

## Private Communications in Public Space By LeeAnn Robison

The homes that I have chosen for the study of communication in public space are good examples of how communication intersects with public space. The homes stand out from the homogeneity of their environs by creating a spectacle with their displays of political opinions and issues that defy the traditional neighborhood that surround them.



The homeowners' individual expressions stand out among the houses that we generally see while on our commutes to work or wherever we may go. They challenge the standard front yard status quo. I am interested in looking at how this communication and individual expression impact our culture. In an increasingly homogenous society, diversity is being threatened. Being exposed to differing viewpoints can allow diversity to flourish and is a defining characteristic of a democracy.



I interviewed the residents of the homes to find out what they intended to communicate through their houses. I also took extensive photos and analyzed the images in addition to my observation in the field. Most of those interviewed have strong political views, are against the Iraq war and the Bush administration. Additionally, they have a sense of humor and have fun with their expressions. More research and a class on communication in public space would broaden communications studies. It was not until I began this research did I realize the scale of this type of communication, it's implications on society and how easily that can be overlooked.

