

# Companies find unique ways to decrease costs, increase efficiency during recession

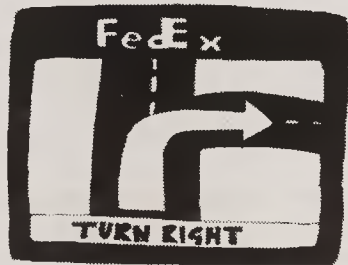
BY AKIRAH JUSTICE  
Reporter

During 2008 and 2009 due to the continuous economic downfall, companies like FedEx and Southwest Airlines have managed to save money without cutting jobs. Recently, large companies have been getting creative in their efforts.

Most recently, Southwest Airlines found a way to save a large sum of money. In the thousands of flights every day, flight attendants find themselves asking fliers if they would like a lemon or lime with their drink.

All too often the flier would ask for a lime, creating a wasteful and expensive excess of lemon. In order to cut back on waste, Southwest Airlines has decided to no longer serve lemons on flights. This plan went into effect October 1 and is expected to save around \$100,000 a year.

Although this plan may upset plenty of frequently flying lemon lovers, it will be effective in saving. Now that the airline is no longer wasting items, they are able to provide free baggage check, allowing customers to benefit from the cutbacks.



Delivery trucks often have to sit at a traffic light waiting for a chance to turn left. Although the gas wasted may not seem like enough to completely avoid left turns, over a year it can add up and take a huge toll on a company. FedEx has decided to map their routes to only use right turns.

Software is used to navigate the drivers around while completely staying away from left turns and stoplights that may run up the fuel bill. Most delivery companies are on board with this new installation, hoping for and expecting progress and profit.

In combination with the navigation system, UPS has also turned to alternative fuels such as hydrogen and electric cars. With this improvement UPS will not only be saving money but the company will also be helping to lessen the harmful effects on the environment.

Schools in Los Angeles are reacting to budget cuts differently. Classrooms are jam packed with students, averaging around forty per classroom. Students and teachers are both feeling the burden of these overcrowded rooms. The students are not always seated in a desk; they often find themselves sitting on the floor.

Teachers that get bound to this situation often have an abundance of papers to grade. With these rising responsibilities, the pay in return is steadily dwindling. As the expectations keep rising, teachers are expected to raise test scores and help every individual student meet the constantly



changing graduation requirements. In classrooms filled with nearly fifty students, how can teachers be expected to provide specific attention to one?

With no change in sight, large companies and schools are attacking the eco-

economic crisis with their own approaches. While large companies attempt to avoid firing workers with their out of the ordinary ideas, schools are taking a more practical approach by just trying to make what they already have stretch.

## Navy SEAL's Leap Frogs visit Grimsley

BY BLAIR BLOOMQUIST  
Editor-in-Chief

"Leap Frogs," along with a Navy SEAL motivating team, made an appearance at the Aggie-Eagle Classic on Saturday, October 3, in coordination with the Naval Special Warfare Command's diversity outreach program. The navy believes a future force of SEAL operators from diverse backgrounds is necessary to inspire new ideas and developing capabilities. As a result, Naval Special Warfare's diversity plan, approved by the Chief of Naval Operations, involves tangible recruiting targets, measurable actions and desired results, small group mentoring, and innovative marketing programs.

Stationed in San Diego at the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, "Leap Frogs" was created in the late 1960s when Navy SEALs (an acronym for Sea, Air, and Land) performed at weekend air shows across the nation. Parachutists who are Navy SEALs and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman Commandos (SWCC) comprise the team. Their events include canopy formations that team members perform with their blue and gold parachutes, as well as colorful smoke streaming from the parachutists, brilliant pyrotechnics, and patriotic presentation of the American flag.

When not performing at special events, Leap Frogs execute services in various global environments since SEALs are the U.S. Navy's special opera-

tions force and the maritime component of U.S. Special Operations Command. Their job is to focus on small unit operations, rather than larger operations, which in turn allows for increased mobility and flexibility. SWCC operators also maintain the inventory of state-of-the-art, high-performance boats used for special operations missions.

Appearing at the NC A&T Fan Fest prior to the game, the Leap Frogs participated in several activities. They entered Aggie Stadium by parachute just before kickoff of the historic rivalry between NC A&T State University with N.C. Central on a beautiful, clear Saturday night. However, strong swirling winds blew in just as the Leap Frogs exited their aircraft. The first parachutist almost collided with the NC A&T marching band. Fortunately, he was a Navy SEAL with over 10,000 jumps and was able to avoid disaster.

Remaining jumpers made in-air corrections, and their jumps were technically perfect. Fans in the stadium roared when the next-to-last Leap Frog entered the stadium with a huge American flag attached to his body. The last parachutist carried and delivered the game ball to midfield. He handed it to Vice Admiral Joseph Kernan, a Navy SEAL officer and Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

Other honored guests at the pre-game ceremonies included U.S. Representative Mel Watt of the 12th District of North Carolina and Mr. William Goines, who was the first African-



As a Navy SEAL Leap Frog floats down into Aggie Stadium, the American flag soars through the air with him. The parachutist carried the game ball and excited the already jubilant crowd. *Internet graphic*

American Navy SEAL. These gentlemen met with the Captains from both football teams and assisted in the coin toss. North Carolina A&T was victorious: in front of 20,000 fans and after two overtimes, the Aggies beat the Eagles 23-17.

Earlier in the day, twelve U.S. Navy SEALs participated in and ran a SEAL

Fitness Challenge (SFC) at Grimsley High School. The Challenge was an athletic competition with an overriding goal of promoting physical fitness. The competition consisted of running, push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, and a swim. Over 200 aspiring SEALs participated in this challenge and ten Guilford County high schools were represented.