



A discussion of issues outside the scope of campus, around the country and across the globe.

Pope Francis’s reforms are admirable

As the Catholic church grows further and further from the mainstream, Pope Francis, who, by being from South America, is already a groundbreaking Pope, is championing several reforms and liberalizing multiple hardline stances in a rather successful attempt to bring the Catholic church back to its former relevance.

One can easily see his widespread appeal simply by the media buzz created by his recent visit to the United States, rivaling the coverage that his brokering of an improvement of relations between the United States and Cuba created.

You don’t have to be a Catholic to appreciate what he has done. He is spreading the church’s tidings of benevolence, peaceloving and forgiveness while sparing the church’s policies that can sow division rather than harmony.

hot or not?

Quick thoughts on some recent events at 10600 Preston Road.

**Heating up | Dr. Lee Berger**  
For the second time in as many years, paleoanthropologist Lee Berger has presented to us his groundbreaking and fascinating discovery of *Homo naledi*. And we got a prized memento out of it.



PHOTO ARNO GOETZ

**Icy | Cell-phone policy**  
The specific safe-zones for cell phone use seem arbitrary, and the enforcement for using cell phones outside of the zones is equally random, confusing many students.

**On fire | Senior Auction**  
Selling such items as whole hog roast, 7-on-7 football and a SMASA rocket launch, the 2015 Senior Auction broke previous fundraising records to fund the exciting senior year ahead.

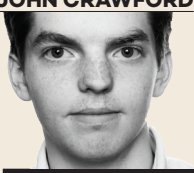


PHOTO ALDEN JAMES

**Cool | Pep rallies**  
For as much effort as goes into the pep rallies by the cheerleaders and Student Council, students themselves seem to have very little excitement outside of the class cheers, invalidating the work put in.

The ‘like it and leave it’ phenomenon

An invitation to live in Qatar.  
A meeting with the president.  
A trove of Microsoft products.  
A scholarship to UNT.  
Dozens of Silicon Valley internship offers.  
Doesn’t that seem excessive?  
I’m not saying Ahmed Mohammed  
**JOHN CRAWFORD** wasn’t wrongfully arrested for bringing a clock to school, and I’m not denying the existence of Islamaphobia in the United States. But this excessive response does display our tendency to turn an actual social issue into a fad, a hashtag, a headline, a sound byte.  
The case of Ahmed Mohammed’s clock is perhaps the most egregious



display yet: a muslim boy arrested for building a clock that a teacher believed was a bomb has become a hero, an innovator, a genius; and while his scientific ambitions are nothing to belittle, he isn’t famous for building an incredible, innovative clock.  
As a society in the information age, we have become susceptible to bandwagoning on social causes to be fashionable, to look good to our friends.  
Everybody has seen the post of a bereaved boy with the caption “One like equals one prayer.” That picture circulates for a day, accumulates thousands of likes from people trying to show off their sympathies to their friends, and is forgotten forever. Nothing changes.  
In a way, Ahmed Mohammed is no different from a circulating Facebook

share, but on a much larger scale. Every high-visibility entity with a PR firm, like Google, President Obama or MIT, has jumped on the wagon, giving him extravagant gifts and opportunities, showing off to the world how generous and sympathetic they are.  
What is wrong with that? In short, it isn’t genuine, and it isn’t necessary.  
It’s not bad to be sympathetic for Ahmed, and it’s not bad to be outraged by the Irving Police’s treatment of him. Islamaphobia, however, is the root issue, and it will not be toppled by a Facebook share or a retweet. You can’t let yourself become complacent to that — if you want to make a change, you will need to do more than just show your friends that you “care” enough to press a button.  
Don’t let this issue die when the media stops deciding to cover it. No

number of free trips or internships will defeat people’s biases, so if you want to show your compassion, stay vigilant. Try to overcome this issue.  
Don’t stop caring about an issue because it stops appearing on your feed, because it isn’t going away with the click of a button.  
Islamaphobia is perhaps the most under-covered social issue in America, but the Ahmed Mohammed snafu shows just how prevalent it is.  
The reaction, however, shows how little Americans seem to tolerate it. But many times, outrage against it is for the wrong reasons — to look good on social media.  
Be authentic in your attempts to stop this nationwide issue, because it’s not nearly enough to just show people you care. You have to actually care.

SHORT & TWEET

A peek at Marksmen’s tweets

**@graham\_kirstein** My song dropped. It’s a record-ing of a heavy guy adjusting his seatbelt on an airplane & the drop is when the flight attendant tries to help.  
— Senior **Graham Kirstein**

**@gordon\_gunn** “I lean forward when I walk because then I don’t have to work as hard”-George Dau.  
— Junior **Gordon Gunn**

**@angel\_reyes44** Chris Carter (.195 hitter) may have saved the Astros playoff hopes and I couldn’t be happier.  
— Senior **Angel Reyes**

**@sammysanchez19** I had to use soy milk in my cereal today #the struggle is real.  
—Sophomore **Sammy Sanchez**

**@quaddrew** Oh you’re a 10? On the pH scale maybe cuz you basic. #SMhumor  
— Senior **Drew Taylor**

**@willgarden1** Why are there handicapped spaces at Sonic? You don’t even get out of your car...  
— Senior **Will Garden**

**@ashtonhash** All of my dance moves are based on Waka Waka or the Zumba version of Bailando.  
— Senior **Ashton Hashemipour**

**@CottenWill** When you witness the traffic lights turning off for the night>>  
—Junior **Will Cotten**

Unsung hero



**RICK CEROVSKY**  
Helps seniors perfect their senior exhibitions

THIS MONTH’S PICK: RICK CEROVSKY

This staff member does much more than it might seem.  
Helping schedule senior exes, rehearsing with every single senior before his exhibition, and of course making sure all the technology is there for not only senior exhibitions but also for special assemblies, Director of Media Services Rick Cerovsky deserves to be recognized.  
For senior exhibitions, he practices with each particular senior to make sure the speech and performance is flawless.  
At pep rallies, Cerovsky ensures the success of all technological aspects. He provides excellent music and microphone assistance. Truly a man behind the scenes, Cerovsky does it all and is rarely recognized.  
If you pass him in the hallway, make sure to say thank you. Trust us, he’s working constantly to make the school a better place. And, he’s extremely friendly, to boot.  
Thank you from us here at the *ReMarker*.