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Be Young and Shut Up!

Burning cars, damaged shops and closed universities. Skinshakes with police, Molotov cocktails and water cannons. Thousands of young French people are involved in strikes all over the country. Paris has already experienced this—38 years ago. May 1968 became a chapter in the history books with its famous slogan: «Be young and shut up!» They didn’t want to keep silent then and today young French are fighting for their rights again.

But today, there are no leftist slogans, red banners or portraits of Mao that characterise the 68 protests. Modern France has fears about their professional future. It’s all about the First Employment Contract (CPE) which is a new measure proposed by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin as an answer to the insurrections in November 2005. According to this contract, every French company that has more than 10 people on staff must hire a new (unqualified) worker under age 25 every year. However, employers are given the chance to dismiss this young worker during a two-year trial period without giving any explanation. That is the point of the struggle.

Officials treat it as a solution to the unemployment problem, but students are certain that employers will use it to fire them indiscriminately. So, now instead of the «generals’ rights» in 2005, France must deal with French youth damaging cars and businesses. On March 11, two days after the CPE was approved by the parliament, approximately 400,000 protesters, mostly young people, took to the streets across the country. This is a real symbol of public unrest, much like 38 years ago. But, police stormed Sorbonne with batons and tear gas and cleared the building in less than 10 minutes. On March 13 College France—one of the most prestigious French high schools was blocked. Approximately 600 students clashed with police. Police used battons and tear gas and students answered by throwing paving stones and bottles. Peaceful marches also occurred in Paris, Rennes, Marseille, Grenoble and Nantes. The education ministry stated that not only students took part in the strike. Parents and several thousand teachers—between 7 and 15 percent of the country’s education workers—also took part in the protest.

On March 18, between 500,000 and 1.5 million people, including students, workers, pensioners and families, marched mostly peacefully through French towns and cities in support of the CPE. However, in Paris the strike didn’t come without violence; masked demonstrators hurled projectiles at police and set cars ablaze. The protesters declared March 18 as a Day of General Strike.

See FRANCE, page 3

ETA terrorists take off weapon

According to the BBC, the militant Basque separatist group ETA, which has killed more than 800 people and terrorised Spanish society for nearly 40 years, on Wednesday announced a permanent cease-fire. Three ETA members later appeared on Basque public television, dressed in white veils and black berets, to read the statement to the public. «The objective of our decision is to advance the democratic process,» the statement said. «Overcoming the conflict is possible, here and now. That is the desire and the will of ETA.»

The president of the Basque region, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, welcomed ETA’s declaration as an «enormous relief to all of the Basque society,» according to a report from The New York Times. «It opens a window of hope that nobody should close it,» he added. A spokesperson for Basulto, the banned political wing of ETA, called on the governments of Spain and France to «support today’s decision in the political process.» Spain Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has said previously that a permanent end to hostilities by ETA is a condition for any talks. «Now trust we will be in a high degree,» he added. ETA’s statement included a call for all of its members to abandon violence, but Spanish government officials said they could not rule out the possibility that split groups might ignore the declaration. «I can’t predict anything,» said Basque Nationalist leader Mariano Rajoy said the ceasefire was a pause and it did not amount to a renunciation of criminal activity.

Arytomo Galustyan
Would You Protest if you were a French student?

Angela Borikova
MSU Journalism

"I would never protest at this law, because I feel vanity of the demonstration. In my opinion, a crowd can't really change anything. I think, a French youth will try to revise government's stand and can't influence amending a bill. It's not 1968 now, everything has changed."

Kudinova Ann
MSU Journalism

"I'm not sure, that I would go to the demonstration, if it were possible. Even if decided to make a protest at this labor law, I would have fear of the unknown and my safety.

Aleshey Zimin
MSU Journalism

"I fully appreciate French students, but all same I support a French government. I think, people should take law as a matter of course."

Sergey Avakyan-Rjeysky
MSU Journalism

"A demonstration is always struggle of ideas. I would protest, because there are intrigue and excitement in it."

Chloë Valette
MSU Journalism

"If I would be French student, I would protest from law. I fully support my rights in my country when people, (mean politicians) who must do, do not. I have to do it myself. That's why I support French Students. If I were one of them, I would doubtless go out. The more especially as students are the very layer of society that's unadapted socially."

Andre Chekh
Coordinator of the French-Russian Center of Journalism

"Absolutely don't support French demonstrations. The previous labor law is not better than the new one. Whatever the government proposes the youth will never be satisfied. Students should solve this problem in cooperation with state authorities and offer their ideas. Instead of this they destroy everything on their way. And I think violence is not justified at all. Personally I studied in France and I know what difficulties young people face. You know it's always difficult to start your career and find your place in society when you're young."

When I was a student, I participated in protests several times. And I did it only in case of really important issues—Iraq war or nuclear weapon testing. I consider this problem not to be as big as the previous ones. France has always been a country with a developed sense of freedom. Demonstrations have always been hold there. And this meeting is just one in the box."

Yassen Zassoursky, Dean, Department of Journalism, MSU

"Assessing contemporary situation in France, I'd like to give a remark about the events that took place 40 years ago. I was in Paris in May 1968, so I remember a lot. Paris today differs from Paris of 1968, at that time there were other ideas, other demands. The protests of youth were not only against the bad educational system, but also against the consumption society, against the superiority of the material values over the spiritual. Now the situation differs; they struggle against the law that may damage all the social system in the country. Of course, there is a reason for protest, but to my mind the lesson is that French government should find new ways of solving the huge problem concerning the challenges of information society that brings unemployment for young people. Would I go in for strikes if I were a French student? I think, I would. It would be really important for me to show that I'm on the side of the people who struggle for their rights. But note: I am against violence."

"I want to repeat the 1968 revolution"

We have received a letter from our colleague Eanna de Chelirepte. A girl from France has sent her impressions of the situation. She participated in student demonstration just two days ago.

"Let it be me, who will report it to you. This way the information will be accurate. To protest—it was the only possible thing to gather all of us together. Students want to attend their classes, to get their diplomas. But not the way the government proposes. The press and the power just uses this conflict against us. They claim that those who demonstrate are anti-democratic. They persuade some students to attend their classes to reassure their future. 68 in France has sent the impressions of the situation. Our parents support us and that is the most important fact. All universities out of 80 are protesting. At the beginning, we protected against the CPE, but now we want to repeat the May of 1968. We want the revolution. Nothing else. Myself, I don't believe in any big reforms or changes in the situation. But in fact we are protesting. That means that we are fed up with manipulation of the government. If the university is the vase and the students are the water, I can say now. Water comes out of the vase. It spills out. And, it could deform the government vase.

Some students are arrested. Some are manifesting in front of the police offices. The professor propose the students to work—the salaries don't matter for them.

Anyway the protests are a solution to a problem which can not be prolonged. The left against the right. Actually, I don't find any democracy in France."
France

continued from front page

France

The anniversary of Iraq war

Iran

continued from front page

Comments made by the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad calling for a 'di­
peaceful bloc' that should be 'weaned of the maps' and further proposals to move closer to the Middle East to Western Europe have heightened to many nations how imperative it is to stay on from pursuing nuclear capabilities. Ahmadinejad's teasing of world superpowers sounds like a man playing with fire, but it is not an act of reckless aban­
donment; it is his flat action from it's nuclear program and make negotiations last as long as possible. Iran is willing to become the only power on the Middle East and a nuclear potential is a key to success.

Of course, Ahmadinejad is not the only person good at rhetoric. George Bush in the State of the Union also expressed peace to Iranian people and told that they are 'taken hostage by the small group of cler­ics, but it will be over when democracy comes. It seems like a big propaganda cam­
paign has begun and it's aim is to prepare American and international society for the possible operation against Iran. Deterrent rule of autocrats, games with a nuclear bomb and enslaved people dreaming of democratic standards - this picture feels like a deja vu. Dictatorship and weapons -- for America it's an ultimate justification for inva­sion and Iraq is a best example.

The Nezavimyeye gazeta marked the anniversary of the war with an article summi­ng up the consequences of the war. The author of the item considers the overthrow of Saddam's regime has become a cause of a prolonged cri­sis for the US government. The journalist also says that even president Bush was too complacent to admit that there are increasing signs that Iraq is sliding into a quagmire of civil war.

The New York Times issued an article concerning the President Bush's speech in Cleveland (Ohio) in which he spoke of the achievements in the Iraq campaign. The paper said that Bush mentioned the northern Iraqi city Tal Al as an example of success. In 2004 US troops couldn't manage to maintain stability there, but in 2005 the American forces regained control of the city. However, the president acknowledged some failures too: «I wish I could tell you that the situation in Sa Al war was the same in every single part of the country.»

Libertion published a news item in which it pointed out that the 3 years-long war hasn't brought stability to the country and it is neither the brick of a Civil war. The newspaper mentioned that «the American backed Iraqi émigré gate can be considered as valuable, because it tries to reflect the lead-up to the war. Packer researched the way in which diferent influential groups in America became persuaded by the case for regime change in Iraq.»

The Times featured an article that looks at the books devoted to the Iraq conflict. The paper emphasized that none of the books issued during the war had anything to do with proper history. According to Zaytsev, George Bush described the Association Gate can be considered as valuable, because it tries to reflect the lead-up to the war. Packer researched the way in which diferent influential groups in America became persuaded by the case for regime change in Iraq.»

Diana Kouchitskaya

May 1968

In May 1968 a general insurrection broke out across France. It quickly began to reach near-revolutionary proportions before being discouraged by the Socialist orient­ed French Communist Party, and finally suppressed by the government, which accused the Communists of plotting against the Republic. Some philosophers and historians have argued that the revolu­tion was the single most important revolu­tionary event of the 20th century because it wasn't participated in by a large demo­graphic, such as workers or racial minori­ties, but was rather a purely popular upris­ing, superseding ethnic, cultural, age and class boundaries.

It began as a series of student strikes that broke out at a number of universities and high schools in Paris, following con­frontations with university administrators and the police. The De Gaulle authorita­rians attempts to quash those strikes by fur­ther police action only inflamed the situa­tion further, leading to street battles with the
A question of standards

Byelorussia's controversial poll

Lighted candles, music playing from loudspeakers and chanting people. That's how the main square in Minsk looked the last few days. But now it's empty and almost nothing resembles the protests that took place here. On early Friday morning the riot police dispersed the demonstrations and many of the protesters were detained.

After the presidential elections held on March 19 in which incumbent Alexander Lukashenko won a third term this place turned into a tent camp where people came to protest the results of the vote. The protests started on Sunday right after the polls. Nearly 10,000 protesters gathered on the October Square in Minsk. Although their number decreased, 5 days after the start of the demonstrations there were still people determined to stay there despite the cold weather.

On the third day of the rallies the main opposition leader Alexander Milinkovich appealed to the riot police. When he spoke the lightning on the October Square was shut off and his face was lit only by the TV. Milinkovich declared that he had nothing to do with the organization of the demonstrations and had come only to cheer on his supporters.

However, even at that time there were signs of division in the opposition camp. The question causing the greatest disagreement was — should the protesters continue holding the square. One of the leaders of the Byelorussian opposition Alexander Kozulin proposed to disband the opposition and create a democratic political party. Milinkovich said that he was going to stay with his supporters until the end.

The rallies held in Minsk were not legally sanctioned by the authorities and some people called for the government to arrest the protesters. For example, one of the leaders of the protests, Anatoly Lukahevich, received a sentence of 15 days for having organized an unregistered political rally. The two leaders of Minsk were among the detainees too, but police released them very fast. Lukashenko and his team refused to accept the criticism of the elections. He insists, the vote was transparent and fair.

The White House condemned the poll as unfair and declared that the run-up to the elections was unfair to the other candidate because Lukashenko received the majority of media coverage. However, Russian observers recognized the elections to be fair and President Vladimir Putin was the first to congratulate Lukashenko on his victory.

In fact, some analysts assume that voting may not have taken place because the current president is widely supported in different areas of the country, especially by elderly people. On this point, the world press has published various comments in favor and against this theory.

The opposition forces, however, are still trying to attract attention to their activities and have created several internet sites providing eyewitness reports from the spots where the protest take place. One of these sites called Charter 97 has put a photo of the October Square on its front-page with a banner saying: «We want a new one connected with the elections. On Monday the site covered the things happening on the square, but the number of internet users in Byelorussia is not large.

At the time of publication, it remains unclear whether the great protest planned by the opposition on the 25th of March will take place, but the demonstrators hope to resume the rallies.

Diana Koutchitskaya

Opinion

By any measure, Byelorussia's is not a difficult regime to deal with. It doesn't build far-flying missiles. It doesn't threaten its own people. I know this because I grew up there.

But in the modern world it is a habit to criticize Belarus and its leader—Alexander Lukashenko. They criticize everything that he does from the way he walks and talks to his political agenda. His harshest critics refer to him as a tyrant.

What tyranny do we have to deal with, though, if more than 80% of the electorate voted for him on the elections on the 16th of March? What tyranny do we have to deal with when Russian President Vladimir Putin eagerly adopts Lukashenko's methods in establishing his social programs? How much tyranny do we have when our yearly agricultural harvests are more bountiful than even Russia's harvests?

Yet, at a press-conference the day after the elections, Pavel Borodin, who now represents the allied power of Russia and Byelorussia, criticized everything that he feels my position when he makes comments such as:

- Lukashenko has a range of social programs very similar to the prosperous Swiss

5

Development of disease in a bird

Paveliakovich MUSO professor: «There are two migration ways the virus can be transferred by: from western Europe and Africa to Greenland and Northern Canada and a similar way from Asia to North America.»

The chance of transferring the virus of bird influenza is really big

House birds are highly reactive to the activation of an infection. Typical signs of respiratory disease are runny nose and depressed egg laying qualities. Highly pathogenic cultures of the virus cause bacteria in the heavy form of disease in birds.

Case of infection and fatal outcomes among people 2003-2006

Menger Abelius

Dmidey Abelius

Drashek Dendrakis

Possbible way to North America

Wintering areas

Current density of the H5N1 virus

Ways of hit of a virus to the country

The outbreak of the H5N1 virus, better known as avian influenza, has covered already 37 countries on three continents. The reason is still unknown, but in case of pandemic, the worst UN and World Bank forecasts promise millions of victims and 800 billions dollar loss. What to believe?

The present outbreak started in 2003 in Southeast Asia. In 2005 the virus reached its original area, routing Russia, Kazakhstan and some European countries. The first cases of human infection were registered in Hong-Kong in 1997 when half of 18 diseased died. Since that time 193 cases of human infection have been registered, 98 ended with fatal outcome. Most scientists and epidemiologists think that the main infection spreaders are wild migrant birds, and during spring migration, the virus can be transferred to extend to North America. According to chief ornithologist of MSU zoological museum Pavel Tomkovich, «There are quite many species of infected birds from Europe, Asia and Africa which can fly to America and there infect Birds». 37 countries are already infected. Who is next?

Vasily Polyunov

Infographics: Swiatoslaw Nekliaev

The most serious question is that the preponderance of those who participated in the disturbances were students, unshaped mentally and politically, as well as those who were paid to participate. It was a fresh election. Lukashenko now can emerge as more of a reformer.

The most serious question is that the image of the country, as well as his leader, has been systematically discarded in the world mass media.

For me it seems someone's goal to plunge the country into chaos. Even an artificially created chaos. There are examples of this in the Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

Lukashenko is resisting and suffering as a result. He is not matching the standard. By nature he prefers small methods to giant leaps and bold radicalism. In foreign policy he also tries to improve his country standing and weight in the world.

He has started off strong, but his biggest tests are still to come. Perhaps once he has accomplished those bigger tests, his critics will change their minds.

On the 24th of March, the country officials decided to stop the protests. It took policemen 15 minutes to disperse the 150 protesters.

Maria Kupnova
Debunking stereotypes

We are all inevitably under the power of stereotypes. Americans, for example, think that Russians are voracious creatures fur-ruffled and walking arm-in-arm with white bears. Russians, on the other hand, believe that Americans eat hamburgers at every meal and drink Coca-Cola all day long (and spend the rest of their time attempting to rule the world). Journalist Ilya Ilyushin decided to determine the truth about Russians and Americans. Enjoy!

**Russians**

**Vodka**

In fact, vodka isn't as popular as it may seem. Russians prefer beer, particularly students. It's cheaper, tastier and vodka's got drunk too fast. Nevertheless, tastes differ.

**Cap with ear-flaps**

The younger generation, women, old people and successful men don't wear caps with ear-flaps. Only old men of shallow appearance do. This is a remnant of Soviet times. Such caps are uncomfortable and you can't put it in your pocket — you've got to carry it on your head. It's like to remember those times that famous designers Dolce and Gabaud used these caps in their winter collections — huge and exaggerated.

**Valenki** (a type of felt boots)

Valenki were designed by Russian peasants about 100 years ago. Soviet soldiers wore valenki in the severe snow frost during World War Two. Lenin, Stalin and Khrouchtchev respected that the valenki contained a chemistry of sheep wool. Now valenki has become fashionable again. The New York Times says that valenki with removable rubber foot galoshes are the last fashion revolution. «If you don't like the height, simply customize them with a matte kick at_0s».

**Old non-fashion clothes**

No! No! Nobody wears torn shirts and abominable rotten sweaters. Boundaries do evolve — nowadays Russians and Americans dress practically the same. Russian girls are ready-made fashion models for catwalks.

**White bears on streets**

There are no white bears on streets. When sun shines or heat blinds, almost all Americans wear sunglasses — it protects your precious eyes from sun beams. There are no white bears on streets. Maybe you, huh?

### Cinema

#### Night Watch: vodka and vampires

**A popcorn movie with a Vodka chaser**: This is the description for the Russian film Night Watch that was released in movie theaters across America in February of this year.

Night Watch is the first part of a science fiction trilogies based on a book series from Sergey Lukyanenko. Night Watch is a thrilling vampire epic. Many critics and viewers have complained to The Matrix. Night Watch is about three vampire epic many critics and viewers have compared to The Matrix. Night Watch begins when a dark Other is found between the dark side and the light side. The movie than fast forwards to keep the truce. The movie looks much more expensive. Destiny of the elite, you know. Though George Lucas criticized the movie for its special effects, Lucas never noticed the sun...

Another point is the excellent cast. Heath Ledger (Ennis Del Mar) and Jake Gyllenhaal (Jack Twist) play with passion and make us believe in what we see on the screen. According to a reviewer from The New York Times, Heath Ledger disappears beneath the skin of his character. This statement is true. A famous Spanish writer Gabriel Marquez says: «You can miss a man who is near you only if you know that you'll never be able to be together.»

**Myth #1: Night Watch is a western**

In fact, it's not! If you want to find traditional elements of a western (a lot of shooting, drunk cowboys who fight in saloons, etc.), you'll be disappointed. In reality, Night Watch presents itself more like a traditional melodrama with a surprise. Instead of a man and a woman in a relationship, the movie presents the romantic relationship between two men. The plot is simple. In 1963, Ennis and Jack meet on a ranch in Wyoming where they work as shepherds. They spend a summer on Brokeback Mountain and, thus, the main character is the symbol of the movie and the place where they meet to continue the next 20 years. The plot and the last meetings of the main characters happen on Brokeback Mountain.

The movie is really touching. It illustrates that no matter what people are of the same or opposite sex, they can be friends, lovers and parents.

**Myth #2: In Russia, Breakdown Mountain can only be shown at night**

That is not true. The movie is showing in almost every cinema hall in Moscow. You can watch it anytime and anytime you like. Make up audience is very different. You can't imagine how surprised I was when I met two old women sitting next to me in a cinema hall. The fact is such a movie never be filmed in Russia. That is why it seems quite strange not only to our audience. We have never paid attention to the problem of homosexual relationships. People's attitude towards such relationships is very different in the U.S. and in Russia. Many Russian people have a negative attitude toward homosexual couples and find their relationships abominable. A lot of Russians just can't get used to the fact that homosexual relationships have become part of the society. So, in our country homosexual relationships are hidden and people try to pretend that these relationships do not exist here.

In the U.S., people's attitude toward the issue is much more open. So, it is quite obvious why Breakdown Mountain was produced in the U.S. but not in Russia. What's most interesting, though, is that the film is being shown here and is attracting an audience.

**Myth #3: Breakdown Mountain didn't get Oscar for Best Picture because it had received too many other awards.** So, the Academy simply didn't want everybody's expectations to come true.

The director of the film, Ang Lee, decided to play a postmodern game by mixing different film genres. As a result, the movie turned out to be more interesting. The younger generation, women, old people and successful men don't wear caps with ear-flaps. Only old men of shallow appearance do. This is a remnant of Soviet times. Such caps are uncomfortable and you can't put it in your pocket — you've got to carry it on your head. It's like to remember those times that famous designers Dolce and Gabaud used these caps in their winter collections — huge and exaggerated.

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Lifestyle

Olga Kuracheva

On page five of this special issue, the Russian and American editors discuss stereotypes they hold about each other's culture. It's interesting to know how the Americans imagine a typical Russian student and how the Russians imagine a typical American one. But, what about the lifestyle outside of the university? In what ways do the students spend their free time? The Russian students treated the Americans to several exciting days and nights out on the town in Moscow. Let's go to a few of those clubs that the Russian students like the best and find out what they do there.

These clubs are kinds of places where people can not only eat tasty food, but also read good books, listen to pleasant music and communicate with interesting people. Everybody must like a friendly atmosphere, nice waiters and waitresses and comfortable, laid back surroundings. And, the prices in these clubs are affordable for students. Of course, the low prices are very important for us. Each of these places are similar, but each one has its own features and interesting moments.

«Bilingua», for example, unlike other places in Moscow, is on the second floor. Usually such clubs are located in basements. But in «Bilingua» you have an opportunity to see daylight. Sometimes you can even imagine that you are flying through the sky. They also have built a balcony inside the club, intensifying the effect.

«FAQ-cafe» is not far from our department, so we often go there to have lunch after classes. To tell the truth, we usually call it not «FAQ», but just «f*ck-cafe». It's shorter. There are four «rooms» there: a «dining-room», a «bedroom», a «children's room» and a «study». Each of these rooms suits its name. For example, there is a real bed in the «bedroom».

In «Apshu» you can find not only a bed, but also a bath. Sometimes people call this place «the club with the bath». There is a system of keys there. If you are a member of «Apshu», you can open the door just using your key. Such a way you can visit closed parties.

«PodMoskovye» is a new place. The word «PodMoskovye» means «the area around Moscow», but in this case it means that it is located in the basement under the city. There are three halls with the main hall design to look like Moscow's underground Metro system. The history of this cafe/club comes in two versions. The first version explains that it was the basement of the Russian Academy of the Theater Art GITIS. The other version claims that it was a cellar where people kept cabbage. Both of these versions are really interesting, aren't they?

The last place on our tour today is club «Zhesh». If we translate it into English, we'll get the word «tin». But nowadays, we say this word when we want to express our emotions. It usually means that we don't like the situation. For example, you can say: «I am to write fifteen articles by tomorrow. Zhesh». Young people like this word, and the club personifies the feelings of Russian youth. The furniture is unique and the prices are student friendly. «Zhesh» opened just some months ago and it's not that popular as «FAQ-cafe» or «Apshu» yet, but there is no doubt that time will change this.

Russian students like these clubs, and our American guests liked them, too. Thank you for your attention and good luck. See you there :)
to do in Moscow

www.bilinguaclub.ru
www.faqcafe.ru
www.apshu.ru
www.podclub.ru
www.zhst.ru
Two worlds of card games

Emerging from the seedy underbelly of American society, a decade-old card game has grabbed mainstream America's attention in recent years. This game, which was once played exclusively by roughnecks in smoky back-alley card rooms, has been given a makeover by savvy toy companies and is now a pop culture phenomenon.

ESPN, an American sports television channel, has been the main catalyst in Texas holdem's growth. Since they began broadcasting the World Series of Poker, the popularity of the game raced across the United States and is beginning to take hold overseas.

Normal Joe-type players have won both fame and multi-million-dollar jackpots in the series. From slow talking dust-busty cowboys to fashionably clad Americans with their ties on the loose, all card players are accessible to near-ly anyone watching the series. Television viewers across America find themselves mesmerized as the cards get flipped: one card can often determine whether their favorite player goes bust or moves on to the next round.

Capitalizing on the popularity of the game, the Internet has turned the already large online gambling community into a multi-billion dollar industry. Now anyone who has his interest peaked by the World Series of Poker can simply go online and play in a virtual card room.

And it's not just internet entrepreneurs that are exploiting the popularity of Texas holdem. In states with relaxed gambling laws, card rooms are springing up everywhere. In Tacoma, Wash., casinos and card rooms advertising Texas holdem tournaments dominate the landscape. If you want to host a tournament, you will end up to receive a place to play in Tacoma than it is to find a place to eat.

With the combination of accessibility and popularity, Texas holdem presents an illusion: it is an easy game with simple rules. However, it's not that easy to play.