

# The Torch

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Since 2007

“TRUTH, LIKE  
A TORCH, THE  
MORE IT'S  
SHOOK IT  
SHINES.”

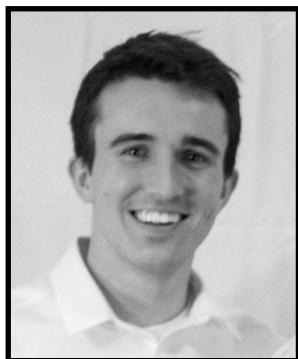
- WILLIAM HAMILTON

Shake well before reading for best results



A Brooks College Publication about Things and Non-Things





# Cliff Jumping in the World

## *The Difference Between Innocence and Purity*

-TJ Neathery: Torch Editor

Anyone with a basic understanding of physics knows that it takes less effort *not* to jump off a cliff than to take the dive and climb back to the top. Those who have been rock climbing or cliff jumping understand what I mean. But this principle does not apply only to the physical world; it applies to our spiritual lives as well. Specifically, I have found that this cliff example applies analogously to my experience with temptation and sin. Sometimes whatever lies at the bottom of the precipice (the temptation) looks extremely inviting and I “jump for it”, even though I know that as hard as it is to stay away from sinning, it is even harder to return to a place similar to the one I held before I took “the plunge”. The bittersweet taste of forbidden fruit along with the strength of habit makes it difficult to return to living a life separate from sin. So what about those of us (read “all of us”) who have willingly jumped into the pit at one point or another? What does one do when the sin has been committed and temptation has temporarily triumphed over our better judgment? Has all been lost when innocence slips out of reach? Where is hope in all this?

Before answering these questions, I must say that this article is



The Climbing Wall at the Baylor SLC

not meant to be a prescription, “Do this and you can make particular wrongs right again.” No, instead this article is intended to investigate and perhaps explain the subtle differences between innocence and purity. In the image of the cliff jumper, I relate the person who has never jumped off the ledge to the innocent person. Similarly, the person who has jumped off the ledge, but has reached the top once again, represents the pure person. The implications drawn from these differences will hopefully shed light onto an important misconception many of us consciously or subconsciously cling to.

This misconception stems from confusing innocence and purity as synonyms of one another. They are not. Innocence is a type or subset of purity like a square is a type of rectangle. The innocent man has never committed a sin, but this is not necessarily true of the pure man, although it may be. A new shirt is in a way “innocent” and “pure” at the same time because it is spotlessly clean. If it becomes dirty, then it is no longer “innocent” or “pure”. But if the stains are completely removed, then it is “pure” but not “innocent”. But how exactly does this work with people?

The distinction between innocence and purity only has meaning for human beings within the context of Christ. We are washed white as snow, but not protected so absolutely that we cannot willfully sully our own shining coats (Isaiah 1:18). Faith in Christ means our sins are forgiven and in His eyes, the only eyes that matter, we are pure. Whether you believe we are born straight into the pit or whether you believe we jump into the pit, it doesn’t matter. Everyone finds his or herself at the base of the cliff at some point. And it is Christ who picks us up and brings us back to the top, this time for good (although we may attempt to jump off smaller ledges here and there).

Sadly, many of us forget the distinction between innocence and purity. I find myself forgetting this quite often. We look at poor decisions we have made in the past and become hopeless, as if innocence constitutes the true measure of a man or woman. We look back through the years and wish to be children again, without the hurt and failure that comes with living life.

But although innocence should be cherished, our current situation is not to be lamented. The angels, who are also innocent, constantly marvel at Christ’s love for us (1 Peter 1:12). The salvation of mankind is a great and good mystery to the heavenly beings, and we should rejoice because we are able to take part in it. The author of Hebrews writes:

For surely it is not angels [Christ] helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:17-18 NIV)

Through our missteps, we are able to experience the intense love of Christ. Therefore, take heart! For in Christ you are pure and your failings are no longer remembered. No one is innocent, but we are made pure through faith. But lest we forget, listen to Paul’s advice, “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!” (Romans 6:15 NIV). Since we are made pure in Christ, let us take his grace as encouragement and continue to do good as we surrender our wills to His. Rather than having Christ fetch us from the valley below, let us stand high upon the mountain with him and survey the broad horizon of His goodness forever.



# The Cruel Mystery

- *Emily Dyess: Torch Contributor*

"It's never Lupus"... Or is it? Anyone familiar with the popular medical drama knows that in the world of Dr. House, a hard to diagnose mystery disease is almost never Lupus. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Lupus is a widely misunderstood disease. Very few people have ever heard of it, and those who have are often misinformed or confused about what exactly Lupus is. Lupus is an autoimmune disease. This means that for some reason, the immune system malfunctions and begins to attack and destroy healthy body cells. Despite centuries of research and study, Lupus remains a mystery to doctors and scientists. It is still unknown what causes Lupus, and there is no cure.

Lupus affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans, and 16,000 new cases are diagnosed in the U.S. every year. In the medical community, it is widely believed that these numbers should be much higher. This is because Lupus is incredibly difficult to diagnose. There isn't a single test that can determine if someone has Lupus. Doctors compare a patient's symptoms against a checklist of the "standard" lupus symptoms. Of course, this is just a guideline for diagnosis. Lupus is a complex disease. No two cases are alike. Some patients may exhibit all of the signs while others may only exhibit one or two. There are 15 standard symptoms including pain in the joints, sensitivity to sunlight, and unexplained hair loss. Traditionally, a patient must exhibit multiple symptoms. Unfortunately, most people do not have more than one or two symptoms at once. Because of this, it can often take months or even years to finally find the real cause for someone's suffering. Getting a conclusive diagnosis is extremely difficult, but it is only the first challenge in a lifelong battle for anyone suffering from this disease.

Life with Lupus is incredibly difficult. The Lupus Foundation's rallying cry is "help us solve the cruel mystery," and that's exactly what Lupus is, a mystery. Lupus affects every aspect of a person's life. On a bad day, it can cause severe joint pain, extreme fatigue, and major organ damage. It can make even the simplest of tasks such as getting dressed or even just getting out of bed nearly impossible. Even on a good day, however, lupus still affects every facet of life. Lupus patients must be careful to limit sun exposure, avoid stress, and manage medications to minimize flares. Lupus is a cyclical disease with periods of remission, when symptoms are minimal or nonexistent, and periods of flare, when symptoms are highly present and active. The scary part is not knowing when the next flare will occur.



I consider myself to be relatively lucky. During my freshman year of high school, I began showing symptoms. At first, my doctors were clueless, but within one or two months, I had what was considered a "textbook case." I exhibited almost all of the 15 symptoms within a very short window of time. Since my diagnosis, my whole world has been turned upside down. My life is not like that of most people my age. I have to be on constant alert for any signs that my Lupus might be about to flare up again. Last semester, I didn't pay close enough attention. I ignored signs and symptoms that were essentially flashing red signs saying "warning, warning, danger is near". The combination of poor sleeping habits, stress, and bad circumstances led to the worst flare I have had in my life. Over the course of a weekend in February, I went from feeling relatively normal to being unable to walk and on my way to the hospital. I had hopes that I would be able to return after Spring Break, but after weeks of emergency IV treatments, it was clear I was not going to be able to return. I still couldn't walk. Finally in May, after months of physical therapy and 2 stays in the hospital, I was

able to walk and use my left hand again. It has been a roller coaster year and life for me, but in a way I am almost glad it happened. It opened my eyes. I am coming back this semester with a renewed dedication to my education and my faith, and a better idea of what I need to do to take care of myself and be successful.

The hardest part of living with lupus is people not knowing about it. There are very few outward symptoms, so most people are unaware when someone close to them has Lupus. They don't realize that while someone may look fine on the outside, Lupus can be attacking their body, causing extreme fatigue and pain. It isn't their fault. They simply haven't been exposed to what Lupus is. This is an extreme problem. While there are over one million people in the U.S. living with this disease, fewer than 40% of American adults have ever heard of it and fewer than 20% know even the most basic facts about Lupus. People need to be aware of what Lupus is and how it can affect someone. The best way to find out more about Lupus is to look online. There are several websites that have all the information you could possibly want to know about Lupus. The best website to visit is Lupus.org. Or you can ask someone you know who has it. Usually, they will be more than happy to answer your questions because they understand that the more people know, the greater the chance of finding new treatments and hopefully one day, a cure.

# The Peasant Life of a Cupcake Queen



**By Taylor Bielamowicz**

Torch Contributor/ Brooks Baker

Despite knowing that I am a baking addict, few people at and around Brooks know that I am actually the former owner of a fully functioning, small cupcake/pastry business, Queen Bie Cakes (pronounced like bee). That bundle of homemade joy was my baby from my senior year of high school until my junior year of college. From marketing and advertising, to personal deliveries, and even hosting Camp Cupcake (a party where you and your friends could learn how to decorate your own dozen cupcakes), my one-woman operation did it all. I even drove around in a car called "The Cupcake Mobile".

Before I became the Clear Lake Area's personal Martha Stewart (I'm also really into decorating and crafting... #WifeMe), I was just a stressed out high school junior who needed a relaxing activity I could do by myself. Enter my foray into the wonderful world of baked goods. It's a wonder I can bake anything, since my mother expressly forbid my siblings and me from ever "helping" her in the kitchen when we were younger! But like most of the greats, baking just came natural to me. I



started small with boxed cupcakes/cookies and carton frosting, but slowly ventured into Ina Garten and Queen Martha's world of intricate and daring flavors and decorations. By the end of my senior year, I was tired of merely listening to people tell me they'd pay for my creations, and decided I would start charging them! Thus came the birth of Queen Bie Cakes.

My business quickly bloomed from my mom wanting to take cupcakes to work to total strangers calling my phone to make orders. It truly freaked me out when I started getting calls about weddings and being a vendor for various local businesses and charity functions. By the time I got through to my second semester at Baylor, my Facebook page had

reached close to 600 likes and I was turning down orders! I was so overjoyed my little hobby had actually turned into something I could share with others! But like all good things, my professional baking days came to an end. I now bake purely for the enjoyment of my homies and fellow Brooks residents at events like Fall Ball, while finishing up my political science degree. LOL – you probably weren't expecting that plot twist. I'm like some strange superhero – pre-law student by day, cupcake baker by night.

Even though my official baking days are done, that period of time will always be one of my favorites, and that of my family – who always managed to receive "extras" when I had an order. Though baking is not for everyone, I highly encourage all of my fellow Prexians to give it a shot, especially in our own Brooks Kitchen!



Speaking of which... Did you know the kitchen has a manager AND that, that person is moi?! What a coincidence – the girl who used to have a baking business now runs the BRC kitchen! Not, this whole situation was totally planned. Here are a couple of friendly reminders to ensure you have a wonderfully delicious and clean experience in our COMMUNITY kitchen:

- 1) Remember to label your refrigerator items with your NAME and the DATE in which they were placed in there. Also, the cupboards are not communal storage, since we do not have available space for everyone and their roommate to store stuff.
- 2) ALWAYS clean up after yourself. A clean kitchen is a happy kitchen... and a happy Taylor AND a happy Mrs. Ann!
- 3) Please make sure whatever tools/materials you borrow from the kitchen stay in the kitchen! It is understandable that sometimes accidents happen and an oven mitt might end up in your room, but please return any items to the kitchen ASAP. Part of sharing a COMMUNITY kitchen is sharing. After all, it is caring!

# If Only for a Short Time:

World Cup Fever and the United States



Nathan Mateer

*Torch Staff Writer*

During the summer there is a good possibility you, like many other Americans, discovered a new sport. The discovery of this new sport was accompanied with many feelings: happiness, shock, lack of understanding, and national pride. You might have even found yourself saying "I believe that we will win" without a complete knowledge of the enormous rallying cry wrapped up in those few, strong words. You, like the rest of the nation, found yourself wrapped up in the midst of the FIFA World Cup. You were watching, cheering for, and enjoying a different sport than before. You became a soccer fan, even if only for a brief time.

Most people remember soccer as that one sport they all played when they were little. It was their first taste of organized competition. Likewise, most people associate soccer as the most played and celebrated sport in the world. However, soccer remains an after-thought for American sport fans. Nonetheless, this great sport captured and took hold of this nation during four ninety-minute matches and one overtime. America seemed to press pause this summer when the United States Men's National Team took the field, dressed in our colors of red, white, and blue.

Many believe Americans should have nothing to do with and no interest in soccer. Besides, soccer is not even considered one of the four major sports in the United States. If you went out and asked American sports fans about their professional soccer league, most fans probably could not even name the league. Despite the belief soccer has no place in America, viewing statistics from the USA matches of this past world cup begin to paint a new picture. They prove soccer might actually have a place in the lives of Americans.

Take the USA vs Portugal game as an example. This particular game captured the attention of 24.7 million viewers in the United States. This number is not as impressive as Super Bowl XLVIII setting the all-time viewing record

with 111.5 million people, but in comparison to other major American sports, this game ranks with some of the nations top sporting events. USA vs Portugal was more watched than the average number of viewers per game of both the 2013 NBA Finals and 2013 MLB World

linton, Texas. The combination of a sporting event and national pride creates an atmosphere unlike any other. This combination instilled a desire in many Americans to don their red, white, and blue, watch a sport they barely know, and gather in a public place with thousands of other people to support the United States Men's National Team.

Whether those 24.7 million viewers were watching the USA vs Portugal match due to national pride or a love for soccer does not change the fact that America became obsessed with a sport they historically have never supported in large numbers. Despite the great success, the truth still remains: America will never be a soccer nation. Due to this, soccer becoming the largest American sport should not be the measuring stick of success. The success of soccer in America should be measured by and will solely be found in the support of the United States National teams, both the men and women. American soccer players will become household names once every four years, much like Olympians. This is the place soccer will not only survive, but thrive in the lives of Americans. To all the once-every-four-years soccer fan, please continue supporting this sport every time the FIFA World Cup comes around. Support the team that made you understand one thing: only in soccer can a tie feel like a loss, and a loss feel like a win.



Series. This great rise in viewers is unique from any other major sporting finals event in America for one reason: Watch Parties. Yes, people host parties for sporting events, especially for the Super Bowl, but the World Cup was accompanied with unprecedented watch parties in places like stadiums and public parks. For example, 20,000 fans gathered at Balbo Avenue park in Chicago to watch USA take on Portugal. During the USA vs Belgium match, over 5,000 fans filled seats inside AT&T Stadium in Ar-



# Around & About Wacotown



Ellen Phillips

Torch Contributor



Katherine Hooker

Torch Contributor

Hello, freshmen! Hopefully you have settled some into your new home at Brooks. We are two recent graduates who devoted a lot of time to this community. While there is a lot we could say about Brooks and how it impacted our Baylor experience, instead we decided to share some places in Waco we would recommend checking out. All of these places are within walking/biking distance of Brooks, so we've included the time estimates and some suggestions for your journey.

## Suspension Bridge & Indian Spring Park

Built in 1869, this white bridge was the first one across the Brazos River. It began as a toll bridge for the Chisholm Trail, costing a few cents per cattle and sheep head to cross. After later serving as a road, nowadays it is a footbridge and a grand feature of the parks on the river. On the southwest side of the Brazos lies Indian Spring Park, a narrow stretch of lawn, sidewalks, and longhorn statues. A popular photo site, these climbable sculptures of cattle and a trail boss surround the entrance to bridge. The park has a few picnic tables and a great hillside overlooking the river. You can also access the rivertrail, which reaches from Cameron Park to the Ferrell Center. Additionally, Outdoor Waco rents kayaks and stand-up paddleboards that launch from the park (and are allowed anywhere on the river, unlike the Baylor Marina's); you can rent them from inside the store nearby.

The Suspension Bridge is the site of a Baylor must-do: tortilla tossing. The key to success in this unique sport is aim, luck, and flour tortillas.



**Walk:** 23 min

Quite possible, but a bit tiresome, due to the distance and all the concrete and crosswalk waiting. But there are sidewalks, so go for it if you would like to.

**Bike:** 7 min

Take a right on Dutton, then a left on 4th and use its bike lane. Turn right onto Mary Avenue, then left on University Parks Drive. The park will be on the right. It has a red bike rack shaped like the Suspension Bridge.

## Food Truck Row: Xristo's Cafe, Mrs. Thompson's Most Wonderful Cupcakes, Dave's Mobile



Driving northwest on University Parks Drive, you see a collection of bridges over the Brazos. You have the historically significant Suspension Bridge, the aesthetically pleasing Washington Avenue Bridge, the rusty but interesting twin railroad bridges... and a flat, ugly utilitarian bridge to serve Franklin Avenue. Near this mere piece of street jutting over the water lies a row of food trucks. Currently the site of three trucks, this area has a few picnic tables at which to enjoy your selections, or you could walk down to Indian Spring Park. Xristo's offers Mediterranean options like gyros (pronounced yeer-oh), Mrs. Thompson's serves cupcakes (see flavor options on their Facebook page), and Dave's only recently expanded beyond its popular Burger Barn location with this trailer serving its well-loved burgers.

**Hours:**

**Xristo's Café**

Tue-Wed 11a-3p

Thu-Fri 11a-3p, 5p-8p

Sat 11a-2p, 5p-8p

**Mrs. Thompson's Most Wonderful Cupcakes**

Tue-Sat 11a-8p

**Dave's Mobile**

Tue-Sat 11a-3p, 6p-8:30p

**Walk:** 21 min

**Bike:** 6 min

Same as the Suspension Bridge & Indian Spring Park, except we would recommend using Outdoor Waco's bike rack across the street.

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### Mayborn Museum

The Mayborn is an on-campus national history and science museum. It is a museum for the entire community, but as a Baylor student, you get in for free with your ID. The permanent exhibits include ones on Texas ecosystems, geology, and archeology. There is also a whole children's section in which you can play with sound and giant bubbles, watch the tiny trains on the model tracks, and enjoy other hands-on activities. (We would suggest letting the little ones go first.) Outside the building lies a historic village open for exploring. Its collection of buildings includes a schoolhouse, a general store, a church, and a house. The Mayborn also features traveling exhibits; its current one is "Be the Dinosaur: Life in the Cretaceous," which will be open through September 3.



#### Hours:

Mon-Wed & Fri-Sat 10a-5p

Thu 10a-8p

Sun 1p-5p

Walk: 14 min

Bike: 4 min

### Clay Pot Restaurant

Clay Pot is a novel Vietnamese restaurant found down the access road this side of I35. The small restaurant boasts a unique ambience. Pillows replace chairs at the low tables, giving customers the option between same-old chair-sitting and adventurous but slightly uncomfortable floor-sitting. Sitar and other instruments hang from walls. Bookshelves house an eclectic library. The restaurant has a variety of rice-based dishes, like the namesake Clay Pot dish or the pineapple fried rice (Ellen's favorite). It also serves a delicious pho bowl, which is Vietnamese noodle soup. Additionally, Clay Pot sells bubble tea, which is something fun to try (though beware the tapioca pearls if you aren't used to them).



Walk: 8 min

*There is no sidewalk once you pass 8th Street; don't fear walking through the grass in front of the Pizza Hut and hotels on the way.*

Bike: 3 min

*Don't use the access road; you'd be going the wrong way. Go "the long way" by crossing in front of Stacy Riddle Forum and using Baylor Avenue and 10th Street. You can use a fence to lock up your bike.*

### Floyd Casey Stadium

Walk: 45 min

We definitely, definitely would not recommend walking. With the distance and all the traffic, this stadium is simply not easily accessible from campus...

Oh, wait...

### MCLANE STADIUM

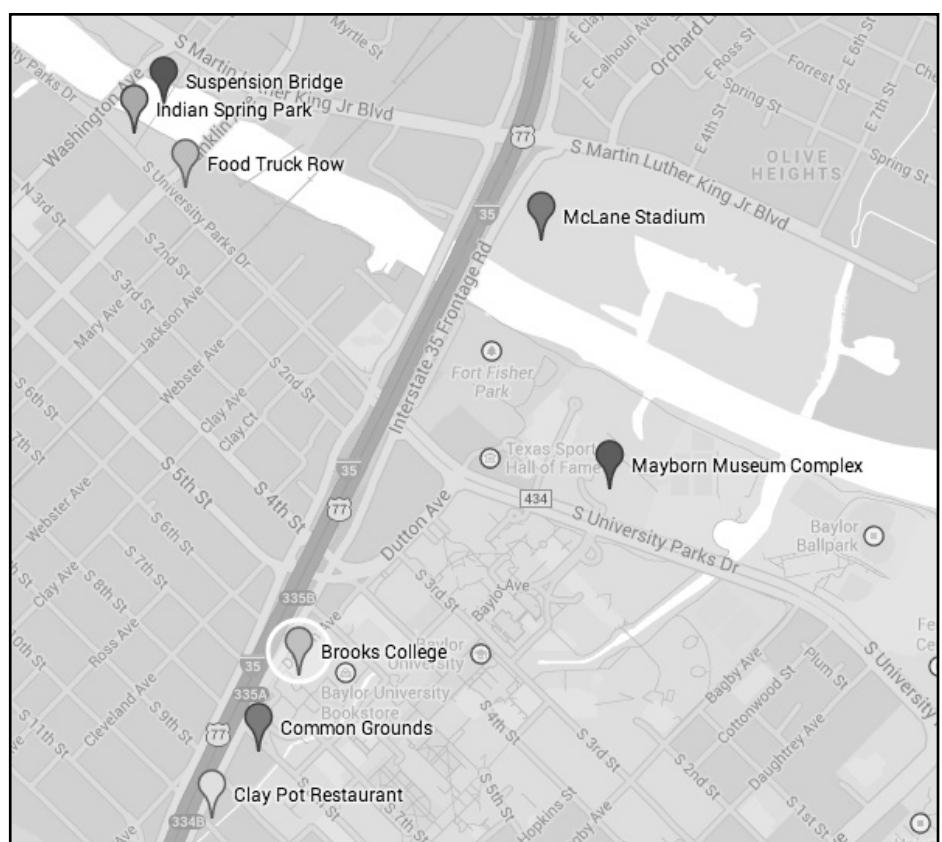
Walk: 20 min

Go ahead & walk! It's easy! There's even a shiny new bridge just for walking to this shiny new stadium!



This is not a comprehensive list. Waco has a lot more to offer than you might think, especially to those with a zeal for adapting and discovering. And, of course, if you go beyond walking and biking, you can reach more worthwhile places -- downtown, by the lake, in the surrounding towns. While Baylor is great, we highly recommend venturing beyond its borders to learn more about your new city!

Welcome to Brooks, Baylor, and Waco. Happy exploring!



A map of locations included in this article

*Sammy says...*



“You know what’s a great band?  
Talking Heads. They really get me.”

# GIVE IN TO THE HIVE MIND WRITE FOR THE TORCH

JOURNALISTS, POETS, CARTOONISTS, SATIRISTS, COMPLAINERS, AND REVIEWERS NEEDED

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AND

STOP BY THE TORCH BOOTH AT THE COUNCIL FAIR: 08/23/14 4-6 PM



FAULKNER FAMILY ROAD TRIP