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**Do you know what these mimes are trying to
tell you?**



Conversations

...is now taking applications for both hungry minds
and stomachs!

Let us satisfy your famished minds occasionally throughout the semester with intriguing group dinner discussions with fellow students and professors all while enjoying free food. To participate attend one of the following informationals:

Thursday, October 14th at 7pm in MSC 229

or

Tuesday, October 19th at 8:30pm in Rudder 707

To inform us of your special needs please, call 845-8770 or stop by MSC 223-1

**Liberal
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**LIBERAL ARTS
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**Tuesday, October 19th
226 MSC 6:30pm-8:30pm**

MEET OUR CAREER PANEL

Sharon Jauer Durham, '97
Product Manager
Southwestern Bell

Tom Wilkinson
Executive Director
Brazos Valley Council of Governments

Sheryl Lyssy, '86
Director of Agency Development
Northwestern Mutual Life

Ben Bimslager, '98
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BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON

- How to find your "ideal career"
- How to research careers
- Graduate School/Teacher Certification
- Browse the resource room

Refreshments & Door Prizes



TAMU
Career Center



Serving Jury Doodie

Citizens serving on juries must know fine points of law

It happens to almost everyone at least once. A phenomenal event in life that comes unexpectedly and sweeps even the most steadfast off their feet. It offers the promise of sweet intrigue and mystery in an otherwise dull work-a-day world.



JACOB HUVAL

It is two words that can exult the souls or bring terror to the minds of those subject to its many arrows — jury duty.

Every honest, taxpaying American who is registered to vote is called upon to serve jury duty at least once (and at least twice if one is only the latter two).

As the most fundamental display of power among Americans — second only to Rockem* Sockem* Robots — jury duty casts the common man as the great gold prospector of justice, sifting through the soot and mud of society to find the tiny, complicating gold nuggets that prevent the smooth, steady flow of the river.

Does one send the gold nugget away to a prison only to tarnish and rot away? Or does one seek personal profit by selling the nugget to the travelling media circus, bent on making kings of criminals and martyrs of murderers?

This is the choice and the power of the mild-mannered jury member — an opportunity to display impeccable moral judgment and common sense.

But given the fact impeccable judgment and common sense are rarities, an explanation of the intricacies of jury duty is due.

Some believe the selection of potential jury members is a random, aimless process. This is not so.

Potential jurors are carefully considered and scrutinized for their fitness to serve in a court of law as a standard of mental capacity and civic-mindedness are essential in jurors.

To find individuals with such qualities, government employees call each listing in area phonebooks, asking "Is your refrigerator running?" If the individual picks up on the gag, he or she is of sound mind and judgment and is fit for jury duty.

Many Americans have come to dread seeing that small blue, pink or green slip of paper in their mail boxes. In an effort to make jury-duty notification more appealing, the government is considering hiring Ed McMahon to arrive in person with balloons and flowers to make the announcement.

But for the increasing number of constituents not familiar with Ed McMahon, a new super-adhesive will be applied to the jury-duty notification form, eliminating any possibility of "losing" the document.

However, the escalator of jury selection does not travel in only one direction. Certain citizens enjoy exemptions from jury duty.

The elderly are exempt because courtrooms allow bathroom breaks only each half hour and because they simply will not get the phone prank.

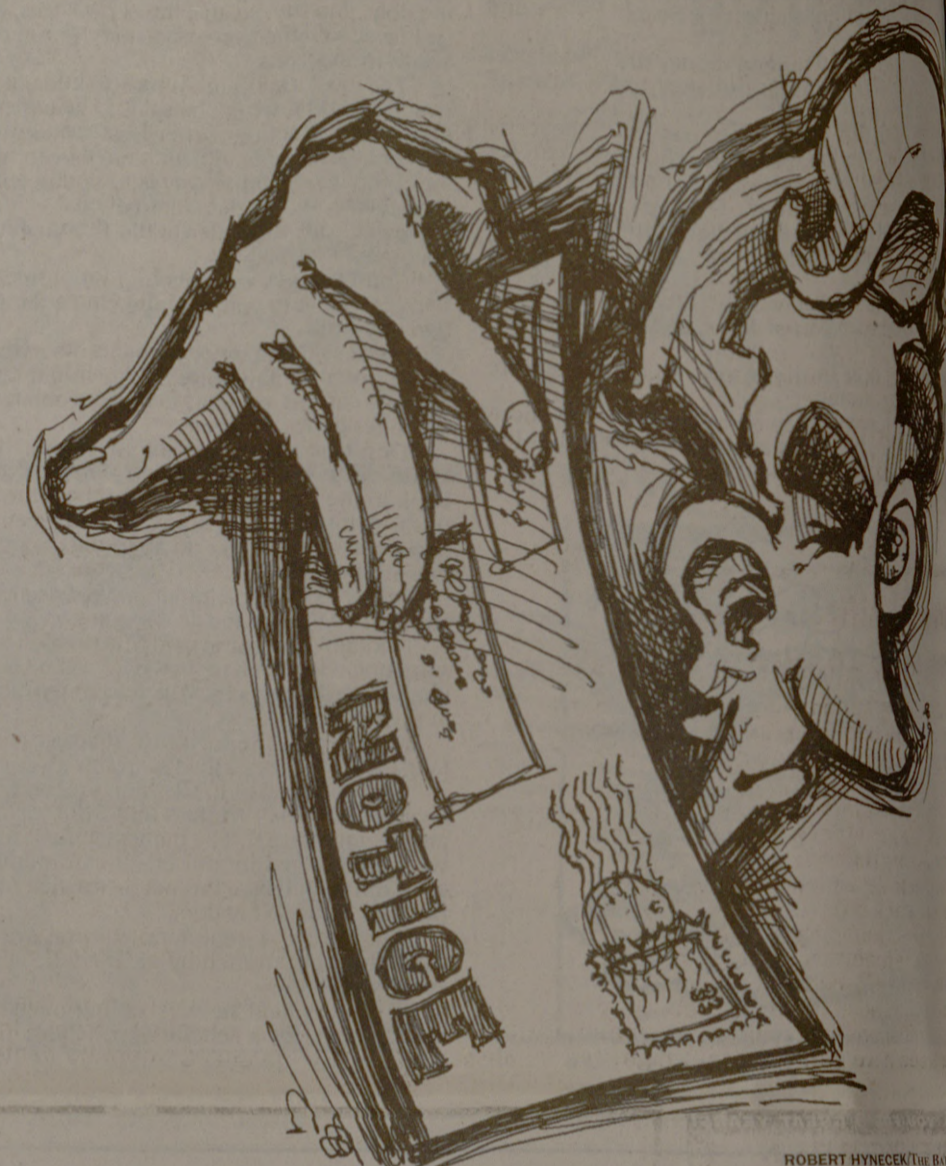
Persons with young children are exempt because no one wants to put up with a whining, blabbering, slobbering bundle of hairless stink — that is, unless he is on trial for perjury.

Also, persons with young children are exempt because they are already too busy for phone pranks.

Students of higher education are exempt because they are simply preoccupied with making their own phone pranks.

So if one wants to eliminate any possibility of serving on a jury, he or she need only be an 80-year-old chemistry major who breast-feeds.

But what is to become of the unfortunate souls who do not escape the grasping claws of jury duty? What manner of poking, prodding and protruding must they endure before they



ROBERT HYNCEK/The Herald

reach that proverbial land of milk and honey known as the courtroom?

Potential jurors first must fill out a modest questionnaire, French for "What are your prejudices?" These questionnaires usually delve into one's personal life, leading some to feel uncomfortable and doubtful of their significance to jury selection.

Rest assured, however, that the court system has justified its need to know important information like dress measurements, marital status and alcohol tolerance.

Having finished the questionnaire, potential jurors then undergo a grueling interview from the attorneys involved in the case. It is imperative one answer interviewers' questions as openly as possible.

For example, if one is asked if they were on the John Gotti trial's jury, he or she should concentrate on their answer and not the red laser-targeting dot on their forehead or the cement shoes being fitted for them.

And finally, of course, before jury members can be allowed into the courtroom they must undergo a full body-cavity search (that is what they told me at the time).

Now comes the moment of truth, or as grown-up lawyers call it, "hearsay," — the trial. At this point a knowledge of procedural differences between the different levels of courts is helpful to jurors.

In local courts, usually bakeries by day, proceedings begin with a salute to the American flag, the state flag and the school mascot — a goat named "Jose."

Trials presented in local courts are argued between two "law-fellers," the defendant's (Hat-

field) and the prosecutor's (McCoy). State courts assume more prestige than local courts and proceed with twice as much pomp and as much spittoon traffic.

If in a local court, one should mind the meadow muffins. If in a state court, one should blame genetics. The Supreme Court is not a concern of the juror's, since, instead, a jury, a panel of The Elders determine whether a trial's outcome is innocent, guilty or "moot" (Elder-speak for "the golf course closes soon.")

Of course, some rules of etiquette for jurors apply to all levels of court. For instance:

- Do not joke about how the judge looks "pound the gavel."
- Do not complain about the courtroom having a buffet.
- Do not shout "Off with his head!"
- Do not substitute reading the verdict from a reading from a steamy romance novel.
- Do not mistake "deadlock" for the title of a new action movie.
- Do not mistake "sequestered" for a swatch dressing.
- Do not giggle at the term "penal code."

In a court system in which judgment is based on common sense, and among a common sense of desensitization among the common, jurors should consider gravely his or her position of authority, observe his or her duty to make sound judgments and always make sure their refrigerator is running.

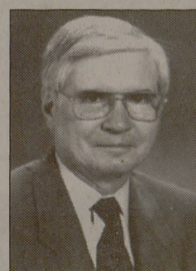
Jacob Huval is a sophomore English major.

Chat & Chew

with Dr. Malon Southerland '65
Vice President for Student Affairs

October 20, 1999
11:00am-1:00pm
Zachry Lobby

- Voice Concerns
- Ask Questions
- Light Refreshments



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