

Saxe Appeal

IF YOU'VE GOT CALVIN KLEIN ON YOUR BEHIND, YOU might understand Allan Saxe's obsession with name recognition.

The associate professor of political science at the U. of Texas, Arlington, has just about every imaginable object in the surrounding community named after him, and the list keeps growing.

The Saxe name is stamped on the UTA intramural fields, the main stage at Theatre Arlington, the road to the Arlington city dump, a park

in southwest Arlington, a city median strip and even a pencil sharpener at UTA.

Saxe has supported his habit over the years by donating every penny of his leftover salary to non-profit organizations. But his motives aren't entirely altruistic. In return for the contribution, Saxe asks that businesses and organizations put his name on whatever his donation creates.

"I am a fanatic for name recognition," Saxe says. He cites his fear of death as one of the main reasons. "I really believe what everyone says — this could be your last day. So I act like it."

Saxe also attributes his name obsession to insecurity.

"I was a short little kid in Oklahoma who had to work very hard," he says. "I'm an overachiever."

Could Arlington possibly turn into Saxeton? Maybe not in name, says Arlington mayor Richard Greene, but in landmarks, it's a close call.

"I don't know if it can be said he's touched the life of everybody in Arlington,



Saxe 5th Ave?



Saxe's field of dreams?



Middle of the road?

but he's pretty close," Greene says. "He certainly is leaving a perpetual legacy of his generosity."

Saxe hopes to claim the North Texas Humane Society's adoption center and maybe even rename the Ballpark at Arlington "Big Al's Ballpark."

"It's absolutely an addiction," he says. "It gives me a high for the moment, but then it fades. I want more!"

Kellie Gormly, U. of Texas, Arlington /
Photos by Amy Conn, U. of Texas,
Arlington

Dirty Laundry

YOU'RE IN CLASS, AND THE STUDENT IN FRONT OF you is wearing a shirt bearing the words "F—K YOU" in 7-inch bold letters. Beneath that, the shirt concludes "I'M NOT SORRY."



Go wash your shirt out with soap.

Would you be offended? Unable to concentrate on class material? Cynthia Lee Sheckler was.

The 38-year-old Bowling Green State U., Ohio, freshman cried foul when a student showed up to class wearing such a shirt. She wrote a lengthy letter to the student newspaper, *The BG News*, explaining her experience and asking fellow students for their views.

Now, airing your "dirty" laundry is an issue of First Amendment privilege at BG. University officials say they are powerless to stop such displays, but they do urge students to be more considerate of their fellow students.

"Since we're a public university, it would be difficult for us to regulate the content of individual speech,"

says Tonia Stewart, BG associate to the vice president for student affairs. "Some people see the comments on these T-shirts as part of that."

And Sheckler says she is not advocating a dress code.

"As a writer, I'm totally against censorship," says Sheckler, a retired air-traffic controller studying journalism. "It's a matter of what's appropriate."

"Just because you have a constitutional right to do something doesn't mean you should hurt and offend other people."

Sheckler's story was picked up by media throughout Ohio and Michigan. She even met with BG president Sidney Ribeau to discuss the incident. Ultimately, because of free-speech concerns, the debate resulted in no policy action.

But the media attention has brought Sheckler some notoriety. She says she's now recognized in public as the T-shirt lady. One man at a grocery store even unbought his dress shirt to show that his T-shirt was plain white and obscenity-free.

Ah, the benefits of celebrity.

Kari Lydersen, Northwestern U. /
Photo by Kelly Rigo, Bowling
Green State U., Ohio



The Rating Game

With or without fudge? Are we talking choosing a college or ice cream? In the race to court students, some administrators say their only choice is to fudge on information they submit to the dozens of college guides currently on the market.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that 100 of 1,366 schools fixed data for ranking in *U.S. News and World Report's* survey spinoff, *America's Best Colleges*.

For example, Boston U. officials admit they exclude the verbal SAT scores of about 350 international students. Kevin Carlton, Boston U. consultant and director of media relations, says ignoring these scores is an attempt to present meaningful data for the readers.

But the ranking isn't done for the reader's benefit, he says. "It's done as a commercial venture for the sole purpose of selling a product."

Robert Morse, director of research for *America's Best Colleges*, agrees that the business of ranking colleges in *U.S. News* is to make money. "People must decide if there is benefit," he says. "We happen to think there is."

New College of the U. of South Florida, which rated No. 1 in *Money Magazine's* 1994 rankings, acknowledged submitting inaccurate data for that guide. New College officials admit they buffed the average for years by eliminating the bottom 6 percent of scores, says James Feeney, the college's director of special project development.

Feeney says New College no longer alters data, but he says universities across the country face the same problem.

"Some are struggling to get a position in rankings that will give them good publicity," he says.

Wade Gilley, president of Marshall U., W.Va., questions the validity of college surveys.

"There is plenty of room in the rankings to manipulate data," Gilley says.

Marshall officials have admitted to feeding inconsistent data to college surveys in the past. Officials there told Barron's college guide 47 percent of MU students scored above 21 on the ACT but told Peterson's college guide 36 percent scored above 21.

Morse says schools that cheat don't lower the validity of the survey because *U.S. News* doesn't use the inaccurate information to rank schools. Submissions are reviewed by a group of admissions and financial aid officers and then by experts on academic data at major institutions.

"The information submitted [by universities] is fundamentally correct," he says. "A very small percentage of the data is incomplete."

Hmmm. In a class, that'd earn you a big fat "I" or even an "F" — not No. 1.

Ryan Van Benthuyzen, Northern
Arizona U.