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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

# Yingling Retraces Rocky Road to Marriage Equality in Illinois for Tenth Dems University

On Monday evening, March 10, a hardy group of Tenth Dems University (TDU) enthusiasts braved more of this winter's incessant cold and snow to hear State Rep. Sam Yingling talk at a TDU event about the legislative process in general and the passage of Illinois' marriage equality law in particular.

Yingling is the first openly gay Illinois legislator elected outside the City of Chicago, and so his story of the passage of the Marriage Equality Act was about more than process. As a first-year legislator negotiating the passage of such a groundbreaking piece of legislation, Yingling was on a roller-coaster ride. And the ride at times threatened not to reach its destination, especially when passage of the bill was delayed from the regular session to the fall veto session.



*State Rep. Sam Yingling shares his legislative journey toward passage of marriage equality law.*

The audience was spellbound, following the bill's ups and downs while learning a tremendous amount about the legislative

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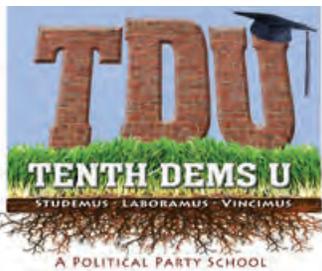


# Tenth News

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APRIL 2014 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 11, Edition 4

# Stone Discusses Review of NSA Surveillance Practices for Tenth Dems University



*by Julieann Tuohy*

On Thursday, February 20, Tenth Dems members and the public alike braved 20 mile-per-hour winds to hear Geoffrey Stone, University of Chicago constitutional law professor and a member of President Obama's National Security Agency (NSA)

Review Panel, speak about NSA surveillance practices. The free forum, presented by Tenth Dems University, was held at the Northbrook Public Library's Dan Ryan Auditorium.

Professor Stone was one of five experts selected by President Obama to serve on the NSA Review Panel. The President tasked Stone and fellow panel members with reviewing the NSA's surveillance practices.

Stone talked at length about the evolution of foreign surveillance practices by the NSA since the late 1970s. He also spoke about

how the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, changed the mindset of lawmakers and led to actions like the passing of the Patriot Act and other programs. He paraphrased an unnamed cabinet secretary as saying, "Sitting here now trying to keep the nation safe from prospective terror attacks is a little like being the goalie in a soccer game where the ball is invisible, the opposing players are invisible, and if they score a goal, thousands of people will die. You've got to stop it. That's what it feels like. And if you figure



*Constitutional law professor Geoffrey Stone*

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**Inside, read about Robert Dold's hypocrisy and Brad Schneider's record on equal rights.**

# Dold's Hypocrisy

by Barbara Altman

As I was casting my primary vote on March 18, my thoughts turned to this fall's congressional election in which Robert Dold is challenging Rep. Brad Schneider for the seat Dold previously held. It occurred to me that when Dold cast his primary ballot, he was not even able to vote for himself. And unless he moves, he won't be able to vote for himself in November, either. This is because Dold resides in Kenilworth, and Kenilworth is not in the 10th District.

Remember in 2008, when Dold first ran for Congress? His opponent was Dan Seals, who resided with his family in Wilmette, but just outside the part of Wilmette that was within the 10th District. Dold made the Seals home's location a big issue in that campaign, and he ultimately won that election.

But now it's Dold who doesn't live in the 10th District. In fact, Dold lives in Kenilworth, a municipality that is wholly outside of the 10th.

So has Dold followed his own advice from 2008 and begun house-hunting within the 10th District? Not to our knowledge. Dold now apparently thinks it's perfectly okay to run in the 10th District while living several miles away, in the 9th.

What could be more hypocritical than Dold's unapologetically

engaging in behavior he loudly criticized in Seals? And at least the Seals children attended school within the 10th District. Dold has no residential ties to this district at all.

But hypocrisy is a form of dishonesty – sometimes referred to as disingenuousness – and Dold is a master of disingenuousness. In 2012, he marketed himself to 10th District voters as an independent, centrist Republican. Yet as a Congressman, he consistently voted with the Tea Party caucus. For example, Dold opposed a woman's right to make choices about her reproductive health and voted to defund Planned Parenthood. He supported turning Medicare into a voucher program. He also voted 28 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act. And Dold is on record as opposing workforce protections for LGBT citizens under ENDA.

The conclusion is inescapable. Not only does Dold live outside of the 10th District, he also is out of touch with the values of those of us who live within its boundaries. In contrast, Rep. Brad Schneider, who does live within the 10th Congressional District, also shares our values. It is essential that we work to return Schneider to Congress in November. **TD**



## THE BRAD BEAT:

### Rep. Schneider Stands Up for LGBT Americans

by Eleonora di Liscia

Several years ago, I was at a dinner party. An older gentleman was talking about how the Nazis had ordered all of Denmark's Jews to wear the yellow Star of David. In response, the Danish King decreed that all Danes would wear the yellow star. And that is how we should all be, said the gentleman at the dinner. We should all wear the star. We should all be ready to stand up for others who are oppressed.

While the present-day United States is not quite so fraught with peril as World War II Europe, Brad Schneider is following that gentleman's advice when he stands up for the LGBT community.

Brad's support for the LGBT community runs the gamut, from marriage equality to employment equality to protections for domestic partners and students. He is a member of the LGBT Equality Caucus, which works in the House of Representatives to advance gay rights.

*continued on page 3*



## Marriage Equality *continued from page 1*

process. That all knew the story had a happy ending made its telling no less suspenseful.

Yingling explained that what ultimately secured the bill's passage was the hard work of grassroots voters. This was a message that resonated with the rapt Tenth Dems audience, as was apparent from the enthusiastic applause and many questions that followed Yingling's prepared remarks. **TD**



# Whose Freedom Are We Talking About?

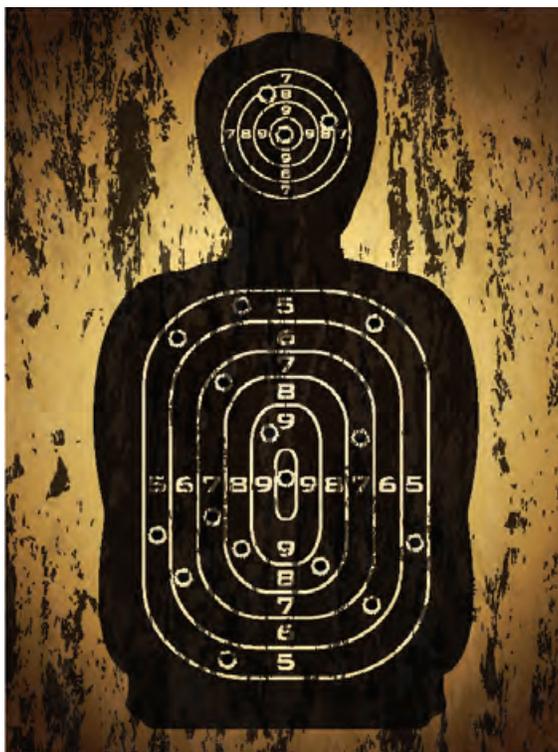
by Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

As the first concealed carry licenses are issued by the Illinois State Police and “no concealed carry” signs are showing up in doorways throughout our district, I am concerned about what happens next. As a parent and a pediatrician, I think about children seeing the signs and wondering why they are there. What will they think about the ubiquitous image of handguns in a red circle with a bisecting red line? How will they react to the increased possibility that people on the street, in restaurants, and in houses of worship are carrying weapons?

Perhaps there will be a greater sense of civility as people think twice about cutting someone off in traffic and inciting road rage in the other driver. Maybe we will reconsider using cell phones in movie theaters for fear that someone will take offense and shoot to kill, as happened recently in Florida.

I suspect not.

While we will not likely return to the days of the Old West where



carrying a gun was commonplace, I doubt that most of us will feel more secure among people carrying guns. Personally, I find the whole idea quite intimidating. Perhaps that is the intention of those who carry. But is that reasonable or even justifiable? Should one person's sense of security trump the fear induced in others?

As a pediatrician, I have seen the consequences of guns in the home far too often to ever feel more secure. I have seen both unintentional shootings and suicides that were facilitated by a gun in the home. Easy access and unsafe storage have played a deadly role in these incidents. It is a fact that the presence of a gun in one's residence makes it more likely that someone in that home will be injured or killed than that an intruder will be.

Courts have ruled that concealed carry must be the law of the land. That does not mean that any of us will be safer as a result. Until the law changes, we can only hope that we are not in the line of fire. **TD**

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## **Brad Beat** *continued from page 2*

Brad helped introduce the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in its entirety. That bill is currently in committee in both the House and Senate. Brad also signed an Amicus Brief to the United States Supreme Court in the *United States v. Windsor* case, which argued that Section 3 of DOMA barring same sex marriage was unconstitutional.

“Half the American people now live with the freedom to marry whomever they choose, and I will continue fighting in Washington for the rights of all couples,” Brad said.

On the employment front, Brad helped introduce the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would extend protections against workplace discrimination to gays and lesbians. ENDA passed the Senate but is now stuck in the Republican-controlled House. (It is important to note that Brad's November challenger, former Congressman Robert Dold, has previously announced his opposition to both ENDA and the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.)

“By passing ENDA, the Senate made crystal clear that no one should fear losing their job simply for being honest about whom they love. This vote is a tremendous victory for equality and fundamental fairness,” Brad said. “I urge the House to quickly

follow the Senate's bipartisan example and pass ENDA now.”

In a letter, Brad called upon President Obama to issue an executive order barring federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

For those couples who can't marry, Brad helped introduce the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, which would extend the same family benefits to gay and lesbian federal civilian employees that are now enjoyed by heterosexual couples. That bill is pending before both houses of Congress.

As we have seen in the news, discrimination against young LGBTs can lead to devastating consequences. To that end, Brad cosponsored the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act. The former bill requires schools to adopt codes of conduct that prohibit bullying because of sexual orientation or gender identity. The latter bars schools from discriminating against students on that basis. Both bills are in committee; in the Republican-controlled House, they have been given a one percent chance of passage by govtrack.us.

The road to full equality runs uphill, thanks to people like Robert Dold who believe that some members of society are more entitled to the law's protection than others. Which is why in November, it is essential to send Brad Schneider and other Democrats like him back to Congress to keep up the fight. **TD**

# Affordable Care Act Enrollment Update

by Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

By March 28, more than six million Americans had enrolled in health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. There were one million enrollments for each of the months of January and February alone.

We have yet to know how many more people will enroll in the final days and hours before the open enrollment deadline of 11:00 p.m. on March 31.

Insurers are counting on a higher proportion of relatively healthy young adults to enroll, thus balancing out the expected higher cost to insurers of older Americans. So far, approximately 25 percent of enrollees have been between the ages of 18 and 34.

In Illinois, whose health insurance website, "Get Covered Illinois," has linked to the federal healthcare.gov site that was so notoriously error-ridden in the fall, almost 250,000 people

have enrolled, just over half in Medicaid and the remainder in private plans through the marketplace.

Despite efforts by top administration officials, including both President Obama and the First Lady, enrollment has yet to reach goals set on the introduction of marketplaces, undoubtedly due to the early problems with healthcare.gov. Still, with vast improvements to the website and stepped-up outreach, there is hope for a surge in enrollments at the end of March. And people who begin applications but, through no fault of their own, do not meet the March 31 enrollment deadline, will be allowed to complete enrollments into April.

So stay tuned. **TD**



## People are Asking...

by Debra Shore

In the U.S., we waste an average of 213 pounds of food per household per year. (<http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf>)

So I am often asked, "Is it better to throw food waste out in the garbage or to dispose of it in the sink using a garbage disposal?" Perhaps you've wondered about this, too.

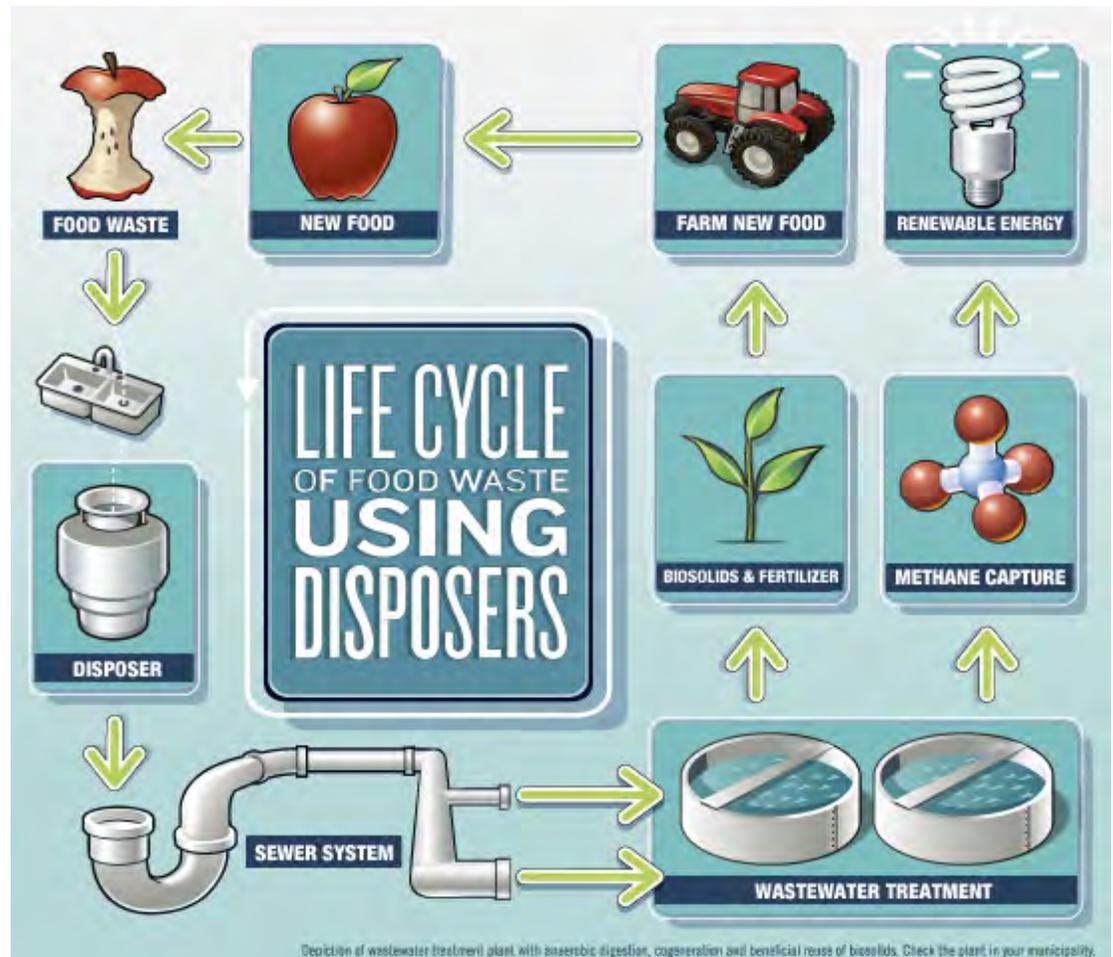
Your friendly wastewater Heloise stands ready to help.

Know that the best thing you can do with food waste from your home is to compost it – place food scraps in a compost heap or bin along with yard waste and allow it to decompose naturally. I own a Compost Tumbler, an elevated bin with a handle that you rotate every few days. The compost produced can then be used as a natural fertilizer spread on your lawn, used in your garden or flowerbeds, and given freely to friends and neighbors. Compost has additional benefits of improving soil structure, increasing drought resistance, and reducing the need for fertilizer, water, and even pesticides. But, of course, many people don't have

yards or don't want the obligation of managing their own food scraps and yard waste.

So, the next best option is – drum roll here! – to use a garbage disposal; that is, to put food scraps down the sink and have them chewed up by what's called in the business a food waste disposer (FWD) and conveyed along with other household waste

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Depiction of wastewater treatment plant with anaerobic digestion, cogeneration and beneficial reuse of biosolids. Check the plant in your municipality.

# Poetry (and Prose) Slam Set for April 10

Tenth Dems Community Connection's 4th annual Poetry and Prose Slam and Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, April 10, at the Ramada Waukegan/Gurnee, 200 N. Green Bay Rd. This free event will feature contestants and other high school students reading their

creative works. Prizewinners will be announced, and refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so please call 847-266-VOTE (8683), or email [events@tenthdems.org](mailto:events@tenthdems.org) to reserved your space. Doors open at 6:30, and the event runs from 7:00 until 9:00 pm.

## ***GOP Presidential Hopeful Mike Huckabee's Obsession with a Woman's Libido*** by Steven Gan

Whenever there's some new revelation by the GOP, I try to make a mental note of it for my next article in Tenth News. However, over the past couple of months I have learned about so many bizarre statements and actions made by some notable individuals within the Republican right wing that I just didn't know where to start. From former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee's comments concerning a woman's "libido," to Ted Nugent's depiction of President Obama as a "subhuman mongrel," to Sarah Palin's recent comments that the only way to stop a bad guy with a nuke, "is a good guy with a nuke," I was having a serious problem trying to figure out which wacko to talk about. But after some thought I decided to take a stab at the comments by former Governor Huckabee, since it has been rumored he might just throw his hat into the ring again for a run at the presidency.

I'm sure you'll recall that back at the end of January Governor Huckabee was giving a speech to the Republican National Committee's winter meeting when he said, loudly and clearly, *"I think it's time Republicans no longer accept listening to the Democrats talk about a 'war on women.' The fact is the Republicans don't have a war on women, they have a war FOR women, to empower them to be something other than victims of their gender."* He continued, *"If the Democrats want to insult the women of America by making them believe that they are helpless without Uncle Sugar coming in and providing for them a prescription each month for birth control because they cannot control their libido or their reproductive system without the help of the government, then so be it. Let's take that discussion all across America."*

When Huckabee outlandishly opined that the government shouldn't be involved in mandating that health insurance companies cover contraceptives for women because women are able to control their libidos, he failed to understand that contraception is an important part of women's health.



As most human beings engage in sexual activity from time to time, who has the right to decide whether a pregnancy should or should not result? Certainly not Governor Huckabee. And not a legislature. How about the woman whose life would be impacted by that pregnancy in countless emotional, mental, physical, economic, and other ways?

As women's reproductive systems are very complex, all forms of contraception that address all of women's reproductive health issues should be readily available and covered by health insurance. What Huckabee's outrageous statement did was to insult women by reducing these broad societal issues to the question of "libido."

Huckabee certainly betrayed a shallow understanding of women and women's health issues. The fact is that the health of our society is based upon the health of our citizens, and that includes women's reproductive health. When reproductive health is routinely covered by health insurance, the well-being of our society overall will be positively impacted. End of story. **TD**

## *NSA Surveillance* continued from page 1

out where they are and where the ball is, that's critical." He then asked, "To what extent do we maintain balance between security and privacy and civil liberties? The game has changed."

Professor Stone spoke of his reservations and skepticism about the NSA before serving on the panel, but he said that he left the panel with a high degree of respect for the NSA's ability and its commitment to operating within the boundaries of the authority granted by the President, Congress, and the Foreign Intelligence Service Act (FISA) Court that is tasked with approving NSA warrants. He said that "not a single instance of the NSA violating the law" had been found. In his view, the issue was that the NSA had been given too much authority and too many things to do.

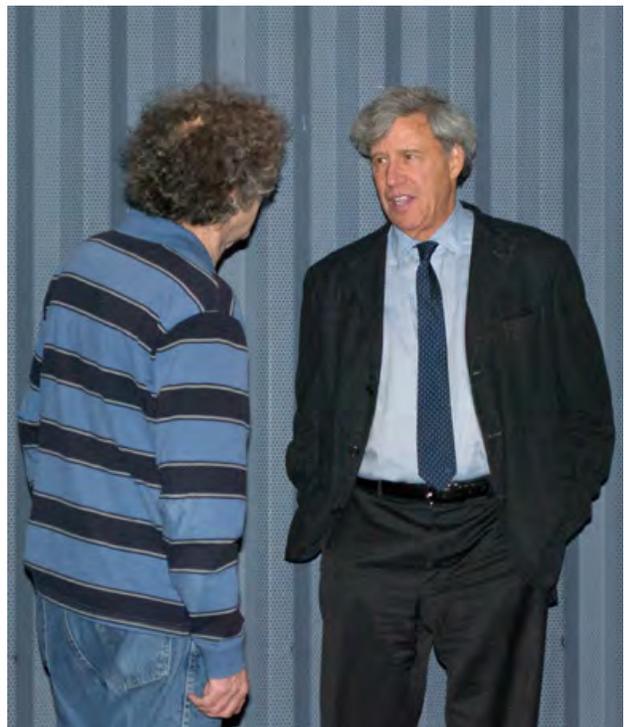
Professor Stone went on to talk specifically about the NSA's practice of collecting metadata from phone records. He then detailed some of the 46 unanimous recommendations that the NSA Review Panel made to President Obama.

Professor Stone left time to answer questions from the audience. Then, following the forum, many adjourned to a reception for him at Francesca's North in Northbrook, continuing the conversation over appetizers and desserts. **TD**



More photos on next page

*NSA Surveillance Event* continued from page 6



to a sewage treatment plant. Does that surprise you? It may.

Here's why using a garbage disposal is better for the environment than throwing food waste out to be trucked to a landfill. Food waste – principally vegetables and fruits – can comprise up to 20 percent of the garbage collected in cities. The average household produces 213 lbs. of food waste a year. That's a lot of weight to be trucked to landfills and a big cost to municipalities.

When organic matter decomposes in landfills, it produces methane gas, a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide (21 times the global warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>). Landfills have methods to capture this methane gas, but they are not nearly as efficient as wastewater treatment plants. When food scraps are sent via the waste stream to wastewater plants, the anaerobic digesters there capture the methane generated by decomposition of organic matter and convert the gas to electricity or to biofuel – renewable energy!

East Bay Municipal Utility District in Oakland, California, was the first wastewater treatment plant in the nation to convert post-consumer food scraps to energy via anaerobic digestion.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (serving most of Cook County) currently captures between 50 and 80 percent of the methane generated at the treatment plants, using it to heat the digesters and facilities. At some times of the year, however, the plants produce more methane than they can use so the excess is flared off. Happily, plans are underway to develop new facilities at the Calumet and Stickney plants to generate, capture, and reuse even more of the methane

produced by the sewage treatment process and use it to produce electricity or biofuel.

In Lake County, the North Shore Sanitary District's Clavey Road Sewage Treatment Plant, serving residents of Highland Park and some nearby areas, has anaerobic digesters so food scraps sent via garbage disposals from that service area can be used to generate methane there, too.

A pilot program in Philadelphia seeking to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfills will install garbage disposals in 200 homes. There the city has gathered baseline data on the amount of food waste in garbage – roughly 10 percent – and hopes to see a reduction once the disposals are in use. Every ton of garbage diverted from landfills saves the city \$68 in tipping fees, whereas the disposals are estimated to use less than one percent of a household's total water consumption and to cost less than 50 cents a year in electricity to operate. The Chicago Conservation Corps and InSinkErator, the largest manufacturer of food waste disposers, are collaborating on a similar study in Chicago's Uptown and Maple Park neighborhoods.

A 2011 study reported that if 30,000 households switched from disposing of food waste in a landfill to using a garbage disposal, the reduction in global warming potential would be equivalent to a savings of 4.6 million miles driven in the average American car or "100 community members going carbon neutral for a year." Think of what that might mean if the millions of households in Chicagoland had – and used – garbage disposals! **TD**

