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M MINARET

A GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

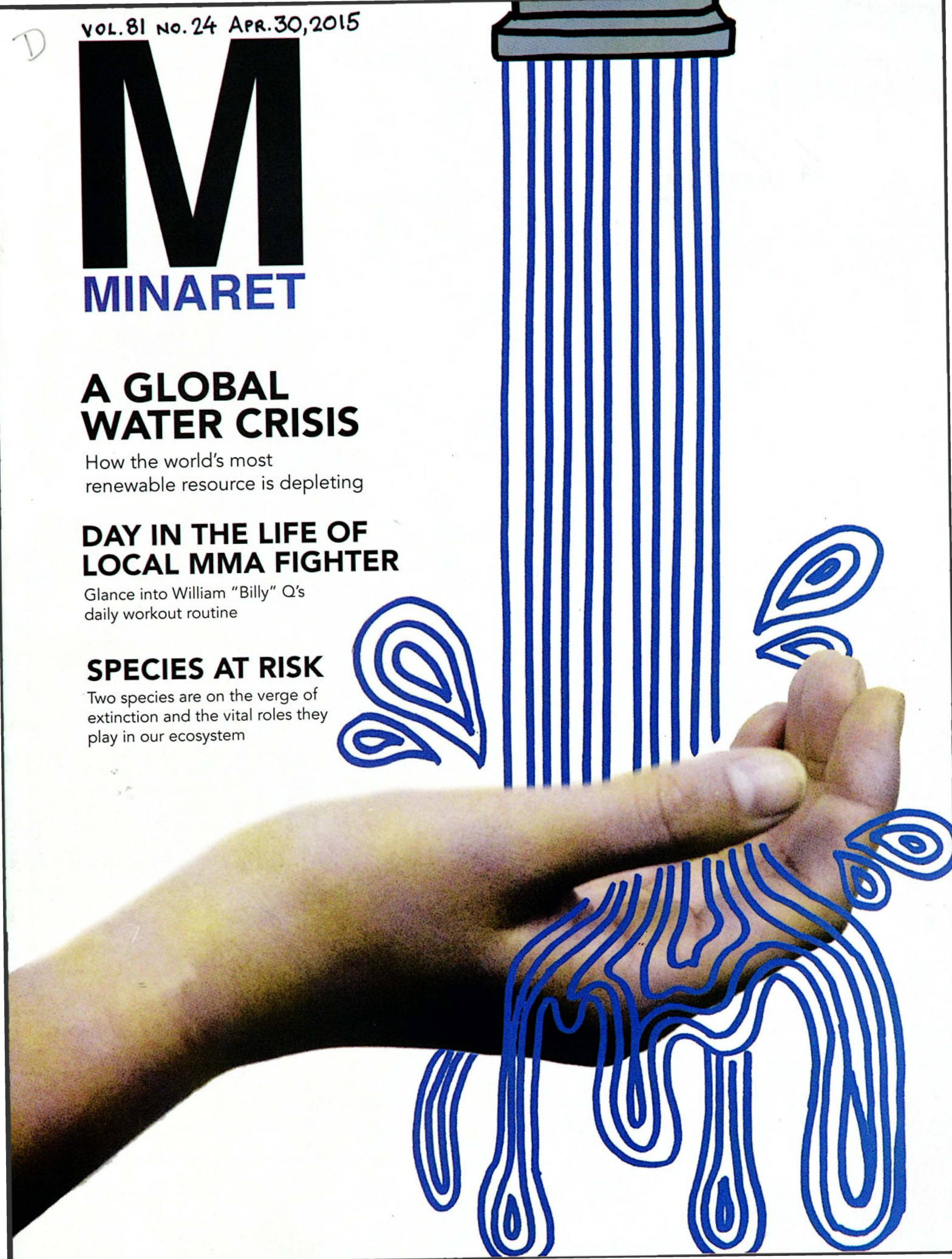
How the world's most
renewable resource is depleting

DAY IN THE LIFE OF LOCAL MMA FIGHTER

Glance into William "Billy" Q's
daily workout routine

SPECIES AT RISK

Two species are on the verge of
extinction and the vital roles they
play in our ecosystem



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"THE END"



Goodbye is never easy. Whether you are leaving campus for three months or leaving for good, it is always difficult and stressful to leave college life behind. Often, we mourn the freedom we take for granted when we spend summers at our parent's house or we yearn for a structured schedule as we search for part time summer jobs or someone to sublet our apartment. Seniors especially are feeling the pressure of leaving behind a way of life that has become comfortable and are starting the search for a career and a place to start a new chapter in life.

During this time, The Minaret wanted to offer a momentary escape from the stress of goodbye by publishing stories that will inform and entertain. Escape into the life of local Tampa athletes, club workers and big cat rescuers. Escape into the harsh realities of what life could be like if we ignore climate change or do not work to save some species of animals. Escape literally with our tips on how to travel as a young student. As we say goodbye to this school year, we also say goodbye to all the seniors on our staff of editors. Read what we have to say about our time as editors in our final bylines.

We hope we have served you well this year as UT's news source and please continue to support The Minaret next year.

And with that, Goodbye.

Mia Glatter

MIA GLATTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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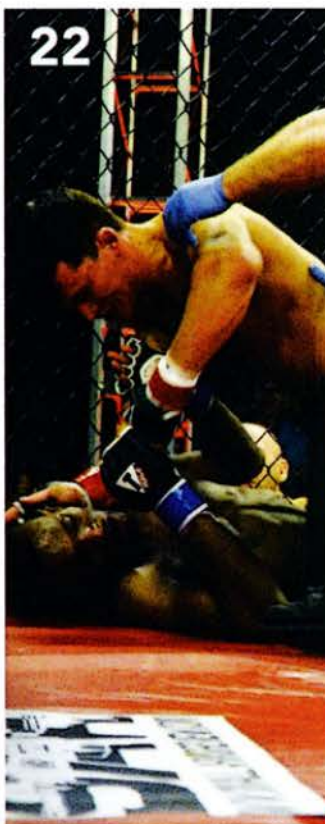
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Almost-Instant Happiness

BY SELENE SAN FELICE

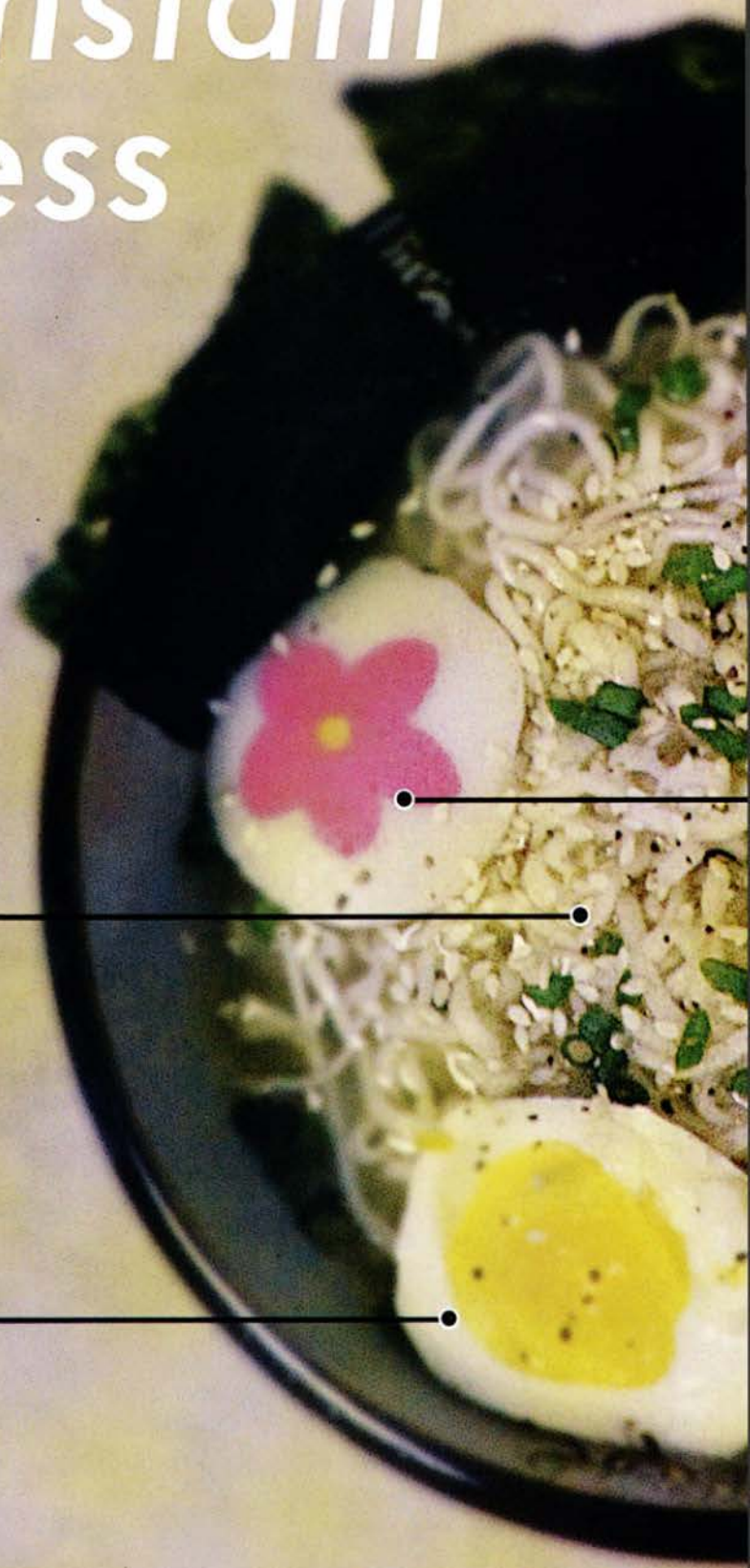
The cup-o-noodles is an American college staple. On some days, nothing could seem better than coming home from class, ripping open a flavor packet, and cuddling with a steamy styrofoam cup. However, any undergrad with a few extra minutes and ingredients to spare is perfectly capable of taking the instant-classic back to its real Asian roots. With a few tips you can transform your soup skills from basic to authentic.

DITCH THE FLAVOR PACKET:

While that condom-resemblant gem does wonders for your quick-fix, it doesn't do wonders for your body. While there are traces of the good stuff (garlic, onion, parsley), flavor packets are for the most part loaded with MSG and sodium. You may not have time to transform pork bones into broth a la the traditional Japanese method, but for something a little closer to home-made, try using bouillon cubes or any stock such as pork, chicken, or vegetable. For extra kick try adding a few dashes of soy, garlic powder, onion powder, pepper, and chili.

ADD AN EGG:

A beautiful bowl of ramen isn't complete without a perfectly cooked egg. A hard-boiled egg can offer some nice texture, while a soft boiled egg with a runny yolk can mix into the broth to create a wonderful new flavor. If you're looking to impress, quail eggs can be cooked and popped into a ramen bowl quickly, although at around \$25/2 dozen they do run on the pricey side. For extra protein throw in a thick slice of pork or fry up some tofu.





USE YOUR NOODLE:

Even without the flavor packet, instant ramen isn't the best for you. Some of the cheaper brands use MSG and other preservatives. Not to mention the prepackaged portions are tiny in comparison to the big, hearty bowl of ramen you deserve. Brands like Koyo offer dried organic noodles in large portions with ingredients like mushroom, seaweed, and tofu & miso included.

ADD A LITTLE RUFFAGE:

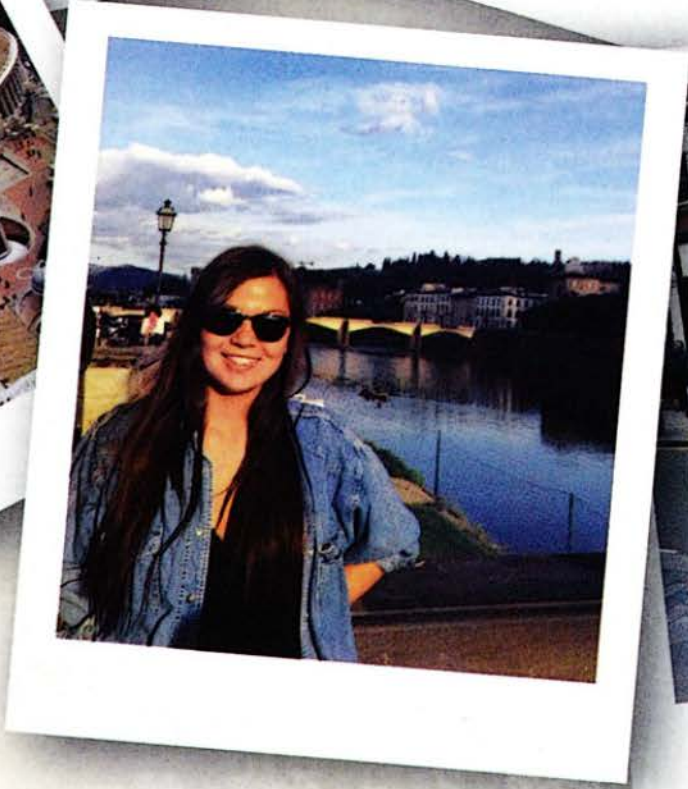
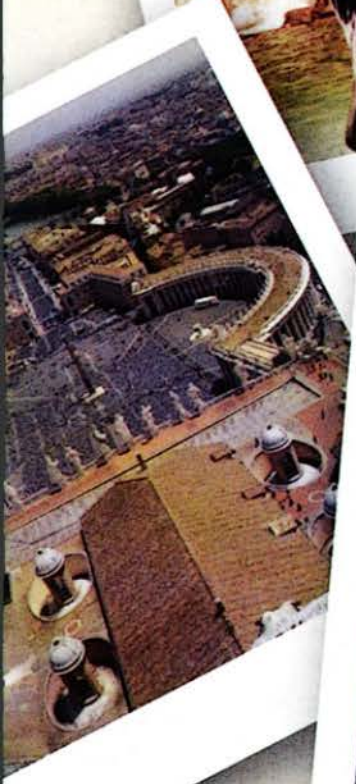
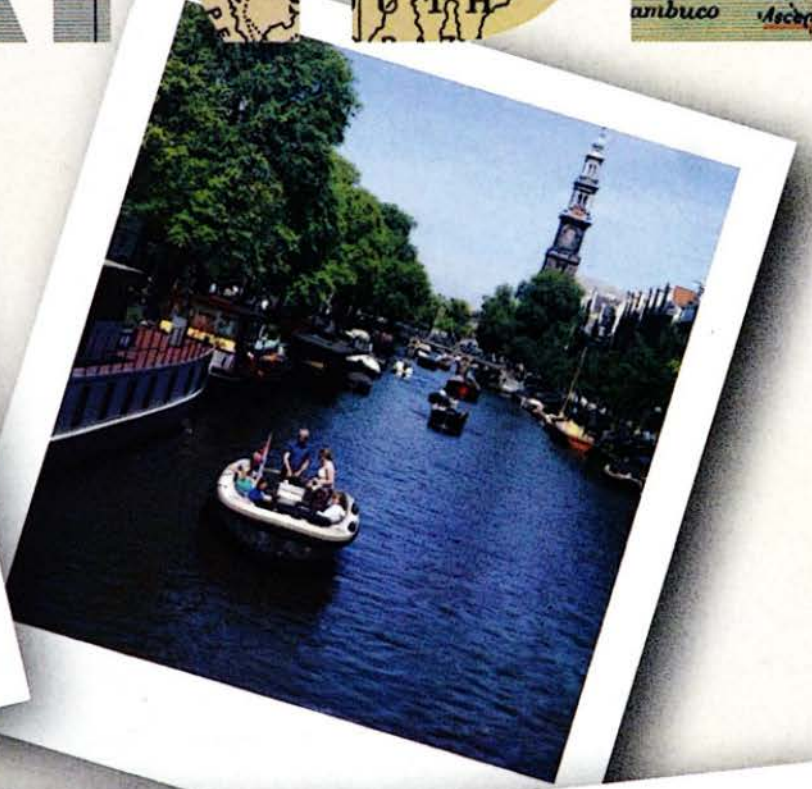
A little bit of green goes a long way in the ramen world. For a more colorful and flavorful dish, chop up some green onion and scallions and throw in some baby spinach. A sheet or two of dried seaweed also adds a nice amount of saltiness and texture.

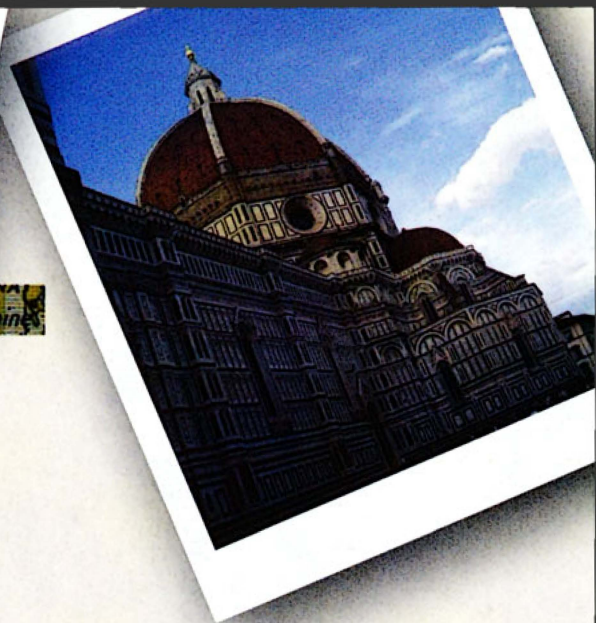
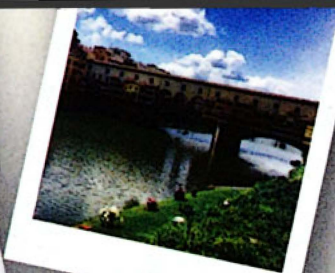
ACCESSORIZE:

Your ramen isn't perfect without a few finishing touches. The best flavors and textures come from the smallest additions, after all. Add any spices you like, sprinkle on a teaspoon or two of sesame seeds, and throw in a fish cake to get the most out of your dish. What is a fish cake, you may ask? Otherwise known as Narutomaki, this little slice of cured fish is the most iconic element in Tokyo-style ramen (you may recognize it as one of the emojis). Each slice usually features a pink or red spiral swirl, which is meant to resemble the Naruto whirlpools in Japan, but flowers and other shapes can also be used. They can generally be found in international markets. Of course, after you've put together such a beautiful and delicious dish destroying it with a fork would be a sin. Grab some chopsticks while you're at the international market and slurp away.

SATISFY YOUR

WANDER





BY JUSTINE PARKS

As the saying goes, there is no better time than the present. We grow older and realize that maybe, our childhood fantasies of being an astronaut or a unicorn aren't as realistic as we once thought. Unfortunately many of us tend to settle in our lives. We don't realize we can adjust our dreams; we don't have to completely give up on them. Many of us hope to see the world, but upon finishing school we feel obligated to get a job immediately. That's not necessarily the case anymore.

So you want to travel but don't have the funds? Step back and think about how we finance almost everything. You finance your car, your house, and your new big screen TV. We complain about being poor, but there are other options to pay your way through life, such as using credit to pay things off over time. However, working while you travel is ultimately the smartest thing to do. But hurry, this is only a limited time only offer. Some countries like Australia and New Zealand allow you to have a work visa, but only if you are under 30.

The first step to making your dream of traveling come true is to research credit cards that will give you points or miles towards flights. Each airline offers their own benefits, but one that I found most effective for international travels was the United Mileage Plus Explorer Card. Each dollar you spend earns you two miles. Plus it offers you 30,000 extra points if you spend \$1,000 in the first three months. So if you charge your first plane flight, you have pretty

much earned yourself a free flight back home in case things over seas don't work out for you.

Now you have to find a cheap flight. There are a million websites that claim to get you the best deal for flights. One site I came upon is called ITA Software by Google. This site allows you to choose a round trip or one-way flight to any destination by searching airline databases, just like other booking sites. What makes ITA Software different is that it allows you to change the currency that you will get charged with. It pretty much tricks the computer into thinking that you are purchasing your ticket from a different location, such as Mexico using the peso or Europe using the euro. With a little bit of research you could save yourself a few hundred dollars on a flight just by switching the currency you are purchasing the ticket with.

Next step is to transfer all of your outstanding charges that you may have to a zero percent Annual Percentage Rate (APR) credit card, the one that I found the most convenient was the Citi Thank You Preferred card. The card offers zero percent APR on balance transfers for the first 12 months of owning the card. The only bad thing is you may get a fee from your previous card or bank, but usually it is less than three percent of your transfer.

Once you have your expenses situated and you travel to the country of your dreams, you'll need to search for jobs if you plan on staying for a longer period of time. Don't stress about it, because if

you can't find a job you can book a free flight home thanks to all your points. You also have to consider where you will be staying. Hostels offer cheap places to sleep and bathe. Good sites to use are hostels.com or hostelworld.com. For food deal with the minimum. Since college has trained you to live off of PB&J's and ramen, that should be fairly easy. After you find a job you can set up a bank account and figure out your more permanent living situation.

Money isn't everything and saving a bunch of it won't make you happier. You can buy almost everything you want with enough money, but you can't buy back your youth. You can't take back the time you spend in the office instead of on the beach, in the mountains, or kayaking. The key is having enough faith in yourself and your skill set to be confident you can get work elsewhere. While experience is good, don't take for granted the fact that some employers value life experience just as much as work experience.

What is crucial for your endeavors is to not be afraid. I've come to realize the two biggest things that hold us back from packing up and going are fear of the unknown and success. The point is if you keep making excuses about what could happen, you will miss opportunities to make things happen for yourself.

Take a risk, go with the wind and know that everything you leave behind will still be there, if or when you choose to come back.

Are
we **Running**
out of
Freshwater?



BY KAMAKSHI DADHWAL

Countless debates exist concerning nearly every natural phenomenon that is potentially disastrous for the human race. This is partly because many people think they are smart enough to beat the "global propaganda" that our system feeds us, but mostly because as humans we are scared to admit our mistakes and face the consequences. The water crisis is one such debate being discussed today. This year's water shortage in California--the worst so far--has sparked conversation in the United States about how the water crisis is a very real threat to our species.

In order to fathom the gravity of the situation, we need to understand the process by which the water we drink or bathe in reaches our homes. We learned in elementary school that the water cycle involves only 0.3 percent of the world's fresh water. It is derived from surface level sources such as rivers and lakes or via rain. Several thousand feet below the ground, is where about 30 per cent of the world's freshwater is stored in aquifers. These aquifers contain ground water that has accumulated over the last five to 50 million years. Much of the water that reaches farms and homes is harvested from these aquifers. Most importantly, once harvested, it takes thousands of years for groundwater to restore through the natural processes. Hence, desalination plants are built in order to extract fresh water from salt water. As anyone can see, the actual cycle to acquire fresh water is a complicated process, but seems promising enough.

Owing to this promise, many believe that there could be no water crisis because it is all coming back to us, one way or another: it is physically impossible for water to actually go anywhere outside the planet and our technology is advanced enough to desalinate seawater.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, 70 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S WATER USAGE GOES INTO AGRICULTURE, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY MECHANISM ON WATER.

If the water is going right back into the earth, there is no reason to panic at all. Such people are absolutely right about the availability of technology. However, desalination is incredibly expensive and not so readily available in the developing countries, which make up for more than one-third of the Earth. Even if we did have all of the money to fund desalination plants, the speed at which the world is consuming water versus the rate at which it can be desalinated leaves a tremendous time gap, enough to imagine a world without any drinkable water for decades. Those decades would easily render mankind extinct. Today's agricultural industry uses an increasing amount of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides on crops, which chemically bond with water molecules, irreversibly depleting the worldwide freshwater stores.

Meanwhile in the United States, the water reserves take a hit everyday due to human indulgences. Golf courses and lawns are highly maintained in the most arid areas such as California, Washington and Nevada. Our very own sunshine state, along with many others, is witnessing fast urbanization in its cities. For example, Orlando is a rapidly developing tourist hub because of its theme parks and annual events. According to Senior GIS Scientist at Southwest Florida Water Management District and professor at UT, Dr. Al Karlin, "The topography of Orlando is mound-shaped. Consequently, it is highly unsuitable for water retention because the slopes wash the water to the sides, leaving the city dry and its extensive theme parks in constant need of importing water from other places." Evidently, the water usage is overwhelming in emergent cities because of uncontrolled population growth resulting from various tourist attractions. Unfortunately, only two things can be done to evade a water crisis in cities like Orlando: either shut down a majority of the theme parks or increase the price of water.

Increasing the prices of water might appear to be yet another victimization of consumers. However, certain realities that surround the issue of fresh water availability completely justify the need for such a step. Shutting down major businesses is not a possibility when the economy is based on the principles of capitalism. It would compromise the nation's overall economic growth that large-scale businesses facilitate with their equally large-scale revenues. The water usage for agriculture cannot be reduced for it is obvious that we all need food to survive. The steady growth in population justifies the increase in demand for food, hence validating the growth in supply with the equalizing effect of market forces. Since it is the consumer who benefits from the supply of food and who indulges in the recreational activities big businesses provide, it is only fair that they pay more money for water for domestic usage.

One ought to keep in mind the fickle-mindedness intrinsic to human nature. As a species, we never grasp

the significance of anything till it is taken away from us. Dr. Karlin believes, "Water is too cheap and far too easily available for people. They neither appreciate it nor understand its value. So, they continue to use it without giving a second thought to the vast amount they waste in tasks that require only a little bit." It is our daily experiences that deem his argument unfalsifiable. Surely, we all could use a bucket of water to take a bath, instead of a shower or a soaking bubble bath. We could easily brush our teeth without the water running. We could harvest the rainwater that nature has blessed Florida with, and use it to water our plants with little effort. Yet we do nothing. Instead, we don't care until there are penalties. We need to be economically steered towards sound judgment to reiterate sustainable development. Increase the price of water and give it the value that it deserves or else the crisis will unquestionably leave us globally parched. Water will be everywhere without a drop to drink.



85% OF THE WORLD POPULATION LIVES IN THE DRIEST HALF OF THE PLANET. • 783 MILLION PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER. • ALMOST 2.5 BILLION DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE SANITATION. • AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR 70% OF GLOBAL FRESH WATER WITHDRAWALS. • BY 2030, FOOD DEMAND IS PREDICTED TO INCREASE BY 50%. • FUTURE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSUMPTION ALONE IS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE BY 19% BY 2050. • ABOUT 66% OF AFRICA IS ARID OR SEMI-ARID AND MORE THAN 300 OF THE 800 MILLION PEOPLE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA LIVE IN A WATER-SCARCE ENVIRONMENT – MEANING THAT THEY HAVE LESS THAN 1,000 M3 PER CAPITA. • UP TO 90% OF WASTEWATER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FLOWS UNTREATED INTO RIVERS, LAKES AND HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE COASTAL ZONES, THREATENING HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY AND ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING AND BATHING WATER. • OVER 80% OF USED WATER WORLDWIDE IS NOT COLLECTED OR TREATED. • ACCORDING TO THE U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, THE U.S. INTERIOR WEST IS NOW THE DRIEST THAT IT HAS BEEN IN 500 YEARS.

RESCUING THE Wild

BY ELIZABETH ROCKETT

Lions, tigers, cheetahs and other big cats around the United States are malnourished, abused, and even killed as a product of the big cat trade. Some of these animals begin as pets who are discarded when they grow to be too dangerous to be kept in a private home. Others are show animals at a circus or a zoo. Since viewing these beautiful furry giants is a form of entertainment for people of all ages, it is often forgotten that this is not the lifestyle they are accustomed to. Thankfully, places like Big Cat Rescue in Tampa are sanctuaries for these cats and put them a little closer to the habitats they were meant to live in.

Susan Bass, public relations director at BCR, has been working with the cats for the past five years. Since Carole Baskin founded the sanctuary in 1992, the facility has grown from 45 to 75 acres of open fields, shady trees, lakes and things to climb. Most big cats with the exception of lions, who gather in packs, are naturally solitary, Bass said. However, most cats have a companion in their section at BCR.

"Boredom is one of the things we try to keep away from the cats," Bass said. "We give them enrichment. One of the things to stimulate their brain and their body, is having a buddy."

Bass said all the cats have their own story. One lioness, Nikita, was rescued from a crack house in Tennessee, where

she guarded the drugs and was severely abused. In addition, her malnourishment was so severe, she was light enough to be picked up by one person. Since Nikita was rescued in November of 2001, she has lived a much more leisurely lifestyle and has reached a healthy weight.

BCR spends about \$65,000 per year to feed the cats. All 100 cats feast on about 50 pounds of raw chicken and beef, as well as "moosh," or ground-up whole animals since big cats eat all parts the animals, Bass said. "The cats eat about 500 pounds of meat per day," Bass said.

In addition to food bills, it costs BCR \$10,000 per cat per year for veterinary care. Since BCR is a nonprofit organization, all of the money used to take care of the cats comes from their donors. 100% of donations go to the cats, while profits from visitors who tour the sanctuary pay for the dozen staff members. BCR has recently upgraded its cat hospital with the help of donors.

Previously, the cats were forced into a transport cage, where they would have to be driven to University of Florida in Gainesville for something as simple as an X-ray. Bass said this process is stressful for the cats and is not something that they should have to go through.

Because so much time and energy is required to take care of the cats, there

are always about 100 total volunteers throughout the year. Volunteers are made up of locals and about 10 to 20 interns who stay in dorms on site and work with the cats six days a week. There are also two veterinary volunteers, who work with the cats routinely.

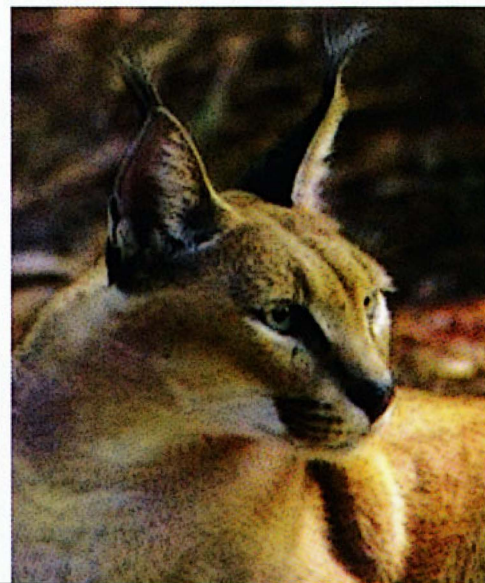
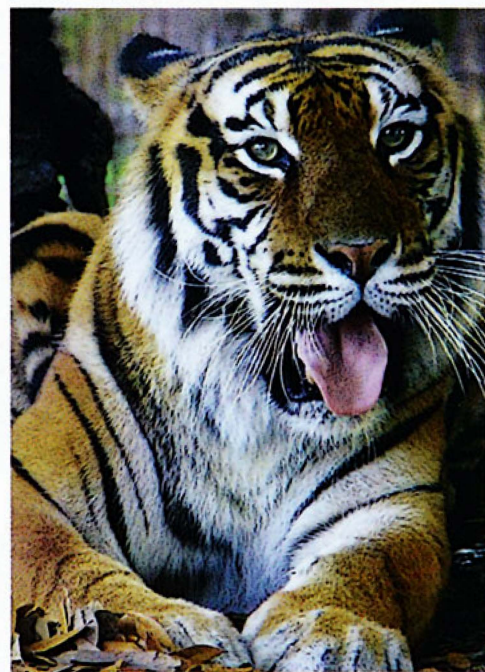
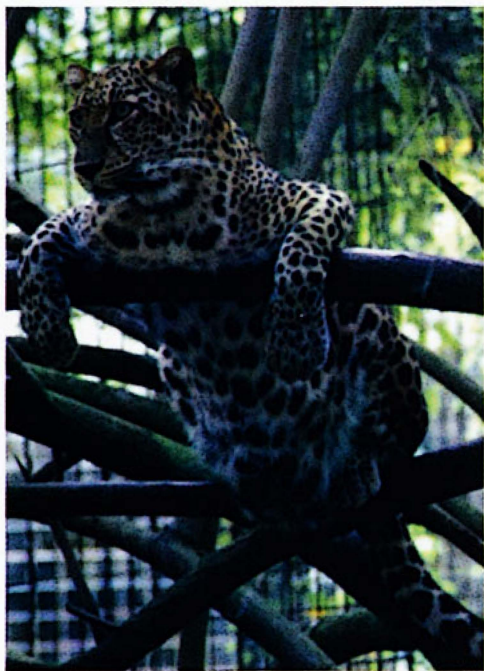
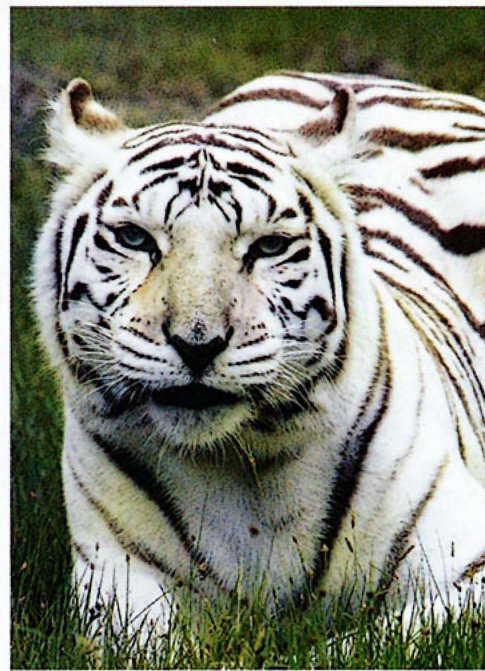
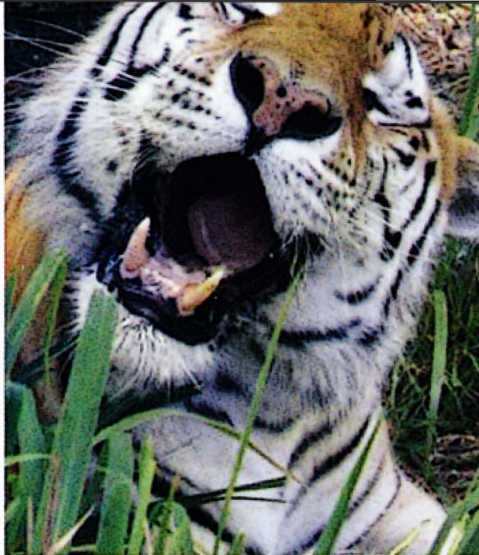
How can people help?

"The easiest and best thing to do is by not doing something," Bass said, "Never pay to hold, or touch, or have your photo taken with a cub. That is by far, we believe, the impetus for the problem. And if that stops ... people will stop making money from them."

Bass said cats used for entertainment and profit are doomed to spend the rest of their lives in cages.

As far as the FDA is concerned, big cats need only to be kept in a space large enough for them to stand up and make necessary postural movements. Bass said people would be less inclined to participate in the big cat trade if they were forced to keep them in a larger area, because it would cost a lot more.

Bass and BCR have proposed a bill to federal legislation, which they hope will phase out the big cat trade by making it illegal for the public to have direct contact with the cats.



on the VERGE of EXTINGUISHING

BY MARISA NOBS

EVERY DAY, THE EARTH LOSES AN AVERAGE OF 200 SPECIES, ACCORDING TO THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.

While many of these go unnoticed, there are two at risk of extinction that would dramatically impact humanity: bees and sharks. The initial implication of both is not favorable; bees can cause nasty stings, while sharks have a reputation for being vicious predators. However, their roles in nature are so profound that the loss of either would create a perpetual domino effect.

The role of bees in nature is relatively well known. In particular, honeybees pollinate plants as they travel around collecting nectar and pollen for their colony. As a result, up to 30 percent of food crops and 90 percent of wild plants rely on insect pollination. While other species help, such as butterflies, bees are by far the largest contributor. Therefore, they are responsible for much more than honey; it is thanks to them that grocery stores have such a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. If bees went extinct, the options

would be cut in half. It is calculated that bees generate 30 billion dollars a year in crops, according to BBC. The farming industry would greatly suffer and start leaning towards non-pollinating plants such as rice, creating a surplus of one crop and not enough of others.

A less well-known byproduct of bee pollination is cotton. If cotton cannot be produced, the clothing industry would become more dependent on synthetic materials. This is potentially very problematic because the synthetic fibers can only be made from fossil fuels. As a result, producing them releases enormous amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. To put it in perspective, polyester generates 9.52 KG of carbon dioxide per ton of fiber, while conventional cotton generates only 5.90 KG, according to a study conducted by the Stockholm Environment Institute. Materials such as nylon and acrylic are even worse. So while clothing could still be produced without bees, it would harm the environment. In addition, it is

important to always remember that alternate sources are limited. Fossil fuels are already being consumed at exponential rates and are not a permanent solution.

One of the scariest side effects of losing bees would be a lack of medication. A large portion of medicines is plant-based, such as





EXTINCTION



morphine. With fewer plants growing, the pharmaceutical industry would struggle to mass-produce and even generate new medications. This shows how the impact of bee's extinction stretches far beyond the food industry. It is safe to infer that the public's health would be in jeopardy. With all these consequences in mind, the pressing question is, how do we save the bees?

There are many hypotheses as to why bees are dying off at an increasing rate. The investigation began back in 2006 when beekeepers began reporting large portions of their bees disappearing, a phenomenon that is now called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). It is impossible to pinpoint the culprit behind it, since it is most

likely a combination of many factors that have been accumulating over decades. Some of these include increasing use of insecticides, specifically neonicotinoids, pathogens, and mites.

Neonicotinoids are a kind of pesticide that became widely used starting in the 1990's and is now a product





that farmers spend almost \$3 billion on each year. Chemically similar to nicotine, neonicotinoids work by causing paralysis and ultimately death in insects. It is extremely harmful to the environment, with a measured 95 percent of it ending up in the environment outside farmland. Following their usual routine, bees unknowingly carry the pesticide to their hive and other plants when pollinating. Bees are twice as likely to die when exposed to it, according to the journal *Nature*.

The Varroa mite has become widespread across America and the world, excluding Australia, and survives by sucking the

blood of bees. As a defense, farmers spray pesticides to kill the mites, which counterintuitively hurts the bees. Even more damaging, the wounds caused by the mites can get infected, leading to viruses such as the Deformed Wing Virus. There are always new reasons as to why the bees are dying by the millions, but research has shown that these are at a minimum contributing factors. It therefore has become a vicious cycle that appears difficult to break.

The protection of bees requires a lot of change and dedication. Farming practices must be altered to become more natural

and utilize a minimal amount of pesticides. The urge to grow crops at faster rates and in bulk has led to a need for these unnatural substances and the ramifications are becoming more apparent every day. If people cannot control their greed, it will be at the expense of the bee species.

Less publicized, the extinction of sharks could be just as detrimental to the world as that of bees. Every year, up to eight percent of the population is lost, which is about 100 million sharks. Unlike bees, they cannot reproduce at rapid rates to lessen the gap. They usually



cannot reproduce until they are at least twenty years old and give birth to fewer pups as they age. Sharks are mainly targeted for their fins, which are used in a Chinese delicacy soup. A documentary called *Sharkwater*, released in 2007, showed footage of hundreds of fins drying on a rooftop. This ruthless slaughter has already begun to affect the fragile food chain of sea life.

Scientists have observed that with a decline in tiger sharks, species that graze were less hunted, resulting in depleted seagrass beds. With no predators to worry about,

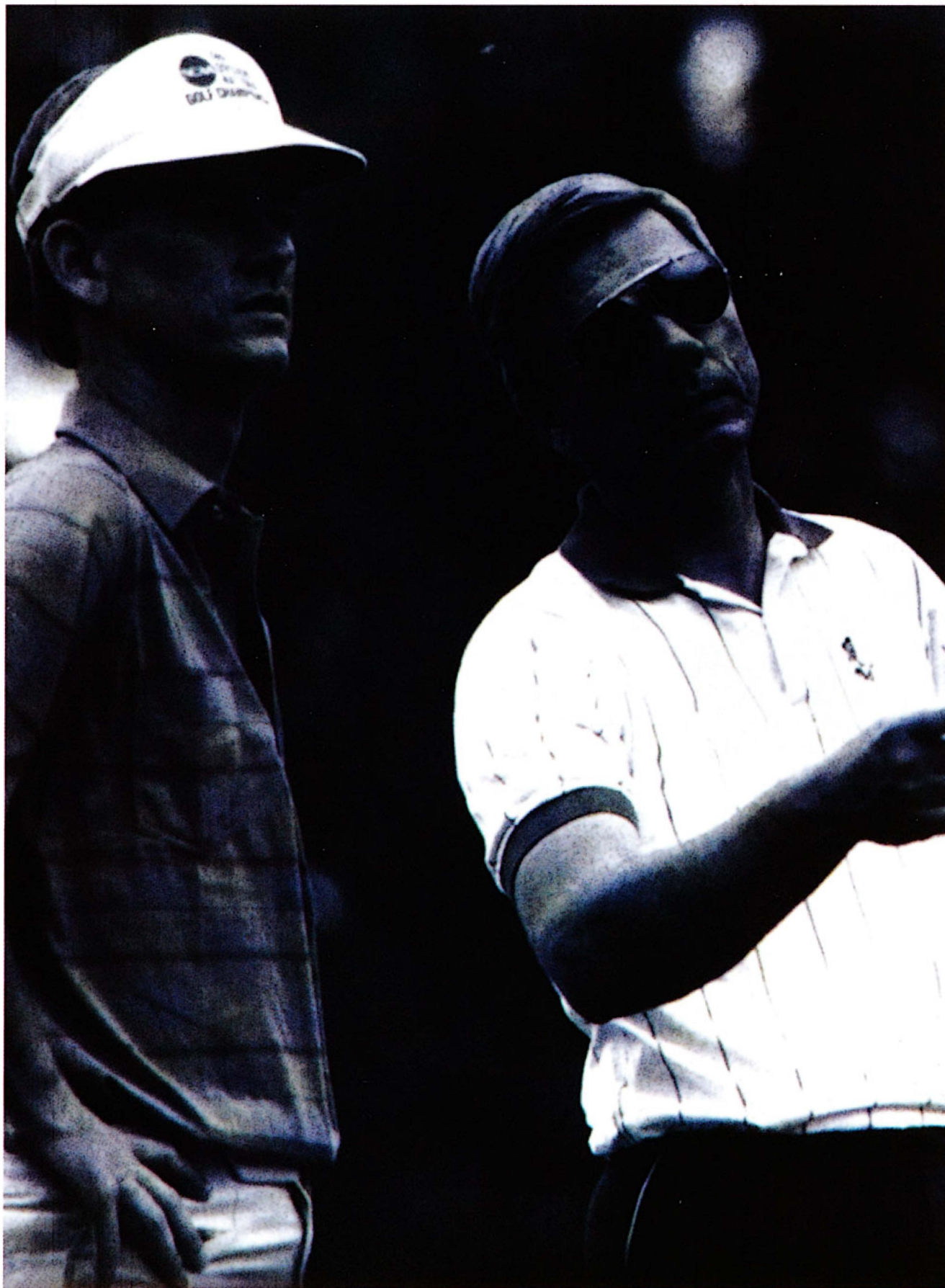
octopuses have begun eating all the lobsters and rays eating all the scallops. This has been mentioned as a reason for some fisheries going out of business. If sharks were completely eradicated, the seafood industry would plummet. Corals are also at risk, with more diseased fish swimming around and spreading harmful pathogens. This is as a result of more grouper fish, leading to a decline of parrotfish, which eat the algae off coral. A 2005 study estimated that all coral would die off within a year of shark extinction.

Essentially, sharks are responsible for keeping the oceans healthy. A healthy ocean provides the Earth with more oxygen than the rainforests, reduces carbon dioxide levels, and contributes majorly to food sources. The loss of sharks would eventually result in less phytoplankton, which generate the ocean's oxygen. This would certainly pose a problem for all species, not just humans. There are probably many more unforeseen problems that would result from losing these vital predators.

While so often shown as the enemy, in America, sharks actually are only responsible for one human death every other year. That means you are more likely to be crushed by a vending machine. Movies such as *Jaws* have generated unnecessary fear that spirals out of control. Whenever a human is attacked, it is usually because the shark was provoked or mistook someone for a seal. About twenty million sharks

are killed per human death by shark attack. Sharks should be thanked rather than murdered for their contribution to our ecosystem. Stricter regulations need to be implemented to minimize finning and unnecessary hunting for sport or out of fear. Luckily, some progress has been made in light of seeing the consequences of shark extinction. China has said it will stop serving shark fin soup at official state banquets, which hopefully will begin setting an example for other companies. If no one eats or buys the soup, there is no reason to kill the sharks. While more drastic measures need to be taken, this is a good first step. Breathable air and the ocean's health should not be compromised because of a soup. With over four hundred species, the beauty and variety of sharks alone should be enough to convince people they deserve to be saved.

Profit is the main drive behind most decisions nowadays and people will go to drastic measures to achieve it. Unfortunately, human greed is really beginning to damage the environment. Vital species like sharks and bees cannot be taken advantage of. Limitations must be acknowledged and respected in order to continue benefitting from them. It is easy to overlook these kinds of problems when they are not impacting our day to day lives, but ignoring them may lead to a point of no return.



Lessons Taught on the Fairway

Former UT golfer reflects on his professional career

BY PHILIP NOVOTNY

When a student athlete excels at playing a sport, he or she has usually been playing since they were in grade school, in some cases even younger. In the case of 1988 UT graduate and golfer Jeff Leonard, it was quite the opposite. He began playing golf competitively when he came to UT. "One of the keys to my success at UT was being relatively new to competitive golf," Leonard said. "A lot of guys I played with had played junior golf and were kind of burned out on golf. It was new to me, and I couldn't get enough of it." By playing golf in Florida, Leonard believes that it gave him a competitive advantage. "I loved playing and practicing and being in Florida with the opportunity to play year-round, I was able to make up for the lack of experience as a junior golfer," Leonard continued.

On top of being able to pick up golf quickly, Leonard is known for his work ethic, which he learned from his father. "My dad has been the most influential person in my life. The work ethic that he has displayed throughout his career has left an impression on me as far as what it takes to be the best you can be at something," Leonard said. "I have always enjoyed practicing and working on my golf game and I think that came from watching my dad." Leonard's ability to work on his game

year-round translated into results on the course. He was a key component to the men's golf team during his tenure at UT. Notably, the golf team won the NCAA Division II National Championship in back-to-back years in 1987 and 1988. Leonard reflects on those championship seasons. "My favorite memory is definitely winning the NCAA team championship in 1987. We had made such strides as a team that semester and going into the tournament, we thought we had a chance, but you don't know for sure. We all played so well the last day of that tournament. It was incredibly rewarding. I was in the last group to finish, so getting to walk up the last fairway knowing we had accomplished what we set out to do was great. It was great winning again in '88 but we were expected to win, so it was a much different experience."

After his collegiate golfing days, Leonard joined the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour in 1994-1995 and the Asian Tour in 1995-1996. In addition to the influence of his father during his life, he credits UT's golf program and its size in assisting him to develop his skills for playing golf on a professional level. "Being at a smaller program allowed me to experience success and gain the confidence and self-belief necessary to play at the professional level," Leonard said.

After he completed his professional golf career, Leonard focused his career to developing youth golfers. For ten years, he served as the Director of Programs for The First Tee of Tampa Bay which is a branch of the Tampa YMCA program. In fact, they provide interactive golf lesson to more than 40,000 children each year from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

He served as the director until 2014 where he shifted his focus to ministry work as the Director of Worship and Arts at St. James UMC. Even though his new position is not as golf-oriented, Leonard still implements what he learned from the sport into his new occupation. "Even though my day job is now in ministry, golf has greatly influenced how I go about my job and relate to others. Lessons learned on the golf course about focus and what I can control versus what I can't control translate very well to any career," Leonard said.

With that said, Leonard still finds time to personally develop young golfers. "I still find time to teach some golf in addition to my responsibilities at the church, so the lessons learned at UT and on the course will always stick with me."

an OPPORTUNITY of a LIFETIME

BY TESS SHEETS

'I chose coaching
because it was
always something
that I enjoyed
doing'

- Jim Kiner

High school is a place where athletes find their niche. Growing up, parents will generally sign their children up for an array of sports in their early years to determine interests and skills, but only in high school does a player get to narrow these down for themselves. An athlete will excel at one or maybe two sports, pursue these in hopes of a college scholarship and leave the rest behind. However, this was not the case for assistant swimming coach Jimi Kiner.

Kiner displayed proficiency in nearly every sport his school offered. Upon graduation, Kiner already had college offers from Division I football programs as well as tryouts for Major League Baseball teams and proposals to pursue swimming for many DI programs in Tampa. Despite his myriad of options, Kiner set his heart on the University of Tampa, where head coach Ed Brennan gave him "the opportunity of a lifetime," according to Kiner.

In his four year duration at UT, Kiner managed to rack up quite the resume of swimming accolades and honors. As a four-year, 18 time All American, two time national runner up, former University of Tampa record holder, Olympic trial qualifier and National Champion, Kiner acquired more than enough experience after college to secure him a career in many sports ventures.



However, after graduating from the University of Tampa in 2001 with a finance degree, his short-lived career as an insurance agent quickly had him returning to the Spartan pool to pursue a full-time career in coaching for UT and the Greater Tampa Swimming Association.

"I chose coaching because it was always something that I enjoyed doing," Kiner said. "I worked at a bank for about a year all the while still coaching club and volunteering with the college team, after my year at the bank I moved on to sell life insurance and boy did that suck. I am now full time and have been the assistant swimming coach for 12 years, loving every minute of it."

Although Kiner's football and baseball offers posed admirable opportunities for his post high school endeavors, swimming was the only venture that held his interest. After his successful career

at UT, he was able to bring back his expertise to aid the same team where he once thrived.

"The fact that Jimi is a UT alumnus and former UT swimmer really gives him the experience that I think every coach should have. He has been in our shoes and he understands the struggle bus," said sophomore swimmer Connor Zazzo. "It also gives us swimmers no excuses or reasons to complain, because we know he has been through it too."

While Kiner's college achievements give him merit to lead the team, his swimmers note that it is his attitude and mentality that are most crucial to the team's success. They appreciate his distinct coaching style that relies on devotion, fervor and the value of truthfulness. He takes the time to personalize his coaching style so that each swimmer understands his or her individual assets that they contribute to their team.

"Jimi's biggest impact in helping the team succeed has to be the passion and extremely positive outlook he has on the future of the team," Zazzo said. "He wants us to be champions and he makes us believe that we are champions through different forms of encouragement. He'll tell us when we are swimming like crap when we are, but he'll also tell us when we are kicking ass. I think that attitude/mentality is the most important attribute that Jimi brings to the team."

Although he achieved his fair share of accomplishments throughout his athletic and coaching careers, Kiner notes that above all, it is others who have made his experiences worthwhile.

"The most rewarding part of my career at UT I would have to say would be the relationships that I have created and the people I have met along the way," Kiner said.





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BILLY Q

BY JAKE VAN LOON

145-pound professional fighter William "Billy" Quarantillo starts every morning the same way. Before anything else, Quarantillo will down a liter of water and a thousand milligrams of vitamin C.

"I will drink between two and two and half gallons of water a day," the 26-year-old says. "Being dehydrated is just something you don't want to worry about."

Then comes a "power bowl," a recipe of Quarantillo's invention. A true breakfast of champions consisting of: oatmeal, chia seeds, blueberries, raspberries, almond butter, and raw honey all stirred together.

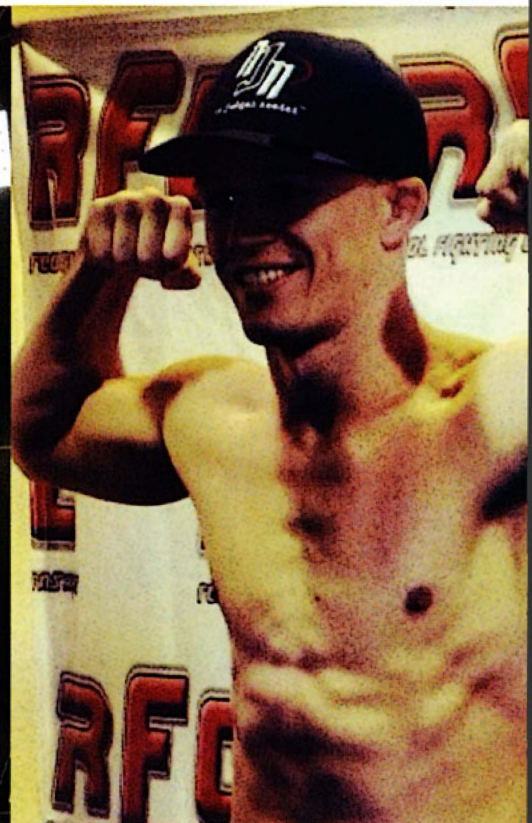
He blends into the Sunday afternoon crowd at the Dale Mabry LA Fitness. He is not causally breaking a sweat; he is here to sharpen his profession.

Quarantillo is 5'10, wearing a grey hoodie, black basketball shorts and a backwards baseball cap. He has a slim waist, broad shoulders and skinny legs. He is not a fitness enthusiast. He is a professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter.

Today is his day off from waiting tables at Carrabbas on Dale Mabry, but he is still punching his card into work. Quarantillo will start off a lazy Sunday's training with some cardio on the treadmill. Then, he will do some light body weight work: pull-ups, pushups, and situps.

He will finish with "Hot Tub" rounds, 5 to 10 minute intervals where he will start submerged up to his neck and slowly rise, leaving less and less of his body in the hot water.

"It helps the body sweat naturally," says Quarantillo. "This is where I



will start a pre-cut, practice for the real weight cut this Thursday. This is also where I mentally prepare."

Last week, he weighed in at 173 pounds. On Friday before his fight, he will weigh 145 pounds the day before he fights for the featherweight Strikeoff title in Fairfax, VA.

Quarantillo has been fighting for five years. He had his first fight in August of 2010 after training for four months. He has 14 wins and two losses under his belt, one coming as an amateur and the second coming as a professional. Five of those wins have come by stoppage, meaning that Quarantillo has either knocked out or submitted to his opponent.

Quarantillo grew up in Louisville, NY, a suburb of Buffalo. In high

school, he played football and hockey, but had always been fascinated by fighting; by, "the aspect of two guys competing, and the violence of it all."

His interest peaked when he was shown a simple Triangle Choke (when the attacker encloses an opponent's arm and head between locked legs to stop blood flow to the brain) and an Arm Bar (when the attacker uses their own hips as a fulcrum to bend an opponent's elbow past the breaking point). Learning the Triangle Choke and Armbar, the simple techniques of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, brought Quarantillo to the gym, and soon after that, to the cage.

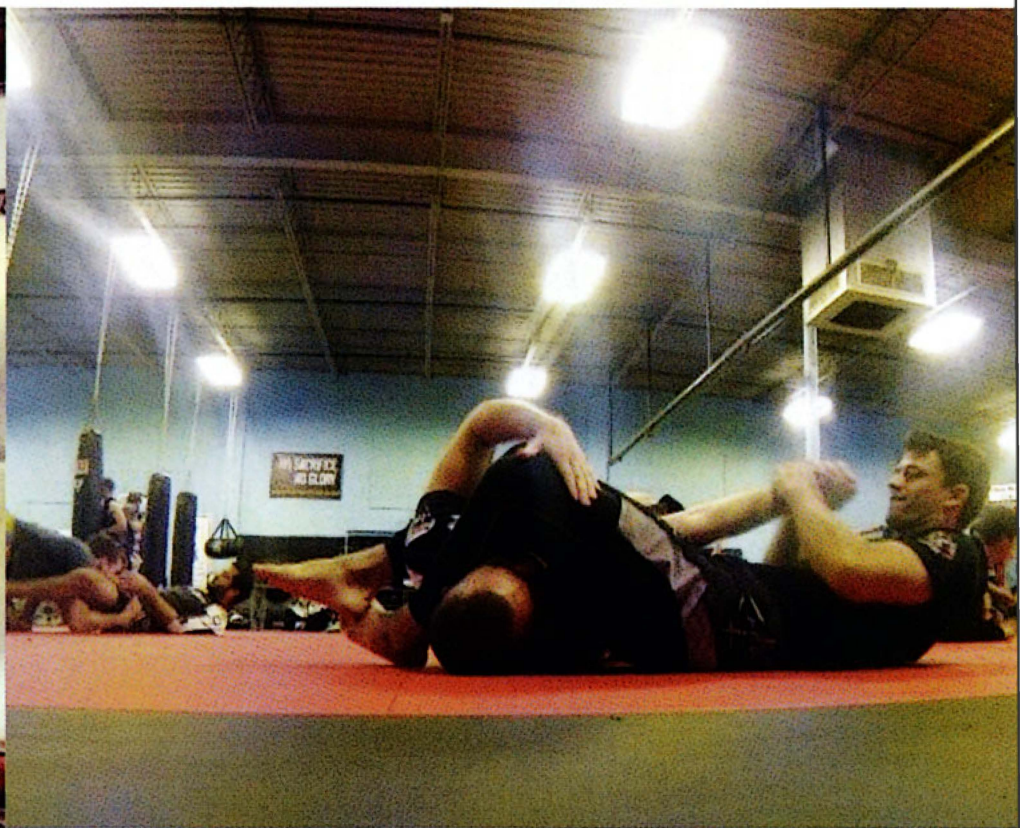
Quarantillo's sister went to the University of Tampa. During a visit, a friend of hers showed him around one of the area's prominent gyms: Gracie Tampa.

"Gracie Tampa was putting a lot of fighters in the UFC back then, and we didn't have instructors like that in New York," says Quarantillo.

So he moved. Disguised by gym clothes and a fun loving smile, Quarantillo's routine rivals the discipline of a Buddhist monk.

The first workout of the day is either a long run or a session with a Ukrainian kickboxing champion, Bogdan, whose blonde head towers over Quarantillo.

Boxing training can seem barbaric. The wet impacts and grunts echo across the training complex on Gray Street in West Tampa. The trainer with padded mitts is the conductor, and Quarantillo with 16oz boxing gloves is the orchestra percussionist. Bogdan's Eastern European accent calls



out combinations of punches and Quarantillo punches back in eighth and quarter notes. "One," for a quick straight left. "Two," for a straight right. "Three," for a left hook.

They start with simple combinations, and build into complex crescendos. The early combinations are drills, and during the longer sequences Bogdan mimics the punches of an opponent by lashing and looping the mitts out for Quarantillo to dodge.

The drills are meant to program the fighter; there will be no time for thought during fight time. The point is be concerned with the music, not the individual beat.

After a morning of striking or running, he will take the early afternoon to get some food and even take a nap if the training is hard. The nights are hard sparring

on Monday and Thursday, with Jiu-jitsu every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, wrestling on Wednesday, and kickboxing drills every night.

Training occurs at Gracie Tampa South. It is a bare bones monastery of a 10,000 square foot gym consisting of an ocean of red mats, an MMA cage, hanging heavy bags and a utilitarian collection of free weights.

The gym's students congregate on the mats before training sessions like churchgoers before mass. Sermons are given in the form of about two dozen training sessions a week. Baptisms are given daily in the form of dripping sweat. Fighters like Quarantillo are the monks, whose comings and goings you could set a watch by.

Quarantillo will be at the gym by 9 A.M. sharp, wrapping his hands

while office workers stand in line for Starbucks. His life is rhythm and discipline. He would not have it any other way.

He builds his schedule to maximize his time at the gym. He waits tables on the weekend, but only to save extra money. Over the last five years, as his career progressed, he has worked less and less and trained more and more. He is supported mostly by his sponsors and by teaching private lessons, his client base growing with every victory.

"My goal is to train full-time and be profitable from it," he says. "My ultimate goal is be world champion."

He took a step further toward that goal on Feb. 28, when "Billy Q" knocked his opponent out in the second round and took home his first featherweight pro title.

DEFEAT THE ONLINE JOB APPLICATION

CONTACTS

1234 Main Street
Tampa, FL

needajob@gmail.com
Tel. 555-555-5555



EDUCATION

University of Tampa
Bachelor of Arts
2011 - 2015

SKILLS

- Research
- InDesign
- Photoshop
- Wordpress
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Word

BY LAUREN RICHEY

ONE THING IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO ALL GRADUATING COLLEGE STUDENTS: THE REAL WORLD IS TERRIFYING. We came to college as bright-eyed freshmen picturing our shining futures without a care in the world. Then second semester hit, and adult things like the economy and the job market were shoved to the sidelines to make room for research papers and group projects. Now with fewer than two weeks until graduation, and slim job prospects before us, the panic has set in.

You've been trying for months to apply to positions remotely close to your field of study, and now a few frantic questions enter your mind: What happened to all of those online applications I sent? Why has no one contacted me for a follow up? Am I going to end up in my parents' basement soon?

The sad answer to these questions actually has nothing to do with you, the applicant (although a few extracurriculars wouldn't hurt). The answer deals with the job system itself, and the invisible obstacles in place designed to weed out unsuspecting students like yourself, especially if you're reaching out to companies online.

The reality of online applications is that nine times out of 10 you won't be eliminated by some hardworking hiring manager tirelessly studying your qualifications; a heartless machine decides your fate. Software programs initially scans your résumé and cover letter, searching for the right combination of keywords to allow your application to reach the human beings on the other side. Unfortunately there is no magic formula stating what a particular program scans for, so

THE REALITY OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS THAT **NINE** OUT OF **TEN** TIMES YOUR FATE IS DECIDED **BY A MACHINE**

sometimes it takes a little ingenuity on the part of the applicant to get past these obstacles.

One of the most unfortunate hurdle students face is location. If your dream job is in New York City but your home address is in Orlando, many scanning programs will immediately boot your application right then. More companies are opting to further weed out applicants this way, narrowing the field to local candidates only. The way to get around this? Find a family member, friend, or generous stranger who lives in the area and ask if you could potentially crash with them if need be. Write down their address rather than your own to reduce the mileage between you and the potential job, tricking the computer into allowing you to pass that first round. Though this can get a bit dicey if you start writing down random people's addresses on your applications, you always have the excuse of being an out of state college student if people question your address.

Then we have the dreaded keyword search. Computer programs often scan for certain trigger words in a cover letter or resume. These keywords can vary from "attention to detail" to "organized" depending on the job. One way to

combat this is to use as many keywords from the job description as possible; If a company is looking for an applicant with "experience researching and summarizing scholarly articles," go ahead and include the words "research," "summarized" and "scholarly" somewhere in your application. This advice goes for both the computers and the actual people looking at your application, since it shows that you know what they're looking for and that you're ready to provide it.

Yet there is a more devious way to beat the computer program at it's own game when it comes to keywords. First, take a look at the job description and pick out what you think are the necessary keywords to include. When trying to keep your résumé and cover letter each to one page, this can be a bit tricky if things begin to get cluttered. Here's what you do: take the keywords that normally wouldn't fit into the document, and place them at the bottom. Make their font is pretty small so you can fit as many as you can. Then, if your résumé background is white, change the text to white so it is no longer visible to the human eye. You or your potential hiring manager may not be able to see

those words, but the computer systems sure will. The program will scan the document as normal, picking up your hidden text without judgment of design or placement.

Though this may seem a bit underhanded at first, rest assured this is not a new concept in the world of html. Go to any major or minor news organization's website and, depending on your browser, click "View+Developer+View Source." A page of gobbledy-gook will appear, and with some careful searching you can pick out thousands of hidden keyword tags within each page. Organizations use this method for search optimization (to appear higher on the list of results when you google something), so why can't you do the same thing to get a job? This is only if the information you include is true; I can't condone lying on a résumé.

Let's face it. The job market has become a tangled network of competition, with tricks around every corner. Just as the digital world of job applications transforms, so too must the applicants to have a chance at a job after graduation. Who knows, maybe you won't end up in your parents' basement after all.

LOVE AT FIRST SKYPE



BY SELENE SAN FELICE

Ten p.m. on Saturday night is when Ybor City and its club scene are at prime people-watching hours. The line outside of Czar is full of drunken, disorderly and difficult young adults. College freshman girls tramp by in see-through leotards, dragging their boyfriends behind them. A group of frat boys gather around a large bald man holding a snake. The notorious Ybor Shoelicker sings and dances jubilantly on the sidewalk to a song in his own head.

All of this unfolds in front of Kelli Tanner, Czar's VIP attendant. Tanner, however, only has eyes for one person in particular: the woman staring back at her from an Instagram picture on Tanner's smartphone screen. This is Alice, Tanner's long term girlfriend in the European country Estonia, whom she has never actually met.

Tanner and Alice connected over OKCupid in the summer of 2014. Tanner's account was set to only match her with women in the Tampa area, yet somehow Alice, a 31-year-old choreographer and model from Estonia, still found her. Friendly messaging soon developed into regular dates over Skype and eventually into a committed relationship.

"She first messaged me because of how I look," Tanner said. "Most people that look like me in Europe with dark hair and dark eyes are very egotistical, but I wasn't like that. I'm a Leo so I don't have any problems with self esteem, but I'm not an asshole."

Yet Tanner is much more than dark hair and dark eyes, and she certainly doesn't look like the average 25-year-old. The sides of her head are bare, but a plume of jet-black hair rises, swirling over four inches from the top of her skull and comes to rest on her forehead. She only needs to wash her hair about once a month, but conditions regularly. Her chest, arms, knuckles and the tops of her hands are covered in tattoos: Lumpy Space Princess lives by Tanner's left elbow and a skeleton butterfly plays the keytar on her upper left bicep: both characters from the cartoon "Adventure Time."

Tanner's newest tattoo is an ornate mandala that stretches across the whole front of her neck. A silver horseshoe-shaped ring is pierced through her septum and eraser sized gauges expand her earlobes in light blue circles. Tanner's eyes

are a deep blackish brown, "hamster eyes," as she likes to call them. Tonight she dons all black. Her black blazer, black button up shirt and black wide brimmed hat all fit well on her small framed figure.

Tanner greets almost every VIP and Czar "Comrade" with a hug and a kiss on the cheek. She updates them on her budding romance, something almost every one of Tanner's friends and customers know about. A big, warm grin spreads across her face as she swipes through Instagram pictures of a dark haired and tattooed Alice wearing her T-shirts after Tanner sent them to Estonia.

After their first Skype date, Tanner knew her connection with Alice meant more than just having things in common. The day after they met over webcam, Tanner got Alice's initials tattooed on her wrist. Two weeks later she booked a trip to Europe.

"I fell in love almost immediately," she said. "I've been in relationships where we've lived together and had animals together and built whole lives together, but I've never felt like this."

After Skype-dating for a few weeks Tanner and Alice decided to remain exclusive. They've also decided the best way their relationship will work is to have everything planned out. Within the next year Tanner will visit Estonia for two weeks, Alice will stay with Tanner in the summer, Tanner will go back to Europe in August and Alice will come back to Tampa for Christmas.

Right now the couple's biggest issue is the time difference. Estonia is seven hours ahead of Florida, which means for Tanner and Alice to Skype one of them has to wake up or stay up until 4 to 6 a.m. This can be hard to

manage when Tanner works 80 hours a week between Czar's VIP line and styling hair at Tribeca Colorsalon, and Alice works up to 100 hours dancing and modeling.

Tanner sucks down cigarettes and gulps Red Bull to stay awake through the rest of her 4 a.m. shift, but as long as her phone keeps buzzing with messages from Alice she wears a smile.

Each person who skips the line and pays to be VIP or is a "Czar Nation Comrade" must go through Tanner. A cigarette dangles from her lips as she checks everyone's IDs and bands their wrists. Comrades receive a special free drink of the night and don't need to pay cover. Tonight's free drink is an ice shot. To further the VIP experience customers can order a bottle. Russian Standard, Jameson, and Beefeaters are available starting at \$150.

A 30-something guy with scraggly yellow-blond hair comes up to the counter next. Tanner checks him off under someone else's name on the list and sends him into the club with a hug and an ice shot. "He's been banned from here at least three times," she says. "They just keep letting him back in though."

Lai, the bottle girl, smiles and reveals gold lipstick stains on her cigarette as she pulls it out of her mouth to listen to Tanner tell her about the care package she recently received from Alice full of Haribo gummi products. Last month Tanner sent Alice a package with a few of her T-shirts, her favorite book ("The Horse and his Boy" by C.S. Lewis), plants from her garden, tea and coffee from Buddy Brew and a vinyl California Raisin.

Aside from keeping to a strict diet of Red Bull and Marlboro NXT's at Czar, Tanner spends her daytime eating rigorously healthy. Alice has set up Tanner with a meeting at her modeling company, so she wants to all she can to look her best. At her other job at Tribeca Colorsalon Tanner takes breaks to eat every two hours. Each small meal is either two fruits, two veggies, or a small lunch. She's lost 14 pounds since she began dieting in the beginning of February.

Tanner works to fund not only her travel to see Alice, but also goals further down the line in their relationship. After 2016 begins, Tanner said she and Alice will probably be engaged. Tanner has the ring picked out already, and until she can afford it she wears a silver vintage Marc Jacobs band from her childhood. She plans to find a matching gold version to bring to Alice on her visit to Estonia.

At 2:00 a.m. Tanner's shift at the VIP booth is finally over. She'll spend the rest of her shift inside the club getting ready to close. She sits at the bar and sips on a Red Bull and Vodka. A song from the new Drake album blasts from the surround sound speakers and strobe lights flash from the dance floor in the next room. She looks at a message from Alice and grins, squinting her "hamster eyes."

"I honestly never thought I would get married," Tanner shouts over the music. "I got to share parts of me and it made us feel close, even from so far. I love her passion for life, for her career, and her ability to believe in something magical."



FINAL BYLINE

Graduating seniors say farewell

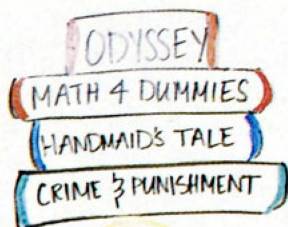


MIA GLATTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

People always ask me if being the Editor-in-Chief is hard or time-consuming or stressful. My answer is always "Yes, but it's also..." In that "... I try to explain everything that The Minaret is and has meant to me over the four years I've been involved. It's hard to sum up the late nights, the angry emails, the conference trips and all the laughs into one socially acceptable answer. It's hard to explain the quote wall, the parks and rec quotes, the nicknames, the intentional mispronunciation of words like sports (SPOAATS), the importance of kerning, and how sometimes you just need to turtle. I'll never forget conquering the Rocky steps, the mafia-owned Italian restaurant, hotel room heads up, the Texas Laurens, Jack's ridiculous office music choices and hiding snails in the layout.

I'd like to thank Doha, for getting stuff done and for always answering my phone. I'd like to thank Katherine for your impressions of Linda Belcher and for the one liners that I will steal and use for my own personal gain. And mostly I'd like to thank Lauren. My beautiful glowing sun goddess and the gold to my blue. Thank you so much for not hating me and for being my partner in crime, my bodyguard and my best friend.

To everyone who still has Tuesday nights ahead of them, enjoy it while you can and do work that you're proud of. I have full confidence that Griffin and Katherine will do incredible things next year and I reserve the right to wander into the office rambling about the good old days and waving my cane at punk kids.



LAUREN RICHEY
MANAGING EDITOR

I don't want to be writing this. Fitting my past three years here at The Minaret in a few short paragraphs seems so futile when there is so much to say, but Mia told me I have to so here we are. I've had the pleasure of working with a handful of some of the most ridiculous, loud-mouthed, hilarious, intelligent, and ultimately remarkable people at this school. If we weren't laughing together, we were yelling at each other. If we weren't watching life-changing youtube videos, we were stressfully writing and editing last-minute content.

I certainly will miss the strongest man in the world, Italian Beyoncé, philly cheesesteak, the boisterous hulk, my vegan soul sister, the Turkish sex-goddess, my Brand New buddy, the Brooklyn multimedia guru, the femtastic Bill Nye protege, the future Annie Leibovitz youtuber, the tinder specialist with sick raps, and last but not least, my beautiful sunflower, part-time musical muppet, and best friend.

I would really rather not say goodbye. I'd rather pretend that I will still see all of these people in the office and on campus. I don't want to think about them leaving for the military, going to grad school in New York, working for the Bucs and the Lightning, or moving away. I don't want to think about the finality of my own departure.

So I'm not going to. See you all Tuesday.



JORDAN LLANES
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR



JACK WHITAKER
OPINION EDITOR



DOHA MADANI
MULTIMEDIA DIRECTOR

To the members of my sports team: Marcus, Regina, Tess, Andrew, Melissa, Erin, Ed and Ann Marie, thank you for the opportunity to be your editor. I loved every minute of it, even though there were times where I lost quite a bit of sleep in the newsroom while laying out your articles.

To Phil: I've taught you everything I can. Now go out there and make me proud. To Griff: Congrats on making Editor-In-Chief. You will be a great leader, and take The Minaret to an even higher level than we have. Both of you are basically brothers to me, and I'm proud of the men both of you have become.

To the rest of my fellow seniors: Jack, Mia, Lauren, Avery, Doha, Jackie and Zoe, we have been through one amazing ride. Our time together has made us one big family. I can't imagine graduating and taking this next step in life with anyone else. We made it. Now it's time for us to make our marks on this world. Let's go show the world what the MinaFriends can do.

Wow, what a time! My years on staff as a columnist, assistant editor and editor have been filled with innumerable arduous, but fun nights. I have used the Minaret to express myself in ways I never imagined possible and in the process learned about myself and made lifelong friendship.

I can't imagine living anywhere but Tampa, but as I begin my career in the U.S. Army I know that my time here has prepared me for the many challenges that I will face pushing forward. I'm very thankful to have been blessed with the opportunity to provide all of you with the opinions of the those who wished to display them. Likewise, I'm very thankful for the many writers who trusted me with their opinions and gave everything to meet the needs of the paper week in and week out. Thank you all for everything, I will miss you.

My time at The Minaret has been the most rewarding experience of my entire collegiate career. I know that as a journalism major words should be my forte, but I can't seem to describe how incredible the past few years have been on this staff. Our group of friends is a modge podge of personalities, but somehow we manage to be an amazing family. There's been fighting, laughter, and all out insanity in our little room that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world.

In a few weeks we will be scattered around the world and moving away from each other, but the friendships we've made will go with us. I'll never listen to Hootie without thinking about Jack, or watch Clueless without remembering Lauren on Halloween.

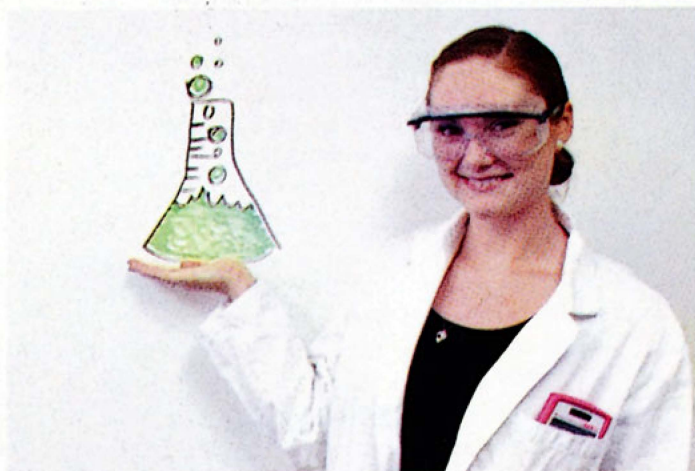
In the end, I have been lucky. Friends and opportunities like the ones I have had don't just come along every day. Maybe I have to close the door on yesterday's beginnings, but the window will always be around for me to peek in from time to time.



JACKIE BRAJE
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



ZOE FOWLER
ASST. NEWS EDITOR



AVERY TWIBLE
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

I panicked over not knowing where to begin with this sendoff, so naturally, I Googled the etymology of "good-bye." Apparently, it's a 16th century contraction of God be with ye! influenced by good day, good evening, etc. As all of us seniors are preparing to enter the deep dark world of job hunting and waking up before noon everyday, this seemed kind of fitting.

It's been a ride these past few years. From getting lost in Philly to screaming in the office; from my first time setting foot into a Minaret meeting sophomore year to my last time ever laying out the A&E section senior year; I've simultaneously loved and questioned why I was doing this for every second of it. But the latter is easy to answer: because I adore everyone on this staff. And who else can say that about their coworkers? Selene, you're my other half. I wouldn't want to be in that office until 5:00 a.m. with anyone else but you. Mia, Lauren: you killed it this year. To all my Mina Friends: I can walk out of college as a better person because of you, and I mean that.

I remember being a freshman and having major anxiety about going to the my first Minaret meeting. I honestly didn't know what the hell I was doing. I've learned that you just have to start. The next semester I decided to do it anyway because that's what you do when you're afraid. You prove yourself wrong.

My experience at The Minaret as The Head Copy Editor and Assistant News Editor made me a better writer, and I discovered my love for editing. Katherine: It's been a pleasure working with you. I can't to see you rock Editorial Director. Mia: Thank you for being the perfect example of a leader. Jordan: Thank you for being kind and always having my back. Phil: You are and will always be my spirit animal. I'm going to be cheesy and quote The Golden Girls theme song: "Thank you for being a friend." To my other graduating editors: Thank you for the laughter and entertainment.

In a little over two weeks I will graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology, but my time spent with The Minaret will forever remain an accomplishment I'm most proud of. There's no telling what caused me to wander into my first general newspaper meeting three years ago, but I can't imagine what my life would be like today if I hadn't. Not only have I gained knowledge in a field I otherwise wouldn't have been exposed to, I've also benefited from being influenced by peers of varied majors and lifestyles and made friendships that will last a lifetime.

If I've learned anything during my four years at the University of Tampa, it is that life's downs are just as important as its ups. The times that push you outside of your comfort zone will not always be easy and they will almost certainly not be fun, but if you look hard enough, you can always find a lesson waiting for you.

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Tiffini Theisen and Robert Landry



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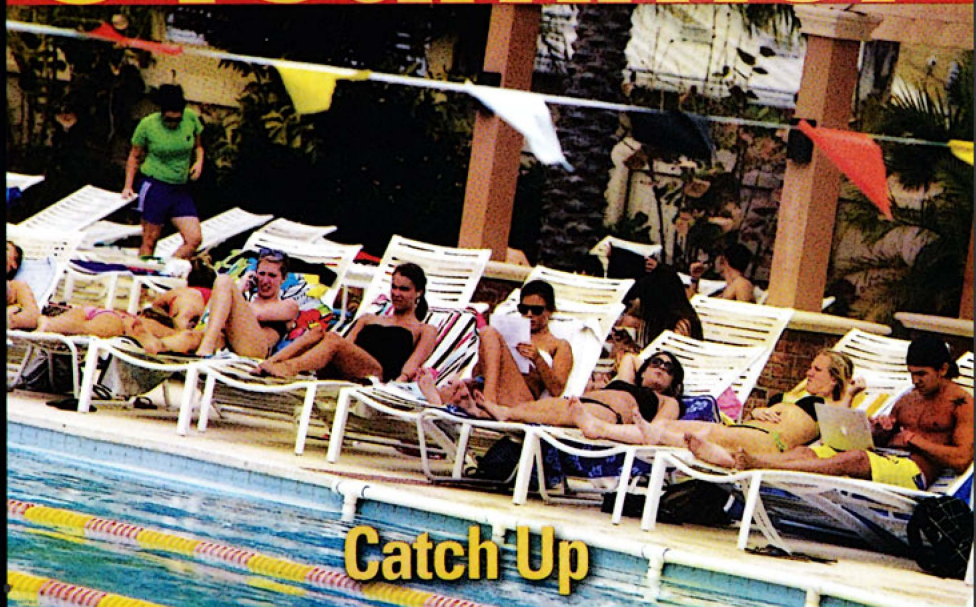
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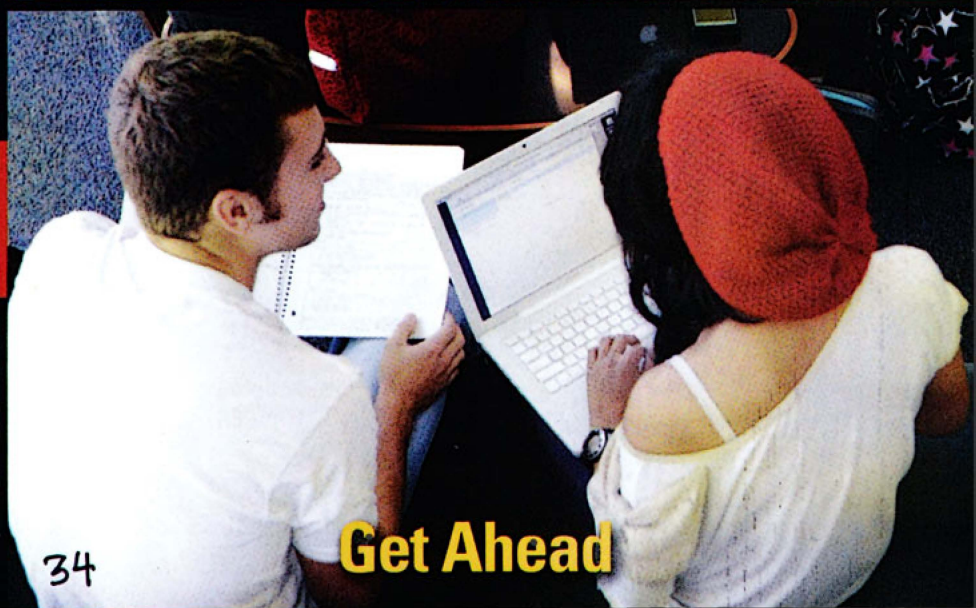
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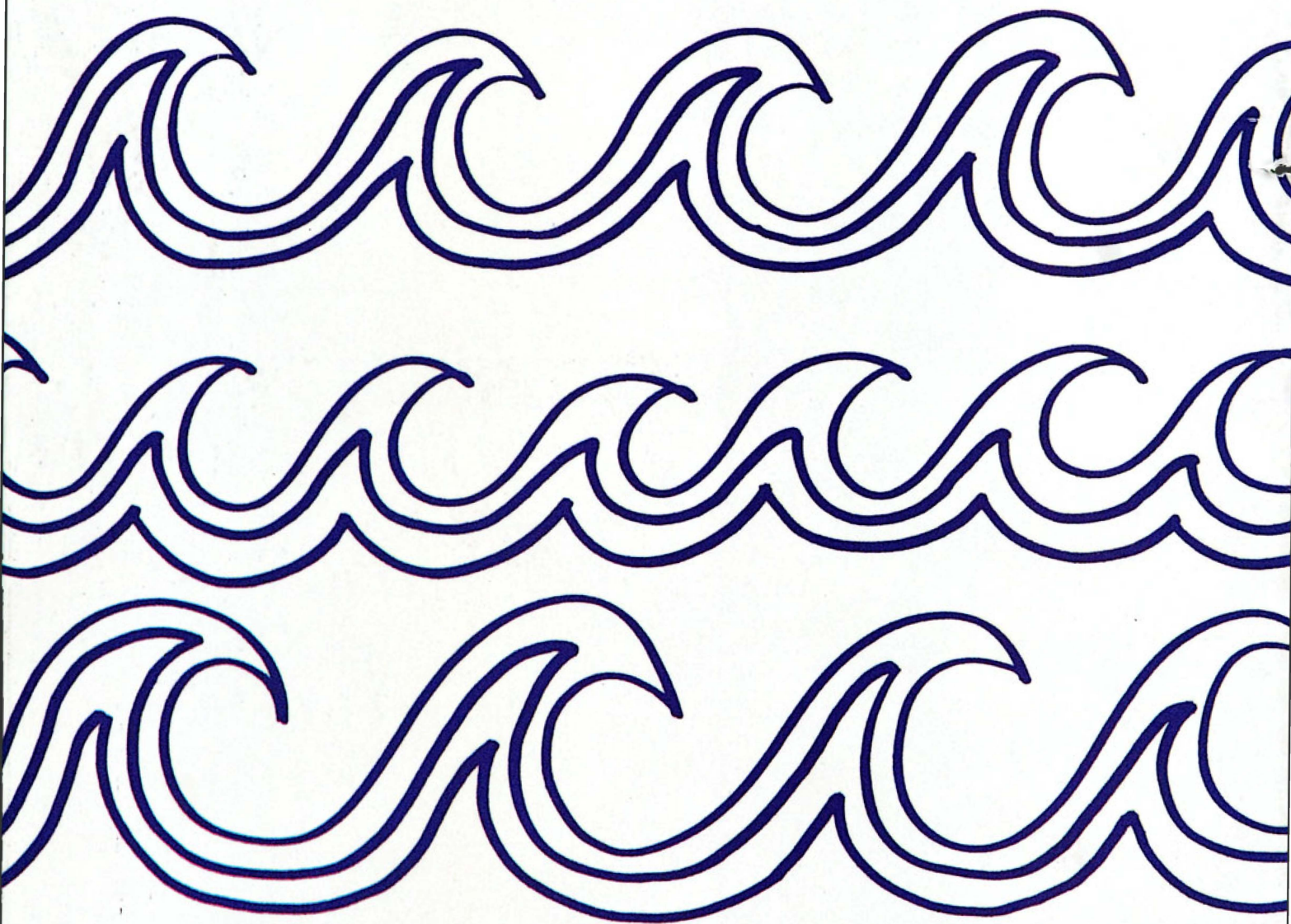
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