

## MY VOICE

### "Live Like You Were Dying"

Lately, I keep hearing people say things such as, "what would you do before you die?" or "live like you were dying." These messages might be everywhere, but not many people actually do this. People don't have time.

Recently, on MTV, they had a show called *The Buried Life*. It's a show about four boys who made a list of 100 things they wanted to do before they died. The show documents the boys trying to accomplish some of the things on their list.

Realistically, no one does this. In my opinion, they did it because MTV was going to pay them to have a show. Who wouldn't want a show on MTV? Some of the things on the list that they did or wanted to do, seem so unrealistic, such as playing basketball with President Obama. This just makes me realize that this was only done because MTV was paying them to do the show.

People don't live as if they were dying, or actually do the things they say they want to do before they die. On *The Buried Life*, for every thing the boys did, they helped a stranger accomplish something on their list. By doing this, the boys made a few people very happy, but things like this just don't happen in today's society.

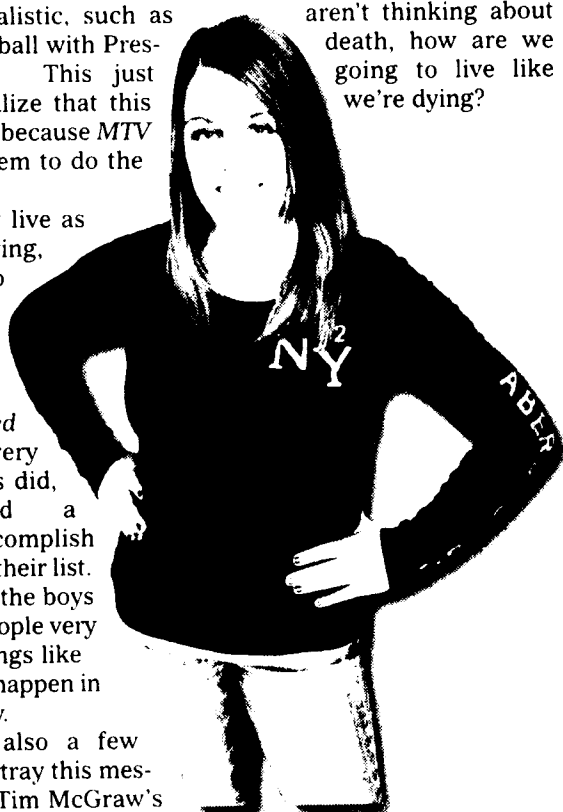
There are also a few songs that portray this message as well. Tim McGraw's "Live Like You Were Dying," being one of them. McGraw's song is about a man who knew

he was dying and the song lists everything he did before he died. These songs are more of a fantasy than reality. If you knew that you were dying, you wouldn't be out trying to do daring things.

I think one of the main reasons for this is that people don't care, nor do they have time. Almost everyone today is too busy to be attempting to do things they want before they die. We are more worried about a lot of different and more important things.

I think the idea in general is a good one, but I think it translates more to live life to the fullest.

You never really plan your death, and most say it's bad to even think about. So if we aren't thinking about death, how are we going to live like we're dying?



HEATHER VROMAN  
staff writer

## THE EDITOR'S BLURB

### The Internet is not that peaceful

What's the first thing you think of when a person says, "Internet?"

Regardless of what you might have thought, I'd imagine that the one word that did not come up is "peacemaker."

So imagine my surprise when I caught wind that the Internet was nominated to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

If you are like me, then each of your brain cells just simultaneously imploded on themselves, causing a cornucopia of miniature blackholes to erupt within the confines of your skull and open your mind to the wonderful world of quantum physics only realize that it makes no sense.

Acid trips aside, this idea was introduced by *Wired* magazine in Italy, claiming that the Internet is helping to advance "dialogue, debate and concerns." However, anyone who has ever played online video games knows that the only thing advanced in those lobbies is the development of creative new racial slurs and terrifying new ways to defile one's mother.

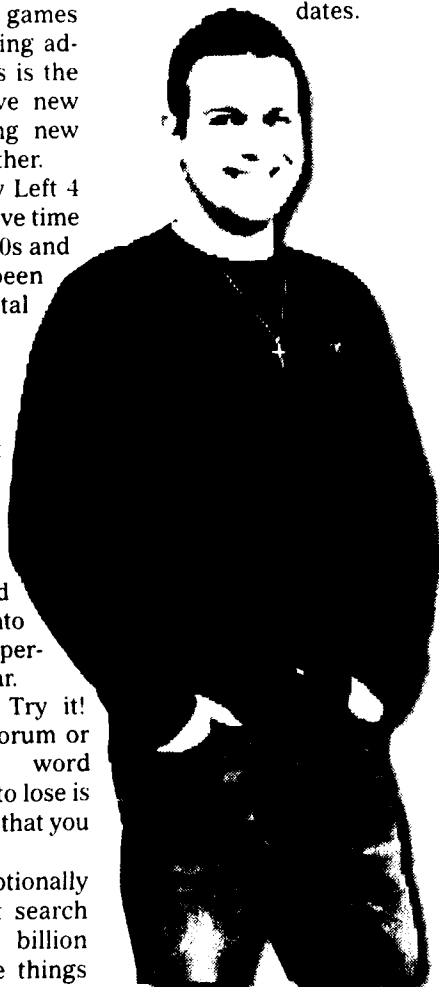
Hell, whenever I play *Left 4 Dead* online, I feel like I've time traveled back to the 1920s and that everyone has been stripped of their frontal lobes.

Some of you may agree with *Wired*, and to you I ask, "Have you been on the Internet lately?"

Just check out 4chan.org or the comments on any YouTube video. If you can find one that doesn't turn into a hateful word war, I'll personally give you a dollar.

Doubt my claim? Try it! Mock a person on a forum or just misspell the word "they're." All you have to lose is any scrap of innocence that you have left.

And if that didn't emotionally scar you enough, just search any of the Web's 48 billion fetish/porn sites. The things you might see will haunt your dreams for the rest of your life. After that, just head right



NEIL JAMES  
opinion editor

## MY VOICE

### What do we have to give?

We are college students. By definition this means that we are devastatingly poor, dangerously overworked, and constantly sleep-deprived.

Giving back to the community is for other people, right?

What can we possibly have to give when we ourselves are just barely hanging on by a thread?

We have no time to volunteer, no money to offer. Maybe altruism is just going to have to wait for our post-graduation lives.

Sometimes, though, a little goes a long way. If you know where to look, there are a handful of opportunities that allow nearly everyone a chance to give back.

The campus is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most students are eligible, but remember to eat foods that are high in iron leading up to the blood drive, and make sure you stay well hydrated that day.

After you donate, make sure to stop at the refreshment table for some juice and cookies, and refrain from heavy lifting or in-

tense exercise for the rest of the day.

Every two seconds someone is in need of a blood transfusion, and each donation can save up to three lives.

It's a great way to contribute if you feel that you have little else to offer.

The donation process will only take a few minutes, so stop by between classes if you get the chance, and keep a lookout for more information.

Ever heard of microloan? This is one new way where a little money can go a long, long way.

Jump online and check out Kiva.org, a nonprofit organization that loans money to entrepreneurs in developing countries. With these loans, business people are able to buy what they need to start their establishment.

For example, one entrepreneur needs a sewing machine to launch a tailor's shop.

In many cases, this can be the first step to getting these people and their families out of

poverty.

So far, Kiva has loaned \$126,128,535 to 317,779 entrepreneurs in 194 different countries.

It doesn't take a lot. Most loans in full are about \$400, but if you donate \$50 or \$75, it will be lumped with other small donations until a loan can be funded. And the best part is that these entrepreneurs will pay you back.

Kiva currently boasts a 98% repayment rate. Once you put \$50 into the system, it will keep coming back to you and you can continue to jump-start business after business with no further damage to your bank account.

How's that for a smart investment? Also, if you run into a little bit of free time, you can always drop by the Smith Chapel and see what volunteer opportunities are available.

The Center for Service is there to connect you to an opportunity that suits your abilities, schedule and interests. For example, right now students

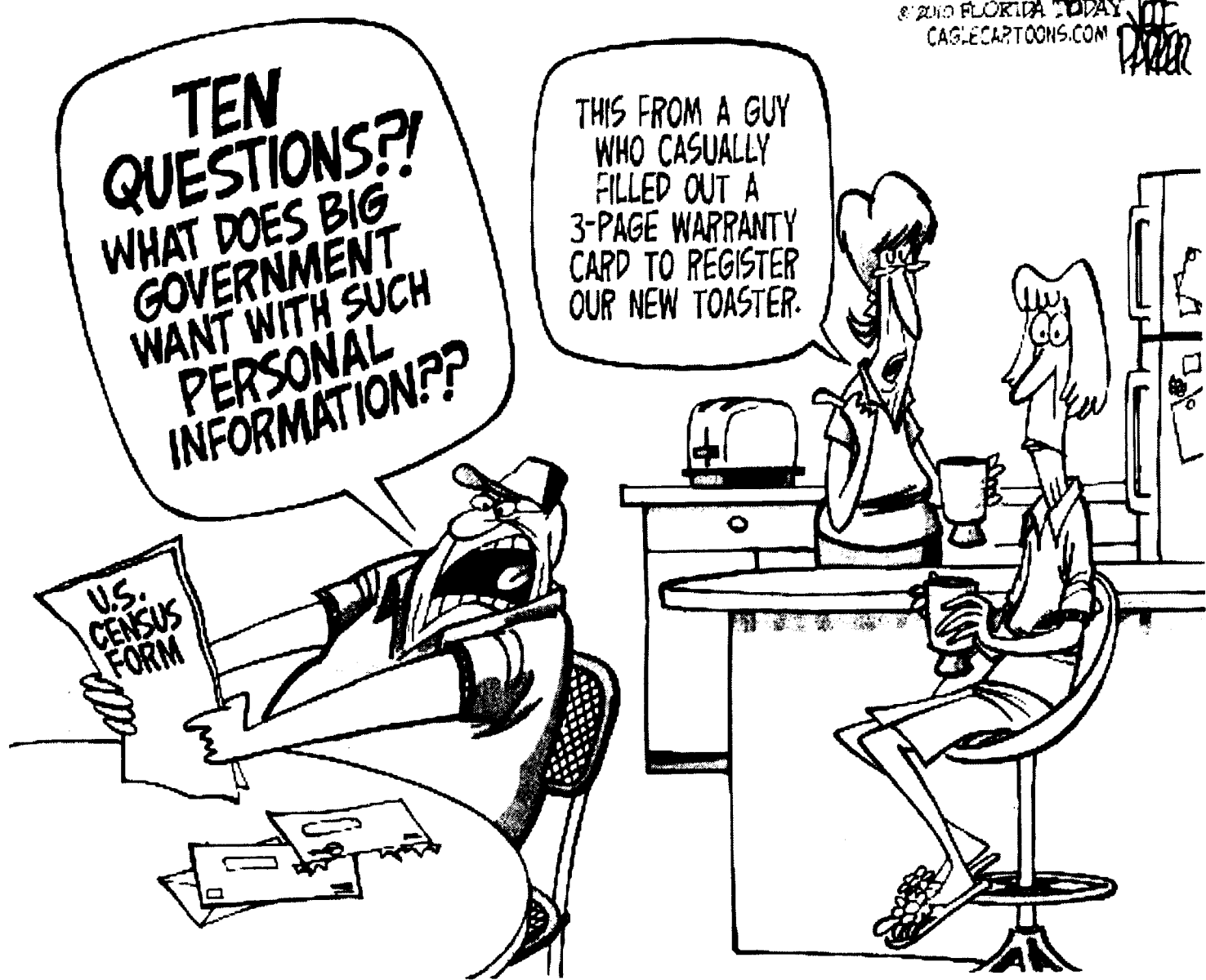
can volunteer at Heartland Hospice, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, or Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center of Erie County.

Studies have shown that people who give what they can to others tend to be happier people in general.

I'm sure that an extra little bit of happy is one thing we can all use.



RACHEL REEVES  
contributing writer



## MY VOICE

### Want an internship? Follow my lead.

AHMED ABDALLA  
contributing writer

What I'm going to tell you is a method that I think can help you get into any or at least one company of your choice.

Have you ever wondered what kind of students do and don't get internships? Are the people that land internships super amazing with obnoxiously cool accomplishments on their resume? Did they save the Amazon rain forest, find a cure for cancer, or create artificial ozone in their basement during high school?

No, they've done none of that.

But, how is it that there are a few lucky college students that are making serious dough with the raw education or skill they have?

The answer is simple and it comes down to something you've known about all your life.

The secret is in connections and good networks.

During the summer after my freshman year, I had an internship at GE Transportation, and I was walking with my manager from one building to another on the way to a meeting.

We started talking about how people get into large corporations whose headquarters are the size of campuses (like GE).

My manager, Todd Kindel, told me that the Human Resource team hires people who have a champion.

What? I was confused. A champion?

He explained that a cham-

panion is someone inside the corporation who promotes the potential hire's application to the company. That is, a champion is a connection of the potential hire.

This person could be a family relative, friend, or old acquaintance. Someone who'll go up to bat for you. They'll tell HR that they're willing to take a bullet for you and you should really get hired.

But most students don't know people inside the companies they want to work at.

How can you solve this problem? Don't give up. This is essential to successfully garnering the internship of your dreams.

My former manager told me that HR doesn't like to just pull resumes off the Internet and call people cold.

Think about it. With the millions of people searching for jobs online and an endless sea of resumes out there, it's often too hard and unrealistic for HR teams to reach out and interview someone on the mere basis that their application on *Monster.com* looks flat out amazing.

I mean, how you can even trust people online?

My suggestion for people to get an internship is to start by building relations with people inside the company you desire to intern for.

When I was a senior in high school I shadowed an engineer at Lord Corporation.

It was mostly set up by my high school (one of those opportunities structured by the

school for you to find your field of interest, and blah blah blah).

My suggestion? Go out and shadow companies (that is, employers in companies).

Shadowing a company in the field of your interest is the easiest and friendliest way to get into a company.

Just call up or email their HR department and with lots of innocence and serenity, tell them that you're interested in pursuing this career path and ask if their company might be able to give you the opportunity to shadow a person in the same job position so you can learn about what you want to get yourself into.

Trying this method gives you several advantages.

1. As I mentioned earlier, you'll get into a company on a friendly basis. The people will be welcoming, friendly, and intrigued.

2. You'll have a warm relationship with Human Resources.

HR people usually meet outsiders in times of tension: heavy paperwork, interviews, busy schedules, positions needing filled.

So meeting a person outside of these modes is only a good thing!

3. You get inside the company, HR connects you with someone so you can make a connection! This is when you use your people skills.

Connect with the employee your assigned to shadow, meet

the people in his/her office place, get a good rapport with them, try hard to establish a good relationship and then afterwards follow up with that friendship to make it more solid via e-mail or a phone call.

Then update them on you and how much of a good time you had, all the stuff you learned.

Of course, I can't guarantee it'll work, but your chances are a lot better than submitting your resume to databases and waiting for the responses that may not come.

The tough part is getting inside a company. No company has any reason to help you learn about them.

You'll most likely get rejected from shadowing from companies due to company rules, busy schedules, or information privacy, etc. But you can try to grease your way in.

Tell the company you'll write about your time with them in to your college/local newspaper, blog, or whatever. Use your creativity here.

If you're looking for an internship and don't believe there are a lot of opportunities out there for you, I want you to try this out:

Whatever your major, be it engineering, business, meteorology, sports broadcasting, I want you to call a work place in your career field and tell them you want to shadow someone, even if they don't offer internships.

You never know, they might make an exception for you!

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