaving the temporary exhibit floor for the Johnson Oval Office replica, we encountered a replica of LBJ himself. As we passed by, he came to life and regaled us with a convoluted down-home yarn about some guy who had a hearing problem related to drinkin'. When he finished, an invisible audience laughed and clapped. Although we had left the slightly surreal atmosphere of the *Swingin' Sixties* exhibit, it seemed like the spirit manifested itself differently in the animatronic LBJ.

After visiting the Oval Office replica and learning about Lady Bird Johnson's works, we left the LBJ Library and Museum. We had our fair share of historical grooviness in the *Swingin' Sixties* exhibit, so it was time to soak up its more contemporary manifestation in Austin.

—Jason Neal

For more information about the LBJ Library and Museum, as well as the *Swingin' Sixties* exhibit, visit: <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/>

To confirm that I'm not making up the existence of Groovy Lube, visit: <http://www.groovyautomotive.com/>

Harry Potter Photos

Below are a few of the photos from *Harry Potter and the UTA Libraries* event held on July 14.



C.D. Walter and Donna Kelley visiting with Dr. Harold Thorsrud, guest speaker



Carleen Dolan completing the Sorting Hat Ceremony



Left: Young Harry Potter fan



Above: Evelyn Barker as Madam Malkin and Gretchen Trkay posing as a Firebolt Quidditch Broom



Carolyn Clavell, Diagon Alley Costume Contest Judge

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From the Archives: Strayed or Abducted?



Problems faced by modern educators seem uninteresting in contrast to the ones experienced at North Texas Agricultural College in 1948. Hereford's correspondence includes the following report from D. H. Kiber, Head of Department of Agriculture:

"It is with regret that I inform you that a purebred Hereford cow, tattoo No. 306, and date of birth, March 14, 1946 either strayed or was removed by persons unknown to the management from the 100 acre pasture, just west of the NTAC farm, on or about the night of July 20th. Loss was

discovered on the morning of July 21 and a careful search was made for clues which might assist in her recovery. Mr. Rice, his assistant, and the writer at intervals during the day completely walked the fence of the pasture, but found absolutely no evidence which would indicate forceful removal of the cow from the pasture. The fence was in good repair and no truck tracks or other signs of theft were in evidence."

The loss of # 306 remains a mystery despite D.H. Kiber's efforts to recover her by reporting the loss to the Tarrant

County sheriff's office, local constable, Arlington police, and the Texas Highway Patrol as well as visiting local stock auction rings.

Not mentioned in the report is the possibility that alien visitors similar to the 1947 Roswell UFOs abducted # 306.

—Gary Spurr & Lea Worcester

Source
AR258-36-12 Office of the President Arlington State College, Records, 1917-1958, Series C, E. H. Hereford.

Capital Confusion: August Library Staff Puzzle

Catalog Kate and a coworker were commenting on the fact that they had trouble pronouncing words in the titles of the scientific and foreign language books they processed. "It's not just scientific terms that I have problems with," Kate commented. "There are even some common English words that I have difficulty pronouncing when the first

letter is capitalized." Her partner thought for a few minutes and gave her a list of words that fit the description.

If you know one of the words on the list, send your solution to Lea Worcester (lworcester@uta.edu) with the word "Contest" in the subject line.

The winners of this and other contests in Connections will be determined by putting all of the correct answers in a "hat" and randomly drawing the winner. Winners will be announced in the next publication and treated to a lunch at the end of the year where they qualify for entry in the grand prize drawing.

—the Editor

Contributors to the August Issue

- Maggie Dwyer
- Mark Mustacchio
- Jason Neal
- Gary Spurr
- Elizabeth Swift
- C.D. Walter
- Lea Worcester

Are You Being Served?

For many of us, the words “customer service” brings to mind students, faculty, or even patrons from surrounding communities who use our resources. Everywhere you look there are books, magazine and journal articles, seminars, and even classes on providing quality customer service. Recently I attended *Customer Service 101* provided by Human Resources and instructed by Colin Sanor, Human Resources Representative.

“Internal customer service is the service we provide fellow employees, other departments within our organizations, suppliers and anyone else with whom we work to get our jobs done. Internal customer service refers to service directed to others within your organization. It refers to your level of responsiveness, quality, communication, teamwork and morale.”¹

Most of customer service information emphasizes the importance of external customer service. Rightfully so, customer service is one of the most important aspects of

servicing our public. However, what some fail to realize is the importance of INTERNAL customer service, the most important key to the path of exceptional customer service.

Following the recent Strategic Planning Sessions held on July 25th and 26th one gets the feeling that as we embark on our libraries’ future, internal customer service, or teamwork, may be a key to capturing the goals we wish to attain.

Karen Hopkin’s staff planning sessions shed light on the fact that even our library staff feel that our internal customer service could use some improvement. When I spoke to Karen regarding the strategic planning she stated that “the sessions offer library staff an opportunity to view library operations through different perspectives being brought to light in open discussions across the program areas.”

“All of the staff makes up the organization, in whatever we do the first person we help is our customer, whether they are a librarian, classified staff,

or even a student worker,” Hopkins said. “We will make progress as we all realize how we can help each other...what we do matters, even at times when we forget.”

Also mentioned in July’s strategic planning sessions was the formation of the “Implementation Planning Teams” (which will have a more official name at a later date). In light of the formation of these teams, internal customer service is now more important than ever as we strive to meet the goals of our future, through collaboration and respect, as stated in our Libraries’ Value Statement.

—Elizabeth Swift

Resource

1. Community College Workforce Alliance by Joyce Lapsley, Program Manager “*Internal Customer Service: What happens on the inside shows on the outside.*” Available from <http://www.ccwa.vccs.edu/Newsletters/Articles/InternalCS.cfm>. Accessed 22 June 2005.

UTA Fun Facts: Tuition cost \$1.50 per month to \$3.50, dependent on level of student, when UTA’s founding institution, Arlington College, opened their doors in 1895. Today \$1.50 would purchase \$32.68 in goods and services.

Connections

C.D.'s Picks

Science for Everyone

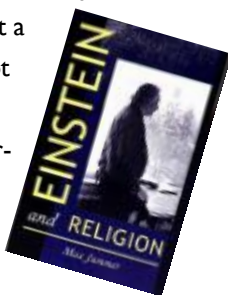
Recommendations for the non-scientist who loves science

Einstein and Religion

Max Jammer

SEL Books: QC16 .E5 J36 1999

This is the first time I'm recommending a book in this column that I haven't yet finished. Since it isn't a novel, a plot twist at the end will certainly not drastically change my opinion of the work.



For those interested in Einstein the man, and even Einstein the scientist, I believe this book is an important part of that study. His spiritual views were inextricably entwined with his scientific endeavors. Indeed, in an oft-quoted remark, Einstein maintained that his physics work was an attempt to read the mind of God.

It needs to be said that this book is not a religious work. Its intention is not to further any religious philosophy—it neither agrees nor disagrees with Einstein's views. Its purpose is merely to illuminate

the man and his work in relation to religion.

The book is divided into three chapters. "Einstein's Religiosity and the Role of Religion in His Private Life" looks at his attitudes towards and experiences with religion from his early years until his death.

"Einstein's Philosophy of Religion" describes his views on religion from a philosophical (not a theological) standpoint. And "Einstein's Physics and Theology," the longest, and, for me, the most fascinating part of the book, looks at science's influence on Einstein's own religious philosophy and its implications for religious issues around the world.

Jammer was a pupil and colleague of Einstein's, so his work provides special insight into the man. The work is scrupulous and scholarly, containing information from numerous writings by and about Einstein, and his theses are well developed.

This book should be an integral part of anyone's study of Einstein's life or work. Other Max Jammer titles in UTA's collection, none of which I have yet read, include *Concepts of Space: The History of Theories of Space in Physics*

(foreword by Albert Einstein) (SEL Books: QC173.59.S65 J36 1993), *Conceptual Development of Quantum Mechanics* (Central: QC174.12 J35), and *Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics: The Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics in Historical Perspective* (Central: QC173.98 J35)

On the lighter side

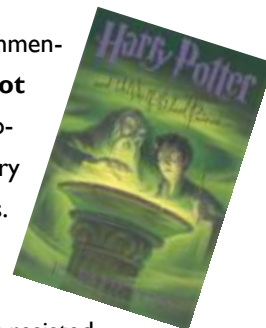
Non-scientific reading available from UTA Libraries

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

J.K. Rowling

Central: PZ 7 .R79835 Half 2005

This recommendation is **not** directed towards Harry Potter fans. This is for those who have so far resisted Hurricane Harry during his sweep across the world.



The Potter universe wouldn't appeal to everyone, but I think there are some holdouts who may enjoy it, may even love it, but who are averse to fantasy books, or kid lit, or any action that resembles jumping on the latest bandwagon.

My target here is people who love mysteries, or code-

Continued on page 7

C.D.'s Picks (cont.)

breaking, or puzzles, or problem-solving of any kind. The problem-solving pleasure will greatly diminish once book seven appears, so now is the time to join the fun and start hunting for clues.

Harry Potter dominated my July reading. I re-read the earlier books before keeping my long-awaited date with the Half Blood Prince (HBP), because Rowling loves to drop clues (and red herrings). I wanted to be ready. Now that I've finished all six books in a row and started to formulate some hypotheses about what's going on, and what's going to happen, darned if I don't feel like I need to re-read them all, armed with the wealth of information provided in HBP.

I was a late-comer to the series, not starting them until

four books had appeared. My literary pretensions intact, I resisted the lure of a fashionable series lacking substance. The first book confirmed my expectation that the series was lacking in great prose, pleasant but fluffy, and I expected to read no further.

My father-in-law pressed the next two books upon me, insisting that I **must** read them, and by the end of book three, I did indeed feel that I **must** immediately begin four. I have been hooked ever since. Enhancing the enjoyment are the long waits between books, which build anticipation and allow time to meditate upon possibilities.

If you've only read the first book or only seen the movies, I recommend reading at least the first three books before

deciding whether you really like them. In fact, (sacrilege!) skip up and start with book three, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. You can always go back and read the earlier ones later, if you wish. And I suspect you will wish.

—C.D. Walter

The Central Library contains all five previous books in the series. In order, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (PZ7.R79835 Har 1998), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (PZ7.R7968 Har 1999), *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (PZ7.R79835 Ham 1999), *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (PZ7.R79835 Har 2000), and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (PZ7.R79835 Halx 2003).

Your Two Cents

A few months ago the online *Staff Suggestion Box* was replaced with a *Community Forum* where library staff have the option of reading and responding to existing topics or creating new ones. The topics links, also called threads, contain all of the comments and responses related to the subject; thus it is easy to follow the discussion.

Current topics in the forum *Red Bull*, *Security Issue*, and *Parking Permits*. Because posts can be anonymous, the discussions are often lively and punctuated with emoticons. Emoticons are small icons, frequently variations of the smiley face, which represent different emotions. They're supposed to convey an emotion that wouldn't otherwise

be obvious to the recipient.

If you have not recently explored the forum, take a few minutes to review the issues, post your comments, and contribute your two cents. The link is readily available on the *Staff Resources* page at lib-staff.uta.edu.

—Lea Worcester

Connections

Library Staff Association Officers 2005/2006

President

- Josie Murdock

Vice-President

- Laura Hartwell

Secretary

- Bonnie Dreitner

Treasurer

- Darras Blevins

Scholarship Committee

- Brad Gulliford
- Returning officers—Antoinette Nelson, Barbara Hammond, Treva Lyday, Jeff Stone

- Diane Turner
- Lea Worcester
- Returning officer—Donna Kelley

Entertainment Committee

- Charlotte LeBlanc
- Anne Mitchell

... and the winner of the Black Eye Pea gift certificate is

Erika Seay in Access Services for her guess that there would be two days in July that reached 100+ degrees in Arlington. Her guess was the closest to the correct answer—one day.

The daily temperatures for this contest were derived from the

temperatures recorded at the Arlington Municipal Airport (KGKY) on the Weather Underground site, www.wunderground.com. It is a rich resource for local and regional weather information, forecasts, and detailed weather history with calendars and tables.

Weather watchers can also get local, regional, and national information with graphs and tables at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) site www.noaa.gov.

—Lea Worcester

Halfway to the Border



The SELERY Team, Donna Kelley, C.D. Walter, and Antoinette Nelson, struggling with the race official

Los Caminadores, Central's Information Services team, was the first group to arrive at halfway mark, UT San Antonio, in the virtual *Run to the Border* fitness challenge. The team, composed of Carol Byrne, Michelle Buchanan, and Ellen Baskerville, averaged 3.33 miles a day and is currently hosting the official *Run to the Border Tacky Trophy* at the 2nd floor information desk.

The SELERY Team, winners of the last stage commented,



Los Caminadores Team, Michelle Buchanan and Ellen Baskerville, with the *Tacky Trophy*

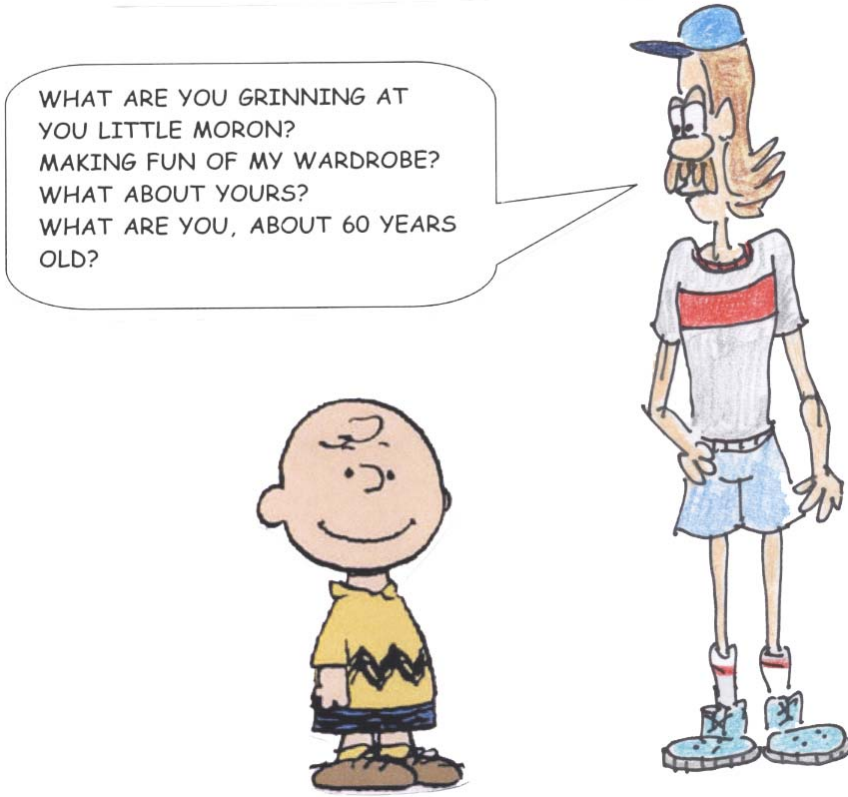
“We’ll miss the little guy, but we’re planning on getting him back!” Despite their positive words, they struggled when the race official came to re-

cover the chocolate-filled prize.

Run to the Border is a walking race from UTA to UT Brownsville, 557 miles total, in 4 stages designed to encourage physical fitness and team spirit. Participants wear a pedometer and enter their daily miles in a spreadsheet where team totals are averaged each day so that teams with more participants do not have an unfair advantage.

Library Larry

LIBRARY LARRY



More Harry Potter Photos



Above: Young Harry Potter fan enjoying the activity table



Right: Activity table and participants

UTA

Libraries

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Connections is the library staff newsletter published the first week of each month. The newsletter introduces new staff members, highlights departments, reports on library staff events, and is a forum for items of interest.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. Please contact:

Lea Worcester, Editor
817.272.5747
lworcester@uta.edu

August 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
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8	9	10	11	12	13 14
15	16	17	18	19	20 21
22 First Day of Class 4:00 p.m. Mavs Meet, Fall Convocation— Texas Hall	23	24 2:00—4:00 p.m. Kit Goodwin Retirement Reception—Parlor	25	26	27 28
29	30 11:00—1:00 p.m. In- formation Roundup 2:00—4:00 p.m. Li- brary Staff Meeting— Parlor	31			

Connections is archived online at:

<http://libraries.uta.edu/connections/index.htm>