

Word on the Hill

What was your favorite part of the Olympics?

By Anthony Cook



"Michael Phelps of course."

Todd Moore
advancement officer



"It was a toss up between ribbon dancing and trampoline."

Tommy Castor
masters in business administration



"Nastia Liukin winning the all-around gold medal."

Eva Sanders
business senior



"Learning about Michael Phelps' diet and exercise routine."

Megan Martin
biology junior



"Probably watching that hot 40 year old mom win that swimming challenge."

Katie Gomez
communication sophomore



"Phelps winning eight gold medals."

Mitchell Ridenour
education sophomore



"Watching the tie breaker between the Chinese and American girl."

Anthony Gropper
music education sophomore



"Watching Michael Phelps in the butterfly when he beat the guy by a 100th of a second."

Cody Wendler
business administration junior



"Listening to the French after Phelps beat them and they were ragging on the Americans."

Caitlynn French
theatre sophomore



"Michael Phelps winning eight medals. That was insane."

Johnny Behke
undecided freshman



"I would say the swimming probably."

Laura Morgan
history senior



"The lip syncing Chinese girl in the opening ceremony."

Tabatha McMullen
early childhood education senior

Random Thoughts from the editor

- No one gets along in this world. I think we need to take a lesson from fruits and vegetables. To my knowledge no feud between the two exists
 - With such a clash of textures they seem like natural foes, but they can often coexist even on plates.
 - Some people are built to wear certain clothes. Whether a suit jacket is tailor made for me or not, I don't look good in it. However, I know friends who dress up nicely. I think this led to a lack of confidence for me at church.
 - If all the animals in the world were to have some sort of social get-together, it miffs me what would be on the menu.
 - Alliteration never goes out of style.
 - All the good things in math were invented a long time ago. I think that's why it's so hard to get high schoolers to study it. All we need to do is invent some new equations and a couple new formulas and math will be catapulted to gym status in no time.
 - I think it would be polite to create a "some-star" team for all those who didn't make it to "all-stars." Although I never was good enough to be an "all-star" I think I would have been at least a back-up on the "some-star" team.
 - I think a great sales ploy is to add "dishwasher safe" to the end of the products description. Even if it's not an item you would put in the dishwasher normally it still sounds like a great plus for the prospective buyer.
 - I don't care how delicious it is, it makes me sad to think that the only thing that Eskimo's are famous for is their pie.
 - People are way too selfish when asked about what superpowers they would like to have...everyone wants to have the ability to see through walls and fly. I'd like for someone to take a simple ability. Like the ability to create cakes that taste good or maybe the ability to breathe under water for longer than average swimmers.
 - My new goal in life is to have the all-time longest funeral. I hope for at least a five-hour procession when I die. Maybe seven if I live long enough.
- Anthony Cook is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail him at anthony.cook@sckans.edu.*

Detours provide learning experience



Brian Nelson

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Coldplay's "Viva la Vida" vibrates from my car speakers as I soar down the highway. I pay no attention to the "detour" sign flashing on the side of the road. Someone will point me in the right direction. "Road closed." The road block in front of me has no directions. Below the "road closed" lettering, someone expressed their opinion of the situation. I won't repeat their word choice, but instead translate their profanity: "How inconvenient."

Inconvenient, yes, but only

because I assumed someone would point me where to go. So, I turn to my GPS (Global Positioning System). Actually, being a college student, a GPS is not in my budget. Instead, I pull out an ancient document our ancestors commonly called a map. I unfold what seems to be several feet of paper and find my current location. Does an automated voice tell me where to go from there? No. I put my car into reverse, backtrack and find the alternate route. Road blocks may stand in our way, but we need to keep our cool, A.K.A., manners.

Ever been to New York? I have. People slam doors in your face, push you out of their way and cut you off from catching the subway. A friendly smile is nearly non-existent. So what did I do when I found myself jammed in an elevator with two

other guys? I waited, patiently. Yelling at the Igor-like man in the basement, who opened the elevator door, would not help my situation. He didn't stop the elevator in the first place. I had to take the stairs, just another detour. Too many people view the world as if they are the main character, with everyone else trying to slow them down.

Our problem is that people are too "busy" to be considerate. Perhaps you've had to slam on your brakes as a car turns in front of you without signaling. You've had to wait in a long line at the grocery store. Maybe you just stepped in someone's gum. What was your reaction? Ask yourself this: Do you always signal when turning? Did you consider the cashier at the store is the only one working and has to swallow

everyone's complaints? Does your gum always go directly into a trashcan? We could all be more considerate.

There are approximately 600 students on campus. For those who have never been to New York, 600 is a small number. Don't push people off, assuming you'll never meet again. You will.

My roommate and I share a bathroom with another room and student. Dividing a bathroom between three or four guys can be frustrating, and for ladies, even more so. Especially if someone in the other room locks the door and forgets they've done so. My roommate and I were locked out of our bathroom. Naturally, we broke down the door and barged in. Not really. I walked into the hall, tapped on the door and introduced myself as his suitemate and mentioned we share a bathroom and

mentioned the door was locked. He apologized. I said it was no big deal. We were settle, thus had no complications.

Remember you're not the main character. Think twice before letting the dorm door slam. People are studying, or trying to catch some sleep before tomorrow's exam.

I'm not going to ask anyone to turn into a doorman, but if someone is trying to open a door with their hands full, give them an extra hand. Smile at someone you meet on the sidewalk. If you're late apologize. Detours can be a learning experience.

Brian Nelson is a junior majoring in English. You may e-mail him at brian.nelson@sckans.edu.

Personal Column

Music Review

Party not over for Boland & Stragglers

By Nate Jones
Staff reporter

Wearing boots dusted with the red dirt for which their kind of music is named, Jason Boland and the Stragglers released their fifth studio effort Tuesday, "Comal County Blue," loaded with 12 new tracks. The title track of the album has reached the number one spot of the Texas Music Chart with a whopping 1,772 radio plays last week.

The album has been anxiously waited for since their last CD "The Bourbon Legend," released in 2006. The band keeps a vigorous tour schedule each year and their live performances have become a trademark. But this latest release has come with a twist M. Night Shyamalan could take notes from.

On the same day "Comal County Blue" was released, Boland had minor surgery to remove a polyp on his vocal cord. He and the Stragglers

had to cancel all shows for the immediate future. Jason is expected to make a full recovery.

The buzz around Red Dirt/Texas music scene about the new album has been nothing but positive and it has lived up to all the hype with some of the best song writing around.

The first track is "Sons and Daughters of Dixie." A song inspired by the Hurricane Katrina tragedy that struck Louisiana. It's a testament to the pride and the fortitude of the people affected by the storm and criticizes the way the government handled the relief efforts. He gives that region a voice while at the same time telling the rest of us how things are in the areas that were devastated.

This CD has several songs that are very personal to Jason Boland, sticking to words of Hank Williams Jr. "You can't

fake it if you're gonna make it, you've got to live it." The title track, "Comal County Blue," depicts a story Boland has no doubt lived. In the song he is getting bored with his home in Comal County, Texas and decides to retrace his steps to all the places that helped him make it to where he is in his life now. It is the fastest rising song from an independent label so far in 2008 on the Texas Music Chart.

A fun song that folks might recognize from the groups live shows is "Alright," co-written by Boland and friend Cody Canada of the band Cross Canadian Ragweed. If anyone is looking for some classy screen names, this song comes highly recommended. It's defiantly "proof that sometimes one and one is three."

A personal favorite is a song called, "God is Mad at Me." A song that deals with choices and

temptations, a lot of people are going to be able to relate to this tune. "I feel like God is mad at me because he thinks I worship you, when he looks down in wonder at all the foolish things I do..." It has a powerful message and produces chills as soon as Boland's voice hits the ear.

The next song was written by the late and legendary Bob Childers whom the band was good friends with. They always include a Childers-written song on every album. This one is titled "Outlaw Band," very fitting for Jason Boland and the Stragglers. On internet message boards, this song is the early fan favorite and is sure to make for a spectacular live performance.

Songs that get lost in the shuffle are, "The Party's Not Over," a duet with Texas music legend Robert Earl Keen Jr., and "May Not Be Love." Those are just gems to be discovered several listens in the future. Buy this album as soon as you can.

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