

## Stupid is as stupid does

**Peter Chase**  
Staff Writer

Recently, LPGA golfer Jan Stephenson spoke of the recent surge in female Asian golfers saying that they are "killing our tour, absolutely killing it." She went on to say that their "lack of emotion" and unapproachability were detriments to the Ladies Professional Golf Association. I smell an apology forthcoming.

That apology did not take long to come from Stephenson. It was standard as apologies go.

"I would like to express my deepest apologies to the Asian community for my comments regarding the article in Golf Magazine," Stephenson said. "By no means did I intend to hurt anyone nor were the statements racially motivated. I clearly understand how these comments could be taken as racial comments, and for that, I am truly sorry." It was the usual type of apology a professional athlete will release after letting their mouth run a little too much.

Reactions were mixed. "She has her own opinion. I just don't like the fact she picked on Asians and I'm Asian," said LPGA pro and Korean-born Grace Park.

"She should come and play with me. I have great emotions."

Se Ri Pak, another Korean born golfer, said she did not think Stephenson meant what she said. "There are a lot of talented players coming from all different kinds of countries," Pak said. "I think it's a better thing for the LPGA."

Is Stephenson correct in her assumptions that Asians are "killing" the tour? Bob Harig, a commentator for ESPN, said that in one sense, she is correct. Harig said that the lack of approachability of Asian golfers does hurt the sport, as does their inability to speak English as fluently as the rest of the tour. He also comments on the parents of Asian golfers and their ability to give tips to their daughters while they are playing, which is expressly forbidden in the LPGA rulebook. Perhaps in this sense, Stephenson was right on the money.

Stephenson's comments sounded insensitive, but were not as barbed as they are being played out to be. However, the fact that she also stated a quota should be put on foreign golfers is simply absurd, yet she has a point in there as well. She is Australian herself, so do not get it confused that she is simply trying to

remove foreigners. She just believes that American sponsors will not embrace an Asian spokesperson as readily as they would an American athlete. In that fact, she is somewhat correct, unless you forget that people like Tiger Woods exist.

The outcry for a quota is ridiculous in the fact that it goes against everything that professional sports stand for. Professional sports is the platform given to those gifted enough to play in it no matter what ethnicity they are or how many of that specific ethnicity got there before you. Can you imagine if there were a quota on blacks in basketball? It would be a terrible injustice to bar athletes who have trained all their lives to live out a dream simply because the "quota" had been reached already. To bar a player from the sport they love and are good enough to play in simply based on race would be horrific and would definitely leave a sour taste in the mouths of those who would play witness to the injustice.

Stephenson should become good buddies with Rush Limbaugh as they both had to bring race into their comments when it was simply uncalled for. Yet after both fiascos, Limbaugh is no longer with ESPN, and Stephenson is still playing golf.

Go figure.

## Web site debuts and Grizabella decides to rant

**Carmen Reynolds**  
Editor-in-Chief

Well, it took a little longer than we anticipated, but we are finally fielding our supplemental online newspaper this week. It won't contain everything in our print version of The Voyager. However, it will contain stories the print version doesn't and breaking news if it occurs between our print cycles. You can spool it up at [www.uwf.edu/voyager](http://www.uwf.edu/voyager). We're hoping you will take a few minutes to check it out. We'll update it each Thursday.

Click on the features tab, and you will find a campus calendar of events, movies and things to do in the area. Check out the links tab to get even more news. For the curious or well read, our site can be your direct conduit to all 13 of them.

There are a few changes that we still would like to make, but we didn't want you, our readers, to have to wait any longer for this added capability. Please send any feedback to our webmaster, Marcus Ditty at [voyagerwebeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:voyagerwebeditor@hotmail.com). Enigma has named their latest CD "Voyager" after us. They must have known about the online debut.

The first reader who e-mails the webmaster, identifying where the pumpkin was found, wins a dinner at Barnhill's Buffet on N. Davis Highway.

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Now I would like to rant about the age discrimination I feel exists here regarding nontraditional students. My question will always be: Why can't we all just get along?

Yes, I've held it inside long enough. Why are older folks who decide to return to school considered pariahs? I don't feel old. I don't even think I look that old. I have more focus and drive now. Once upon a time experience, plus enthusiasm, were considered optimum traits in a person. Instead, they are used to chastise.

I heard a fellow student condescendingly describe a male non-traditional student as a grandfather. At another time, he proceeded to denigrate a well-known local author and journalist, calling him a dinosaur and a has been because of his age.

A fellow student recently told me, "I have a problem with older people." Now, that comment really facilitates a working relationship doesn't it? Not! Mirror, mirror on the wall, in only a few years even your gray hairs will be standing up tall.

Well, let me give you some advice. Get over it. We can be a valuable aid to the world on the other side — the one that you are destined to enter after graduation — the working world.

When a student left his coat in the classroom and it disappeared with his apartment and car keys in it — who was the one who offered to help? You got it, wrinkled me. Who made the time to give him a ride home so he wouldn't be stranded? Again, you guessed it — old "has been" me. Responsible, dependable.

When you're stressed out with exams, with boyfriend problems or your grandfather's ill, who provides a warm shoulder to lean on? The older lady — me, who is thought to be "out to lunch" because of her age. Hardly. It's called compassion.

We are here for the exact same reasons you are — to learn. We nontraditional students will do whatever it takes to accomplish that, primarily doing our homework and studying because we know how important it is. And don't try to make us feel guilty about it, either. Plus, this older model with high mileage comes with multiple features and benefits!

Two weekends ago while driving my father back from South Carolina, I saw brake lights and cars pulling off in different directions. Anticipating a pile up, I slowed observing the results of a serious multi-car accident.

While others stopped to help, I clicked off quick mental pictures: a green SUV upside down in the median strip, occupants trapped in their seatbelts, and a woman in the outside northbound lane, leaning over an individual. But where were the emergency crews?

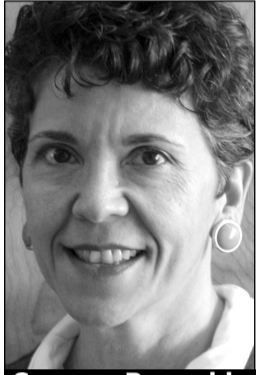
Without hesitation, I punched 911 on my cell phone. The dispatcher said she had received many calls, but no one could provide a location.

Without hesitating, I replied, "Coming up on the West Point exit, southbound on Interstate Highway 85, mile marker No. 3. The accident is about one mile to the north of me. Injured parties are lying in the highway northbound and multiple passengers in an overturned SUV in the median in need of extrication."

My dad told me that I probably saved some lives that Sunday.

The world would be a much better place if more of us offered acts of kindness instead of divisiveness in dealing with each other. The new movie "Radio" poignantly drives home this point. Don't miss it. We could all use a refresher in being kind to others.

Now, let me ask a question. If you're the one badly injured, lying in the middle of a highway, who would you rather have with a cell phone in their hand?



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## Grand latte with side of convenience

**Megan Martinez**  
Staff Writer

Barnes and Noble and Books a Million have been providing customers with the winning combination of books, aromatic coffee, and desserts for years. The John C. Pace Library is seeing more students going elsewhere and to compete with area bookstores it is proposing the addition of a coffee shop to its first floor.

Libraries all over the country, especially on college campuses, are finding that in order to keep patrons they must abandon traditional "no food allowed" rules in favor of an updated approach. It is an idea that has gained popularity nationally and would work well here.

The University of Texas at Arlington has a coffee bar run by the food service staff that sells drinks and food to students. While the library doesn't make any

profits off of the food sold, it is able to give students an enjoyable experience. Students have responded so well to this development that the library has had to double the space that the coffee bar and Internet café occupy.

Following this and similar university's examples, UWF's library is proposing to install a coffee shop. It will occupy the space where the paperbacks are currently kept selling food and drinks, which are determined by a survey that students can take online.

Like the University of Texas at Arlington's library, the UWF library wouldn't make any money but would hopefully encourage students to come more often and stay longer.

Now studying would be a little less tedious when students have the ability to grab some caffeine and sugar to perk up their tired minds during a long period of studying. And instead of having to walk to the Commons to get some refreshment students have only to go to the first floor.

Food and drinks in the library can evoke images of soda soaked books and crumbs covering the computers, but risking food damage to books is a necessary evil. In fact it is a risk that is taken each and every time students check out books. Books that are checked out are often subjected to more than the dangers of a cup of coffee and a muffin.

Food and drinks would be allowed everywhere in the library except for the special collections. The library, in conjunction with the janitorial staff, would have to provide students with more trashcans in order to dispose of food and drink trash. While this will help keep the library clean, students will have to adopt a conscientious attitude toward cleaning up after themselves in order for this to work.

Food and drink shouldn't be incompatible with the library experience — a fact that the library is finally realizing.

What better way to beat out the competition than with legal stimulants and food?

## Stonehenge, you and intelligent design

**Travis Huisken**  
Staff Writer



Stonehenge is the product of chance, random, natural processes.

We often take for granted that certain things are designed, even though we did not watch the design process take place. This is because we understand that there is a marker that helps us to detect design. This marker, today's Intelligent Design movement argues, is the coupling of specification and complexity.

A pile of rocks can be found in a complex (i.e. unlikely) arrangement, and not connote design. Conversely, the sands of an hourglass fall in a specific arrangement, leaving a slight cone shape in the area that the stream of sand lands. But this arrangement is not complex, since that is the only thing that sand can do under those conditions. When an abundance of both specificity and complexity are present together, we can be certain we have design.

The boulders at Stonehenge rest in an unlikely arrangement, and their arrangement forms what we understand is an independent and specified pattern. If you study up on who built Stonehenge, you'll see that some people believe it was ancient druids, some people believe it was aliens, and there are a plethora of other ideas out there. You'll quickly come to realize that we have no clue who made Stonehenge. The common denominator — in spite of us lacking a specific suspect — is everyone's agreement that Stonehenge is the product of an intelligent agent. No one argues that

Anyone who reads scientific technical journals, such as Science or Nature, is acutely aware of the connotations of design in the language explaining biological systems. In describing what goes on in cellular systems, today's molecular biologists speak of rotors, stators, information, factories, chaperones, transcribers, machines, and more. Even the term "design" gets used frequently, but many scientists (like Richard Dawkins, for example) argue that when we speak of design in nature, we should only be speaking of "apparent" design, because we can't really be designed. Or can we?

Few people have as much recognition for their intimate familiarity with the stuff of life as Francis Crick, the Nobel Prize-winning co-discoverer of the structure of DNA. After dedicating much of his life to investi-

gating the tightly specified complexity that exists in the nucleus of a cell, Crick concludes that chance random processes cannot account for what we see in biology.

Crick proposes, in Icarus (the official publication of the Division for Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society) that "organisms were deliberately transmitted to the earth by intelligent beings on another planet." This might sound too fanciful for many to accept. The underlying implication, though, is that there is strong scientific support for the interpretation of biological systems having been designed by an intelligent agent.

Who or what that agent might be is an entirely different line of inquiry — one that probably cannot even be answered through scientific methodology. We do not need to figure out who the designer is, though, in order to admit that the available data points toward an intelligent agent being responsible for a given artifact. If you don't believe that, just ask any criminal justice major who is focusing on forensics.

Biology, forensics, and the other academic disciplines this article has touched on may not be real interesting to everyone. But regardless of what your interests are, this topic may be very important to you. If, indeed, we are the products of an intelligent designer (as science seems to be indicating more and more all the time), it may be prudent for us to ask ourselves: What were we created for?

## Letters to the Editor

A Reply to Terese M. Jordan:

I was amused to see that you have confronted conservatism head on. Boldly referring to the right-wing message as one of "hate," you have thrown down the proverbial gauntlet and called all conservatives to put up or shut up. I must say, however, that much of your claim regarding right-wing discourse is unfounded and in the end harmful.

You initially base your attack on one book — namely, "Big Lies" by Joe Conason. It seems odd that you, a journalist, would need a smear merchant to

give you opinionated breath. Mr. Conason is one author of 17 who has new books out about the "lies" of the right. Literature that intends to defame is not useful to real dialogue.

You rightly point out that Michael Savage is crude and uncompassionate.

He by no means speaks for the mass of conservatives. However, your critique of Rush Limbaugh is baseless. One, you failed to explain why he left



ESPN, yet made him sound wholly liable. Two, you imply, by way of Conason, that Rush inappropriately uses his own money. Rush in fact gives much of his money away. Three, the quote about black people was most likely taken out of context.

Concerning your interview of those at the rally, do you so quickly forget anti-war protestors calling Bush more despotic than Hitler? It is too much of

a stretch to consider any comments like that, liberal or conservative, as normative.

Finally, my plea to you is that you will engage in honest dialogue. Ideology, while personal, is not attached to any particular person. Only through the exchange of ideas will our country continue to prosper. Even you stoop far below empathy and mock Rush's drug addiction. We are better than this.

Ryan Phelps  
Senior

## VOYAGER

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