

The Oklahoma State Forestry Department

would like to express our sincere sympathy to all those affected by the Bonfire tragedy.

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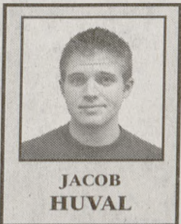
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Real men

# Wear feather

Enjoy Thanksgiving, but please — celebrate in moderation

It's time for Thanksgiving! No, really. Remember Thanksgiving? It's the holiday that finally warranted you to wear a turkey costume and prance around a stage for half an hour while you were in elementary school. It's the time when you marveled at the bravery and gratitude of pilgrims and their Indian friends.



JACOB HUVAL

Unfortunately, many have forgotten Thanksgiving is more than a time for supermarkets to get an early start on capitalizing a more profitable holiday: Christmas. Many have lost the sense of magic this time of year entails. Maybe this is because of our circumstances, maybe because of schedule conflicts with critical football games featuring teams who have no hope for making the playoffs, or maybe because we get arrested every year after trying to relive the old holiday spirit by barging into an elementary school to prance around in a turkey suit.

And maybe the jail sentence and fine would not be so high if, after realizing the costume did not fit anymore, we opted for the pilgrim costume instead of simply painting our skin brown and gluing a red glove to our chin.

Maybe the police officers had a better response to your latest performance than did your schoolmates to your original. Maybe everyone was just laughing with you. Maybe the officers really could process you faster if you flapped your arms and gobbled. And maybe the whole thing would have gone better if you had acted sometime near Thanksgiving, instead of March.

In the midst of "maybes," Thanksgiving does feature some absolutes — time-tested traditions which have endured countless generations of enjoyment. Fortunately, the holiday has maintained its traditional namesake and not "Turkey Day," the quick-fix, just-add-water, microwave-dinner solution to a word with more than two syllables.

Calling the holiday "Turkey Day" does harm to the celebration — not only by confusing others to believe it is Marlon Brando's birthday, but also by excluding the essential spirit of gratitude. And a Thanksgiving holiday without gratitude is like a Marx Brothers' movie without a rich spinster; in either situation you just want to punch a mute cousin in the face.

One aspect of Thanksgiving not subject to "maybe," or corporate takeover, is food. Everyone from grandchildren to Uncle Larry tends to eat too much while mothers across the country, regardless of socioeconomic or glandular background, suddenly become Hildegard, lifegiver and one-person food bank. Every ailment known to mankind is solved by food.

"Don't feel well, Henry? Here, have some pie. Susie, you've got a sore throat? I'll make you some soup. Oh, you lost your job? Here, have some beans. No, they're good beans. Billy! You look like you have a cold! Quick, eat some potatoes. Anorexia? Is that a rock band? I

don't want any MTV talk. Here, eat some Kentucky Fried Chocolate."

Mother-types seasonally become aggressive during their food preparations. They mutate into the Napoleon of the kitchen, demanding absolute subjugation from whoever dares to enter their domain and expecting ceaseless praise for their efforts.

Sure, Napoleon did some incredible stuff, but he wound up secluded and deranged on St. Helena island. Like Napoleon, these mother characters have good intentions and impressive reputations, but who knows what devious, power-hungry thoughts they entertain while stirring pudding? "Eat, weaklings, eat. Soon you will grow weak and unable to defy my demands. And then the toilet seat will always be left down! First the bathroom, then the world! And now to fantasize about Mel Gibson while I check on the turk" (Editors' note: Mr. Huval's beverage has been more amply sedated. We apologize for any inconvenience.)

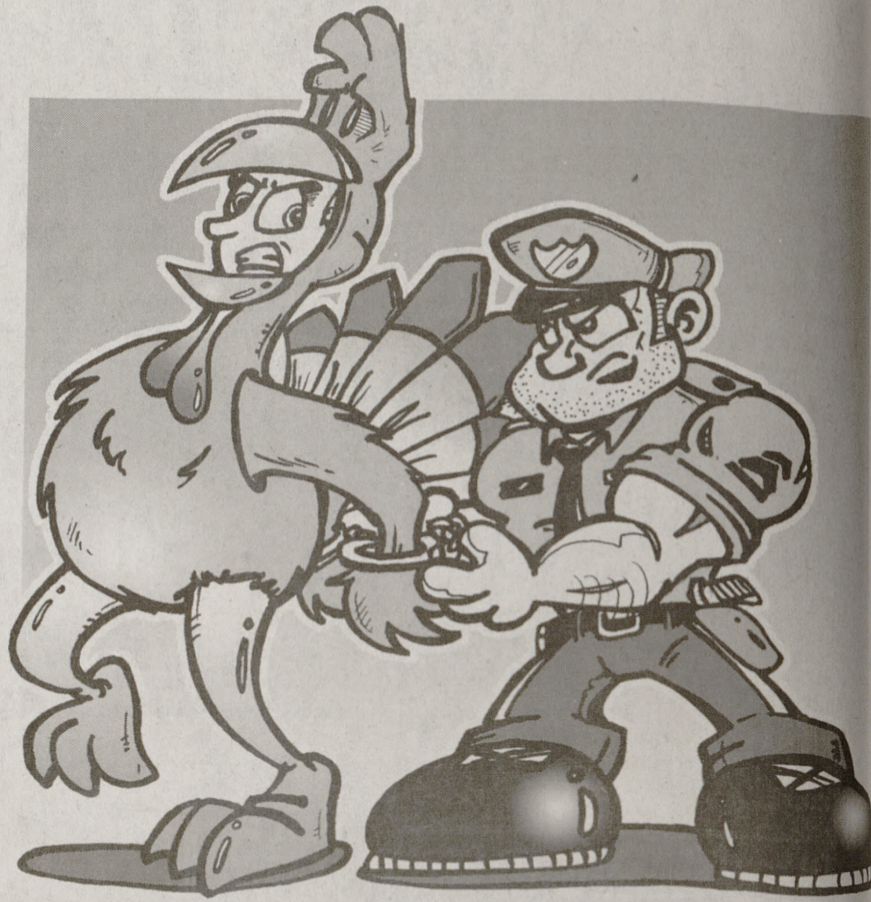
The hallmark and magic of any Thanksgiving meal is when one inadvertently finds a treasure within the main course; a simple, slender sliver of elegance which, when contested for by two people, has the breaking ability to grant the most intimate wish and make dreams come true. I speak, of course, of nothing other than

the giant cake with the stripper inside. But more exciting is the age-old wishbone tradition! It has been said that when two people make a wish and then pull apart a wishbone, the individual with the larger piece is granted his or her wish. This is the magic of Thanksgiving, deep within the turkey, so live it up! For something good and otherwise unattainable like a sports car, or a tropical cruise or a high GPA. Just be aware that some wishes are quite worth wishing for.

"Jacob, you won! What did you wish for?"  
"The bigger half ... yaaay! The magic still here!"

And the magic still can be here forever. Be thankful for what there is. Have a cornbread, wish a little more extravagance to the parade a little more (just do not Uncle Larry for a float). Holiday enchantment just like sobriety and finding others after it is all a matter of perspective. After all, cannot get a buzz from breaking the wish and thankfully, one cannot be arrested for indulging in the holiday spirit ... unless you into the whole turkey-suit thing.

Jacob Huval  
sophomore English



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