

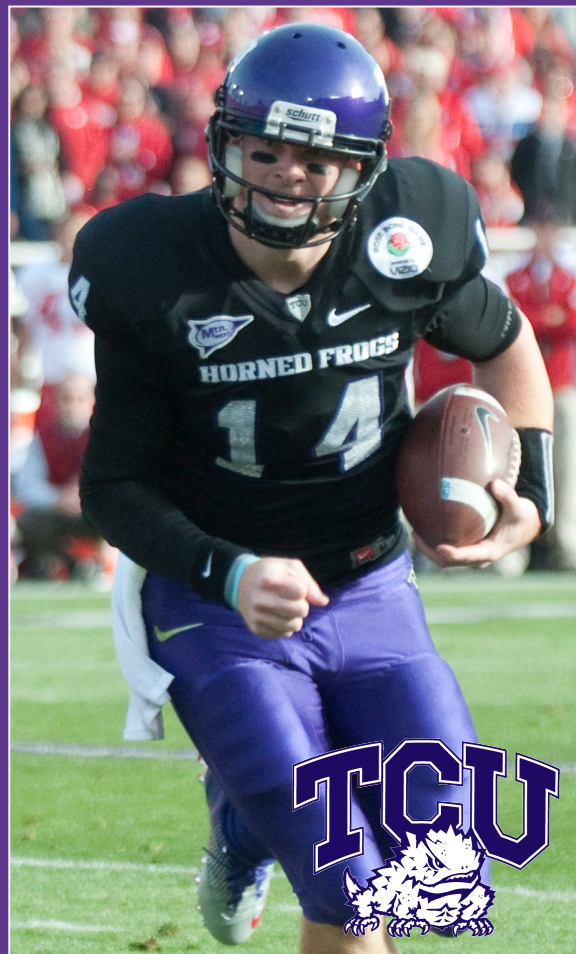
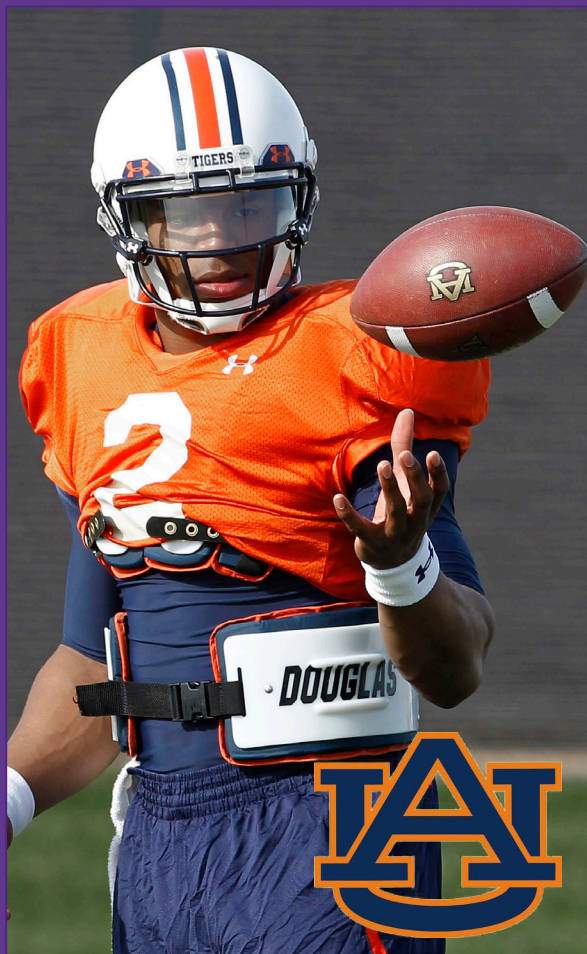


STADIUM RENOVATION 2

Check out updates on the changes being made to Amon G. Carter Stadium.

[WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM](http://www.DAILYSKIFF.COM)

Perfect season puts Frogs at No. 2



The final AP rankings place Cam Newton and Auburn as the AP National Champions, leaving Andy Dalton and TCU in second place after a 13-0 season. Darron Thomas and Oregon finished third in the poll after losing in the BCS National Championship.

Photo illustration by Deni Stoyanova

SEE MORE COVERAGE ON PAGE 10

FOOTBALL TICKETS 2

2011 stadium renovations make fewer single-game tickets available.



MISS AMERICA 7

TCU student competing for national pageant title.



FOOTBALL

Stadium changes will not affect student seating

By Chelsea Katz
Staff Reporter

With the changes to the football stadium, all football season ticket holders would be accommodated, while fewer tickets would be allotted for walk-ups and single-game ticket buyers, Athletics Director Chris Del Conte said.

Although season tickets were at an all-time high during this year's football season, Del Conte said all season ticket holders from last season would have a seat in Amon G. Carter Stadium as it is being renovated. He added that the student section would not be affected by the decreased number of available seats.

"Our students will always have a seat in the stadium," he said.

Davis Babb, associate athletics director for development, said about 33,000 seats would be available in the stadium during the 2011 season, compared with the 44,008 seats available before the implosion.

With the lower number of available seats, only season tickets will guarantee admittance to TCU football games, Del Conte said. Therefore, more single-game ticket buyers might buy season tickets to guarantee their places at the games.

"Instead of having single-game buyers cherry-pick 'X' amount of games, you're going to have a limited number of games," Del Conte said. "A lot of our fans are single-game buyers, and they don't miss a game," he said.

Babb said he hoped the

number of season tickets sold would increase to more than 20,000 tickets in the upcoming 2011 season. He said, however, he expected the increase in season ticket sales to limit the number of tickets available for single games to about 10,000 each game.

There were a little more than 19,000 season tickets sold last year with between 4,000 and 5,000 students attending games, Babb said.

Single-game tickets would go on sale once the season ticket sales ended, and Babb said he believed that people would buy individual game tickets earlier than in the past.

T. Ross Bailey, associate athletics director for operations, said because of the construction, some season ticket holders would be moved to different areas of the stadium, such as the north endzone or the east side of the stadium, for the 2011 season.

Bailey said renewals for 2011 season tickets had not come out yet.

Although the renovation would continue through the 2011 season, Del Conte said games would still be played at home.

"Something is truly special about playing games on a college campus, the pomp and circumstance, the tailgating," Del Conte said. "You get a chance to show off your campus."

Bailey said work crews would continue working on the stadium through the fall and would make sure the site was safe for fans on game days. The stadium is scheduled to be completed for the 2012 football season.



CHELSEA KATZ/ STAFF REPORTER

Dean Bailey purchases season tickets for the next football season. Stadium renovations will limit single-game ticket sales next season.

FOOTBALL

Stadium implosion debris to be completely cleared by next week

By Heather Noel
Staff Reporter

After the Dec. 5 implosion of the football stadium's west grandstand, crews began clearing away the rubble to begin the \$105 million renovation of TCU's Amon G. Carter Stadium.

Ross Bailey, associate athletics director for operations, said the clean-up of more than 500 truckloads of debris should be completed in one more week.

"We got our own little force of Tonka toys out there, all with a different function," Bailey said.

Bailey said more than 90 percent of the debris from the implosion would be recycled into other projects with the construction company.

Athletics director Chris Del Conte said HKS Sports & Entertainment, the construction company working on the stadium renovation, was also responsible for the construction of Cowboys

Stadium and the American Airlines Center.

Del Conte said he was surprised at the progress of the clean-up in such a short amount of time and that he was also proud that much of the debris would be recycled.

Work also began on the north endzone, with construction crews raising piers to make way for the upper deck that would provide an additional 5,000 seats Bailey said.

Del Conte said the north endzone is "going vertical," referring to the piers that would support the expanded seating.

Davis Babb, associate athletics director for development, said the north endzone will also have new concession stands, restrooms, and a new scoreboard scheduled to be ready for the 2011 season. The existing scoreboard in the north endzone would be moved into the southeast corner of the stadium.

Del Conte said the entire renovation was on schedule so far.

"The implosion was great," Del Conte said. "Contractors are fabulous, [and] barring any weather right now, we are going great."

Babb said because construction would continue throughout the 2011 season, fans could expect a temporary decrease in parking and seating. He said he felt fans would still have a good experience, though.

"Fans can expect a more temporary nature for 2011," Babb said. "Fans will have easy access in and out."

Parking lots one and two

near the stadium would be inaccessible in the 2011 season, and Babb said arrangements were still being made to find other lots for game day parking.

The actual timeline of the renovation would be difficult to nail down, but as long as there are no unforeseen delays, Del Conte said crews would continue working.

The complete renovation of the stadium is scheduled to be finished for the home opener against Oklahoma in September 2012. The stadium will be fully equipped with new restrooms, concession stands, suites and expanded seating.

Football Ticket Sales

Last season:

Number of seats available — 44,008

Number of season tickets sold — more than 19,000

Student attendees per game — between 4,000 and 5,000

2011 season:

Number of seats available- 33,000

Projected number of season tickets to be sold- at least 20,000

G

ear up for Grad School

GRE/GMAT/LSAT Prep
Classes and Free
Strategy Sessions

Register Now!

TCU Extended Education (817) 257-7132 Lifelong.tcu.edu

FOOTBALL

Moncrief wins Rose Bowl bet against Madison mayor

By Emily Sears
Staff Reporter

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz of Madison, Wis., briefly exchanged his Badger red for Horned Frog purple after losing a bet he made with Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief.

Cieslewicz wore a TCU jersey and hat to the Madison Common Council meeting on Jan. 4.

"Sincere congratulations to TCU and our good friends in Fort Worth," Cieslewicz said at the meeting.

While congratulating the Frogs, he used air quotes as he described the "great victory" and the "beautiful purple ensemble" he was wearing.

The bet between the two mayors was over the outcome of the TCU-Wisconsin match-up in this year's 2011 Rose Bowl played on Jan. 1. According to the bet, if the Frogs won, Cieslewicz would wear the TCU jersey and hat at the next Madison Council meeting.

If the Frogs lost, Moncrief would have worn a red Wisconsin jersey and hat to his next City Council meeting

in Fort Worth. Cieslewicz mentioned, as he put on the jersey, that he sent red and white Badger gear to Fort Worth before the game took place.

"Sincere congratulations to TCU and our good friends in Fort Worth."

Dave Cieslewicz
Mayor of Madison

"Some are saying that's what jinxed our team," he said, "And I take full responsibility, I let everybody know."

Moncrief made a similar bet with Boise, Idaho, Mayor David Bieter last year when the Frogs played Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl. He lost the bet and wore a orange and blue Broncos jersey to the first City Council meeting after the game.

He offered the same bet again this year to Cieslewicz. "Fort Worth is proud of everything coach Gary Patterson and the TCU football team have accomplished

this year," Moncrief said in a statement released by his office. "We want to show our support in every way possible."

In addition to the jerseys, the mayors made another wager. The losing mayor would send a symbolic item representing his city to the winning mayor.

Moncrief chose a pair of Justin boots and Cieslewicz chose a Trek Allant bicycle. Moncrief was not required to send anything to Madison because of the Frogs' win, but he sent the Justin boots to Cieslewicz anyway as "a token of Fort Worth's friendship and respect" toward the people of Madison, according to his letter in the Jan. 5 edition of Madison newspaper, *The Cap Times*.

Sophomore finance and accounting major Andres Ventura said he felt Moncrief's win this year was a good way to get over the disappointment of last year.

"Last year, it was embarrassing, so it was nice that he won the bet because it would have been the second time in a row we lost a bowl game," Ventura said.

HEALTH

Blood test could help detect cancer

By Caitlin Cockerline
Staff Reporter

A new blood test may be able to detect a single cancer cell among millions of other cells within the sample, and the test will give doctors the ability to determine more quickly if a person has cancer than the previous tests, according to an article published in *Technology Review*.

Nursing oncologist Dr. Donna Dombrowski from Saint Louis University Hospital explained that the test would filter a blood sample using a device that separates abnormal cells from normal cells. Although an examiner could be able to tell where these cancer cells originated within the body, other tests will still be used to ensure accuracy, Dombrowski said.

"This test is simply a tool for right now and cannot be used alone," Dombrowski said. "Until doctors are comfortable with the accuracy of this test, x-rays, exams and medical history will all be taken into consideration with the results of the blood test to lower the chances of false negatives."

With this test, cancer patients can have treatment plans designed specifically to their needs, Dombrowski said. It will allow former cancer patients to find out whether the cancer has come back with

immediate results, she said.

Junior nursing major Natalie Feingold said the test could be beneficial for those cancers that commonly have symptoms that go undetected.

"For cancers in the pelvic region, usually the person shows minor to no symptoms until the cancer is stage four and extremely serious," Feingold said. "If this test is proven effective, it could help detect these cancers earlier on."

"For cancers in the pelvic region, usually the person shows minor to no symptoms until the cancer is stage four and extremely serious. If this test is proven effective, it could help detect these cancers earlier on."

Natalie Feingold
Junior nursing major

Feingold said that with the approval of the test, nursing students and doctors will have to be informed of how to utilize this new procedure.

"This will definitely affect our education in the future," Feingold said. "It could be good, but it could also lead to people figuring out they have a

disease that will determine the rest of their lives."

Medical researcher Dr. David White, who works at Sinclair Research Center in Missouri, said the new test could be used to diagnose people who show no cancer symptoms and will allow doctors to know if their prescribed treatment is working or if it needs to be altered.

According to the *Technology Review* article, this new process of detecting a single cell has already been given the name "liquid biopsy" by scientists.

As of now, the test has only been able to detect breast, colon, prostate and lung cancers, Dombrowski said.

According to an article in *The Washington Post*, the test was being used at four major hospitals in the United States, one of which was MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. If these tests are successful, they could be more widely available throughout the country, according to the article.


Dombrowski said that despite the progress, the test was still in the research phase.

"Until it is approved by the FDA, it will not be widely available," Dombrowski said. "The results look very promising, and the tests will most likely be approved and available within the next year."



SCREEN CAPTURE COURTESY OF FORTWORTHGOV.ORG



Madison Wisconsin Mayor Dave Cieslewicz dons full TCU gear after losing a bet with Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief over the outcome of the Rose Bowl.



Swindle's Jewelry

— est. 1943 —

SHOP NOW FOR YOUR
OFFICIAL TCU FAN RING

CUSTOM DESIGNS & OTHER
STYLES AVAILABLE

"Your Most Trusted Name in Jewelry"

2900 West Washington St.
Stephenville, TX
www.swindlesjewelry.com
254.968.6110

PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Remember what gives TCU its unique feel and character

Following the incredible, undefeated season by the football team and the national attention the Rose Bowl win brought to the university, it is no surprise admission applications have hit an all-time high. It may be a surprise, however, that with the record application numbers, the university is aiming to decrease the number of students admitted and reduce the incoming class size.

Part of the charm of the university has always been the one-on-one attention given to students. And it is good to see that with more students applying, the university is choosing to be slightly more selective rather than taking in more students.

Dean of Admission Ray Brown said the university does not want to become too selective, cautioning, "You don't want to get so selective that you turn your back on people who have made TCU what it is."

University officials should continue to remember the factors that make the university unique, including a low student-to-faculty ratio, and work toward improving while maintaining the spirit of the university.

Managing editor Mark Bell for the editorial board.

The Skiff View represents the collective opinion of the editorial board.

EDITORIAL BOARD

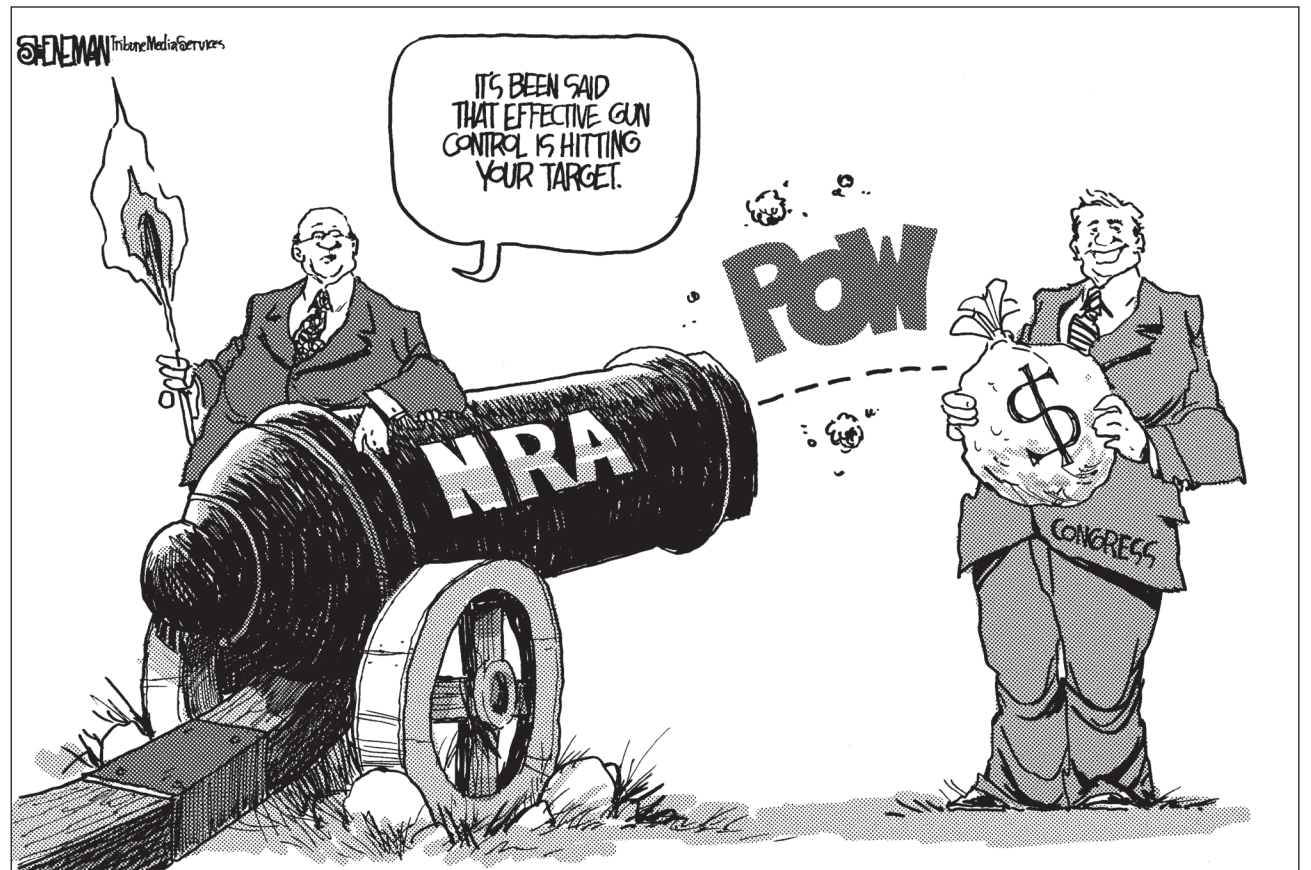
Libby Davis, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Mark Bell, MANAGING EDITOR
Ryne Sulier, SPORTS EDITOR
Katey Muldrow, NEWS EDITOR
Kerri Feczko, NEWS EDITOR

Andrea Drusch, WEB EDITOR
Rebecca Jeffrey, JUNIOR WEB EDITOR
Matt Coffelt, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Marshall Doig, ASSOCIATE/OPINION EDITOR



TCU Box 298050
Fort Worth, TX 76129
news@dailyskiff.com

Phone (817) 257-7428
Fax (817) 257-7133



Drew Sheneman is a political cartoonist for The Star-Ledger.

Qatar World Cup decision has faults



Andrea Bolt

FIFA's executive committee chose Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup over the U.S., Japan, Australia and South Korea in a secret vote Dec. 2.

Looking at these countries on the surface, how is Qatar the odd man out? Size. Qatar is slightly smaller than Connecticut and half the size of Israel. Every four years, the world's largest and most popular sporting event, the FIFA World Cup, draws an average of two million fans from across the globe. Qatar currently has a population of 841,000, according to a *Houston Chronicle* article.

Basically, politics won out again over logic. FIFA's omnipotent president, Sepp Blatter, is looking for a re-election, and he believes that by awarding Qatar with the 2022 cup and Russia with the cup in 2018, he's "spreading soccer's influence." Of course, with \$1 billion in reserves and

the intense wealth of oil-rich Qatar, FIFA can afford to take a gamble.

As a soccer fan and a U.S. citizen, I'm naturally disappointed and, though perhaps it sounds a tad dramatic, I'm offended. Although we hosted the cup in 1994 and Qatar has not even played in, let alone hosted a cup — its team is ranked No. 113 — one has to consider logic.

As a soccer fan and a U.S. citizen, I'm naturally disappointed and, though perhaps it sounds a tad dramatic, I'm offended.

Qatar's average temperature in the summer is around 106 degrees. To solve this, Qatar has promised solar-powered, air conditioned stadiums. It has yet to be proven that the technology will work on such an enormous scale, though.

"I don't see how you can air condition an entire country," FIFA committee member Chuck Blazer said.

There is also geography to consider. Let's not forget Iran is directly across the narrow Persian Gulf, and Iraq lies only a short distance to the northwest. The Middle East is not an area known

for its safety and welcoming nature, although this is the perception Qatar obviously is seeking to change. I hate to bring up the fact that there were suicide bombings in South Africa during the 2010 World Cup; how much more of a threat will these be in Qatar?

Projected by the International Monetary Fund to have one of the world's fastest growing economies this year, Qatar plans to build nine stadiums, renovate three others, construct a rail and metro system and more than double the number of hotel rooms in preparation for the tournament. This is positively fantastic and will no doubt be wonderful; the country obviously has the funds. It still begs the question, though: Will everyone fit?

Although the U.S. could no doubt use the revenue generated by tourism more than Qatar and would be a more logical location, the fact is that FIFA has given a country previously known simply for oil and money the chance to show the world the "new" Middle East and perhaps bring about the change and awareness Blatter and company have proposed.

Andrea Bolt is a senior news-editorial journalism major from The Woodlands.

Circulation: 3500
Subscriptions: Call 817-257-6274
Rates are \$30 per semester.
Location: Moudy Building South
Convergence Center, Room 212
2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109

Distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus and surrounding locations, limit one per person. Additional copies are \$5.00 and are available at the Skiff office.
www.dailyskiff.com

The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schieffer School of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives from the student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday through Friday during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays.

STAFF

Design Editor: Akmal Marikar
Advertising Manager: Courtney Kimbrough
Student Publications Director: Robert Bohler
Business Manager: Bitsy Faulk
Production Manager: Vicki Whistler
Director, Schieffer School: John Lumpkin

COPYRIGHT All rights for the entire contents of this newspaper shall be the property of the TCU Daily Skiff. No part thereof may be reproduced or aired without prior consent of the Student Publications Director. The Skiff does not assume liability for any product and services advertised herein. The Skiff's liability for misprints due to our error is limited to the cost of the advertising.

PERSPECTIVES

GOP must change tactics now that House control is assured



Jack Enright

Last November, the tea party fervor that swept the nation for more than a year and a half was finally voiced in the ballot box. Democrats lost their majority in the House of Representatives and saw much of their majority diminish in the Senate. This came about due to high budget deficits, high unemployment and controversial legislation, such as health care.

With the great power bestowed upon the Republicans by voters comes a great responsibility to those who enabled them to come into power.

The changes Republicans enact, or fail to enact, over the next two years will be in voters' minds

during the 2012 congressional and presidential races. This is why the GOP has to enact meaningful change and not just "the party of no" and only reverse the accomplishments of the previous two years.

In the first few days that Republicans controlled the House, the actions they took were mostly symbolic. On Thursday, the GOP read the U.S. Constitution aloud in Congress, the first time that had ever been done. Representatives from both parties took turns reading parts of the document over two hours. It was intended to point out the lack of adherence to the Constitution by Congress, particularly Democrats.

A vote to repeal the health care bill that was passed in March of last year is scheduled for Wednesday but will almost certainly fail in the Senate and will not be signed by the president. It is merely a way for the GOP to protest as it takes control of one house of Congress.

Whether the GOP can bring

about real change or just be mostly unproductive, as were its starting actions, will be seen over the next two years.

By looking back at the actions of the minority Republicans over the past two years, it is difficult to be optimistic. While quick to criticize many of the democrats' proposals, they seldom offered their own alternatives.

By looking back at the actions of the minority Republicans over the past two years, it is difficult to be optimistic. While quick to criticize many of the Democrats' proposals, they seldom offered their own alternatives. On what was by far the most profound issue of the last Congress, health care, Republicans offered only minor tweaks to America's health care system as an

alternative to the Democratic-led bill that ultimately passed.

During the lame-duck session, Democrats were forced to compromise and extend the Bush tax cuts for everyone, including the top 2 percent of the tax bracket, to avoid having them expire at the end of 2010.

Warren Buffett, one of the wealthiest men in the world, noted in an interview with ABC's "This Week," that "The rich are always going to say that, you know, just give us more money and we'll go out and spend more and then it will all trickle down to the rest of you. But that has not worked the last 10 years, and I hope the American public is catching on."

Republicans often peddle this "trickle-down" approach as a way to boost the economy by giving tax cuts to the rich, but even the rich themselves know it isn't the reality.

On other issues during the lame-duck session, such as ratifying the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and "don't ask, don't tell,"

the GOP simply wasn't willing to approve them even though they were both good for the country and appealed to independents. Specifically, on the case of "don't ask, don't tell," it could further eliminate any inroads that gays have made into the GOP, continuing on a poor streak from a year ago when a group called GOProud caused controversy at CPAC, a major conservative conference, simply for showing up as a pro-gay rights conservative group.

Ultimately, the GOP will have a lot to prove over the next two years if it wants to maintain and possibly capitalize on its gains in 2010. With the GOP just trailing the Democrats in number of seats in the Senate, along with an upcoming presidential race that many believe could easily go either way, it's time Republicans started producing real results if they want to be taken seriously again in 2012.

Jack Enright is a sophomore political science major from Tomball.

your view

What do you have to say?

Patterson embodies best aspects of past successful coaches

There is a lot of Paul "Bear" Bryant in Gary Patterson.

I grew up in Alabama pulling for the Crimson Tide, and I have been a rabid TCU fan since my daughters played basketball for the Frogs a decade ago.

Since I became a TCU fan I have respected all three of their head coaches. In the South, Pat Sullivan will forever be a legend as a player and as a man. And although I didn't appreciate the manner in which Dennis Franchione walked away from TCU or Alabama, I still believe he is a very good coach who deserves to be on the sideline for some university on crisp afternoons in the fall.

As for Gary Patterson, he has brought TCU to a level of success in a way that few coaches have ever matched. And he has done it in a way greatly reminiscent of that legend who walked the sidelines in Tuscaloosa for so many years.

In 1966, Alabama was the undefeated, two-time

defending national champion, yet had a third title stolen from it and given to a team that settled for a tie in its last game rather than going for the win. Coach Bryant never stooped to whining to the media about this, and this is the same strength of character that Coach Patterson displays.

As for Gary Patterson he has brought TCU to a level of success in a way that few coaches have ever matched.

Like Coach Bryant, Coach Patterson demands, in no uncertain terms, a certain attitude and level of effort from his players. The players recognize this, they respect it and they respond as champions.

Even in all his unparalleled success, there was always a humility about Coach Bryant that set him apart from other great

coaches like Woody Hayes and Ara Parseghian. I see that same quality in Gary Patterson, and I hope he never loses it.

The history of sports in America singles out Paul Bryant above others, as a man who knew how to motivate his players, take the measure of his opponents and win football games. It goes without saying that in this regard, Coach Gary Patterson is following in the footsteps of the great "Bear." And in addition, Coach Patterson and his staff are without peers in their ability to evaluate talent and put a young man in the right position to reach his full potential as a TCU Horned Frog.

All I can say to the man is: Don't ever leave, brother. You will never find a city better than Fort Worth. You will never find a school better than TCU. And you will never find a fan base that appreciates you more than THE PURPLE. God bless you.

Mike Sutton, Lewisville



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
TCU head coach Gary Patterson yells at senior safety Alex Ibiloye after the Wisconsin two-point conversion attempt in the closing minutes of the Rose Bowl.

UNIVERSITY

Admission applications hit record high with one deadline remaining

By Maddie Tasker

Staff Reporter

Admission applications for the 2011-2012 school year have already passed last year's record of 14,075 and have shown no sign of slowing down, Dean of Admission Ray Brown said.

With one application deadline left, the number of applicants was near 16,000 last Wednesday. Brown projected that the final number of applicants would reach 18,000 after the Feb. 15 deadline.

The record-breaking number of applicants to the university has increased selectivity and created challenges for the Office of Admission, Brown said.

With the number of applications received and the limited number of spots available, TCU would not have to extend admission offers to as many applicants, Brown said. But at the same time, the university did not want to become overly selective.

"We don't want to change the culture of this institution," Brown said. "You always want to get better, but you don't want to change the essence of this place."

Brown estimated that TCU

was already the second-most selective university in the state, after Rice University.

"You don't want to get so selective that you turn your back on people who have made TCU what it is," Brown said.

The look of TCU's campus, the national exposure from success in athletics and the hard work of the Admission staff are what Brown said he considered to be among the reasons for the rapid increase in the number of applications received.

Although the number of applicants has increased, TCU is aiming to decrease class size, he said. Incoming class sizes were larger than targeted the past two years, with a freshman class of 1,821 students both times.

Senior Carissa Cotner, a strategic communication major, said ensuring that the classroom sizes remain small is important to her and might also be a factor in attracting prospective students.

"Students come to TCU expecting more one-on-one attention with a small student-teacher ratio," she said.

Freshman English major Taylor Muller said smaller class sizes are more conducive to classroom discus-

sions, which might also attract prospective students.

"I know at bigger universities there are classes filled with people, which makes it impossible to really discuss anything," she said.

To ensure the class size hits the desired number, admission staff would closely monitor the number of tuition deposits submitted in order to adjust the number of offers they extend. The Office of Admission has received 215 tuition deposits, compared to the 180 that had been submitted by this time last year, Brown said.

If the university receives the projected 18,000 applications, admission would be limited to about 7,000 students in order to achieve the 1,800 student goal, Brown said. Last year, 14,075 students applied and 7,400 were accepted to achieve a final class size of 1,821.

With TCU receiving more applicants, it would be increasingly more difficult for prospective students to stand out.

A certain number of "outstanding" students were offered admission after just one review of their application based upon the difficulty of classes taken, grades,



MADDIE TASKER / STAFF REPORTER

Prospective students begin a tour starting at the Mary Wright Admission Center.

class rank and test scores. The criteria for what would be considered "outstanding" in all of these areas would now go up, Brown said.

Brown also said that with the university's increasing popularity, the percentage of admitted students that choose to enroll in the freshman class would also go up. This would allow the university to move further ahead in selectivity among other universities in the state of Texas.

Target class size- 1,800

Last year:

Total applications received- 14,075

Applications accepted- 7,400

Students enrolled- 1,821

This year:

Applications received to date- about 16,000

Projected number of total applications- about 18,000

Approximate number of applications to be accepted based on projections- about 7,000

WANT TO WRITE?

THE DAILY SKIFF WANTS YOU!



Not a journalism major? Not a problem. We'd love you to contribute!
Contact Libby Davis at editor@dailyskiff.com for more information.

NATIONAL

TCU student represents Texas in Miss America pageant

By **Brittany Turner**
Staff Reporter

TCU senior and reigning Miss Texas Ashley Melnick, 21, represented Texas in the first night of preliminaries for the 2011 Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas.

Preliminaries for the pageant began Tuesday and will end Thursday, narrowing the competition to the top 15 contestants to compete in the finale Saturday, according to the Miss America website. The pageant will be televised live via the ABC television network.

Jan Mitchell, Ashley's business manager, said preliminaries included talent, fitness, evening wear and an interview. For the talent portion of the preliminaries, Ashley will sing "I Surrender" by Celine Dion, Mitchell said.

Ashley's mother, Terri Melnick, said that to prepare for the pageant, Ashley worked out two to three times a day, traveled to New York and Florida for wardrobe and worked with her personal trainer and nutritionist to stay in top shape.

Mitchell said Ashley had also been so busy that both cell phones she carried were always off. She was unavailable for comment and did not return phone calls, voice-mails or text messages at the time of publication.

Ashley could not do interviews at this time and could only send quick text messages consisting of a few words to Mitchell at night, Mitchell said.

"She is pretty much not allowed to talk on the telephone," Mitchell said.

Terri Melnick said that after competing in the Miss Texas pageant three times, Ashley won the title in 2010. Ashley also made more than 400 public appearances in the past year, she said.

Paige Allen, a junior communication studies major and close friend of Ashley's, said she would travel to Las Vegas to support her friend. Allen said she thought the business of pageantry could be tricky, but that Ashley was passionate about what she did and remained determined.

"I think she has a very good chance [to win] because she is very true to her heart, and she is a very genuine person," Allen said. "She

really has what it takes, and I definitely believe she can get it."

Terri Melnick said during Ashley's time in pageants, Ashley had spoken about the impact her autistic brother, Ryan Melnick, 26, had on her life. Ashley's platform for the pageants was The Voice of Autism, for which she worked to raise awareness about the disorder.

"I think she has a very good chance because she is very true to her heart, and she is a very genuine person. She really has what it takes, and I definitely believe she can get it for sure."

Paige Allen
Junior Communication
Studies Major

"I never really realized how much Ryan had an influence on her and made her driven," Terri Melnick said. "I never realized how much of an impact having a handicapped brother has on her life and how much he means to her."

Terri Melnick added that Ashley also talked about her childhood, about constantly moving, about being the new girl in school and about having to prove herself over and over.

John Tisdale, associate director of the Schieffer School of Journalism and a former professor of Ashley's, said she was an excellent student. The pageant reflected well on Ashley, on the university and on the Schieffer School, he said.

"I am proud of her and her accomplishments. She is poised and a smart student," Tisdale said. "She is going to do really well. She's a winner."

Tisdale, Terri Melnick and Mitchell all said they thought being a broadcast journalism major helped Ashley in the interview portion of her pageants.

Although Ashley took a year off from school to fulfill her commitments as Miss Texas, she planned to return to the university to finish up her senior year, Terri Melnick said. Depending on the turnout of the Miss America pageant, she would return next fall or in the fall of 2012.



COURTESY OF JAN MITCHELL

Miss Texas Ashley Melnick poses with other state pageant winners. Preliminaries for the pageant begin Tuesday and will end Thursday, narrowing the field to the top 15.

FOLLOW US ONLINE



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr



TCU DAILY
SKIFF
Est. 1902

WEIRD NEWS

Man reports stealing his own identity

Investigators say a California resident bought a BMW with a stolen identity, then reported his fake identity had been stolen after defaulting on the car payments.

Ryan Matthews pleaded guilty on Thursday to identity theft, grand theft and other felonies in the ruse and he was immediately sentenced

to nine months in jail.

Orange County prosecutors say U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is expected to deport the 38-year-old Laguna Hills resident to Jamaica when he completes his jail time.

Prosecutors say Matthews, using the name Terrance, contacted the Sheriff's Department in 2009 to report that someone had stolen his identity and used his credit

to buy the BMW.

The Orange County Registrar says investigators learned Matthews had actually stolen the identity from a felon in Nevada a decade earlier.

Scientists discover strange space blob

The Hubble Space Telescope got its first peek at a mysterious giant green blob in outer space and found that it's strangely alive.

The bizarre glowing blob is giving birth to new stars, some only a couple million years old, in remote areas

of the universe where stars don't normally form.

The blob of gas was first discovered by a Dutch school teacher in 2007 and is named Hanny's Voorwerp. Voorwerp is Dutch for object.

Parts of the green blob are collapsing and the resulting pressure from that is creating the stars. The stellar nurseries are outside of a normal galaxy, which is usually where stars live.

That makes these "very lonely newborn stars" that are "in the middle of nowhere," said Bill Keel, the

University of Alabama astronomer who examined the blob.

The blob is the size of our own Milky Way galaxy and it is 650 million light years away. Each light year is about 6 trillion miles.

Cattle-rustler pleads guilty

There's no need for a posse, folks, a Pennsylvania cattle-rustler has pleaded guilty.

Twenty-seven-year-old Damien Motter on Monday admitted he stole four cows

that disappeared from a pair of farms in Lykens Township, Dauphin County, in June 2009. Motter was sentenced to 23 months' probation and ordered to pay \$4,500 in fines and restitution.

The Dalmatia man pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property charges after genetic testing linked one of the stolen cows to a farmer's herd.

Assistant Public Defender Dana Wucinski says Motter is already on probation for a similar case in Northumberland County.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

Sponsored by:

TCU Senior Conference

Saturday, Jan. 22 • 8:30am-5:30pm • BLUU Ballroom

SENIORS free breakfast, lunch and workshops that will prepare you for the job market and life after college.

Last Day to Register: January 18th.

Check Us Out On:

View Agenda and Register at www.careers.tcu.edu
817-257-2222, Jarvis Hall

PATHEM

Sponsored by:

BLUE

SUSHI SAKE GRILL

3131 W. 7th St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107 (817) 332-2583

bluesushisakegrill.com

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Sponsored by:

Men's Basketball

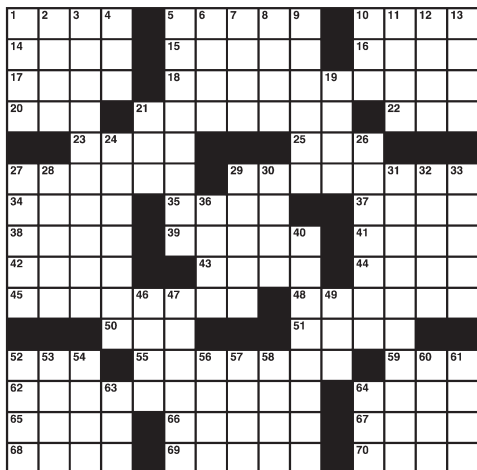
TCU vs. Wyoming

Tonight 6:30 p.m.

STUDENTS FREE!

GOFROGS.COM

- ACROSS**
- 1 17-Across in the neck
 - 5 Adventurous
 - 10 Domesticated
 - 14 Chase on stage
 - 15 Cat-__tails
 - 16 Wicked
 - 17 See 1-Across
 - 18 Passé keyboard key
 - 20 Bigger photo: Abbr.
 - 21 Extremely, in Essex
 - 22 Horror maven Craven
 - 23 Follower of Mary
 - 25 Sphere
 - 27 Was beaten by
 - 29 Midday energizer
 - 34 K-6
 - 35 Stroll
 - 37 Vowel before omicron
 - 38 Bounty rival
 - 39 Angle irons graphically represented by four sets of black squares in this grid, and by letter formations starting in the four longest answers
 - 41 Picket line crosser
 - 42 Garden site
 - 43 Actor Neeson
 - 44 Finishes the road
 - 45 Got sick again
 - 48 Like some quaint lamps
 - 50 Fair grade
 - 51 German GM subsidiary
 - 52 Workshop sprite
 - 55 Crete-born "View of Toledo" painter
 - 59 Texas ranch initials
 - 62 "I'm afraid this will sound funny"
 - 64 Dublin's land
 - 65 Red Muppet
 - 66 Trace
 - 67 Future atty's hurdle
 - 68 Boatload
 - 69 Preminger et al.
 - 70 Eyelid problem



By Don Gagliardo 1/11/11

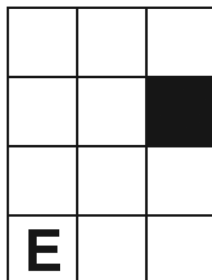
- DOWN**
- 1 Lounging jacket wearer's smoke, maybe
 - 2 Verve
 - 3 Video game difficulty setting
 - 4 Bronze relative
 - 5 Pasadena arena
 - 6 Andean ancient
 - 7 Letter addressees
 - 8 Masseuse's challenge
 - 9 Cowardly
 - 10 Business card abbr.
 - 11 Speak bluntly
 - 12 Cats' quarry
 - 13 Benevolent lodgeful
 - 19 Ancient strings
 - 21 NYC subway line named for two boroughs
 - 24 Farmers' publication?
 - 26 Brush component
 - 27 Hyped-up feeling
 - 28 Say "bo's'n," say
 - 29 Scottish pattern
 - 30 Gumbo pod
 - 31 Names on it are off-limits to telemarketers

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	I	T	E	P	A	N	D	A	S	S	G	T		
A	C	H	T	A	W	A	I	T	A	L	E	R		
R	E	A	D	O	N	E	S	F	O	R	T	U	N	E
O	T	N	E	S	T	N	I	C	E	T	Y			
M	E	L	E	E	R	O	T	H						
A	L	L	I	N	T	H	E	F	A	M	I	L	I	
F	L	O	R	I	D	S	O	R	E	S				
O	F	F	R	A	T	S	O	K	A	L				
C	O	R	G	I	S	M	E	R	S	H				
A	B	O	U	T	T	H	E	A	U	T	H	O	R	
I	S	A	Y											
P	I	S	T	O	L	B	O	L	O	G	U	Y		
I	T	T	A	K	E	S	A	V	I	L	L	A	G	E
S	E	E	R	S	I	R	E	D	O	N	E	A		
A	M	P	S	E	X	T	R	A	U	S	S	R		

(c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 1/11/11

- 32 Big name in video games
- 33 Big name in beer
- 36 Up to the task
- 40 Wet ones, so to speak
- 46 Banana discard
- 47 Have as a customer
- 49 Stock mkt. debut
- 52 Makeup accentuates them
- 53 Recline lazily
- 54 Do a slow burn
- 56 Trot or canter
- 57 Litter's lightest
- 58 Kellogg's toaster brand
- 60 Donkey's protest
- 61 Ballet leap
- 63 Sad
- 64 Ernie of the PGA, to whom this puzzle could be dedicated



"Tea Party Politics"

Difficulty ★★☆☆☆ (70pts)

How to play:

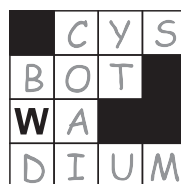
Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a single continuous spelling path that moves horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.

Sample



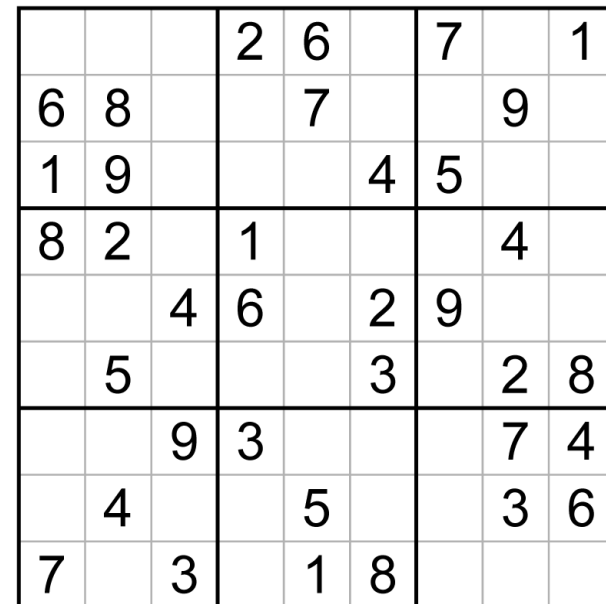
"Freeze"

Tuesday's Solution



"Cowboys Stadium"

Difficulty ★★☆☆☆ (50pts)

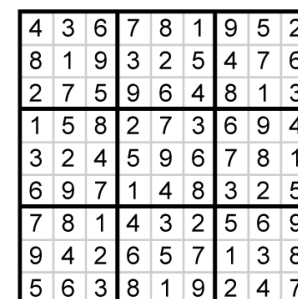


Directions

Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Thursday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Tuesday's Solution



GET TIPS AND MORE SOLUTIONS AT WWW.SUDOKU.COM

TEXAS NEWS

Associated Press

Legislature begins 2011 session under greater GOP control

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Legislature opened its 2011 session Tuesday with a blast of conservative chest-beating, a fizzled leadership challenge and a gigantic budget shortfall that could change state government as the people have come to know it.

Republicans, having fielded their largest House majority in Texas history, now dominate the Legislature more than ever. Most of them are promising to make deep cuts in spending, balance the budget without new taxes, strengthen ID requirements for voters, crack down on illegal immigration and require women to get a sonogram — and then look at it — before having an abortion.

The conservative tide was so strong it had threatened to sweep away relatively moder-

ate House Speaker Joe Straus, but the San Antonio businessman beat back an internal GOP challenge Monday and was re-elected Tuesday by a 132-15 vote. As speaker, Straus presides over the House and is one of the most powerful men in state government. He sets the agenda and controls what legislation makes it to the House floor for consideration.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, said lawmakers heard the voters that swept in the Republican tidal wave and urged them to be smart when casting their votes in what he called a “historic legislative session.”

“You are asked to make decisions about the economy and social issues that affect people across this state, touch lives of the people we have the great privilege to serve,” Perry said. “The actions that will be taken will make a big difference, make a difference between success and failure.”

The official revenue estimate shows the state is short as much as \$27 billion of the amount that would be required to maintain the current level of services when adjusted for inflation and caseload growth.

Democrats blamed Republican leaders for creating the shortfall and warn that critical programs will be curtailed as

a result. Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, said Republicans “want to shortchange hard-working, overtaxed Texans by cutting basic services to make up the shortfall they created.”

While Democrats might have power to block some Republican initiatives in the Senate, they are virtually powerless in the House. Republicans can pass legislation in that chamber even if the Democrats don’t show up.

Perry also declared ending the practice of “sanctuary cities” for illegal immigrants and protecting private property rights as his emergency items for the legislative session. His emergency declaration allows lawmakers to consider bills on those issues in the first 30 days of the session.

He also plans to propose reforms of “unfunded mandates” on local governments, or laws that require them to make expenditures but without giving them the funds to do so.

Missing West Texas girl case being treated as criminal investigation

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Authorities searching the past two weeks for a missing 13-year-old girl in West Texas are unsure whether she was abducted or ran away, but they’re

treating the case as a criminal investigation, authorities said Tuesday.

Hailey Darlene Dunn, a middle school cheerleader, was reported missing Dec. 28, according to Colorado City police. No Amber Alert was issued because the case did not meet the state’s criteria, which requires solid evidence that a child has been abducted, among other things.

State Trooper Sparky Dean said there is no evidence that she ran away or met foul play, although investigators continue to follow leads — including a witness account that Hailey and two girls were walking in a neighborhood a day or two before she went missing.

The FBI, the Texas Rangers and several sheriff’s departments are among about a dozen agencies involved in the search. They’ve scoured about 30 square miles on foot and by helicopter and talked to people in several neighborhoods in Colorado City, a 4,500-resident town about 200 miles west of Fort Worth.

“It’s always been a criminal investigation. You don’t bring in this kind of manpower for just a runaway,” Dean said. “Early on we were exploring all angles, that she might have run away, but we’re trying to find Hailey — bottom line.”

Investigators are trying to figure out the names of the girls who may have been with Hailey and talk to them about what Hailey may have said, if anything unusual occurred and to clarify the date that the teen disappeared.

DeLay team begins appeal of prison sentence

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas money laundering law is usually associated with drug dealers or white collar criminals, and Tom DeLay’s defense attorneys say they will try to keep the former U.S. House majority leader out of prison with an appeal that focuses largely on questions about whether the law was ever intended to apply to election violations.

DeLay was sentenced this week to three years in prison and 10 years of probation for scheming to illegally influence Texas elections. Unlike in most money laundering cases, prosecutors argued he stood to benefit not financially but through political power.

The creative use of the statute — the first time it was ever ap-

plied in such a case — was key to his convictions on money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering charges.

Prosecutors with the Travis County District Attorney’s Office contended DeLay conspired with two associates to use his Texas-based political action committee to send \$190,000 in corporate money in 2002 to an arm of the Washington-based Republican National Committee. The RNC then sent the same amount to seven Texas House candidates. Under Texas law, corporate money can’t go directly to political campaigns.

A jury in November convicted the Houston-area Republican of money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Senior Judge Pat Priest sentenced him on Monday, but DeLay will be free on bond pending his appeal, which could take years.

Dick DeGuerin, DeLay’s lead attorney, said he will argue that money laundering never took place because the \$190,000 that went to Texas candidates was not the product of illegal activity, as required by law, because the money swap was legal. DeLay contended the money swap resulted in the candidates getting money raised from individual donors, which can be legally used in Texas campaigns.



Perry



Straus



DeLay

NATIONAL NEWS

Associated Press

“HOPE” image copyright lawsuit dropped

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge in New York has dismissed copyright lawsuits between an artist who created the Barack Obama “HOPE” image and The Associated Press.

Federal Judge Alvin Hellerstein said in a one-page order Tuesday that a “suggestion of settlement” led him to dismiss claims between Shepard Fairey and the AP. The judge said the claims could be reinstated within a month if either side requested.

Fairey sued the AP in 2009, claiming he didn’t violate the copyright of the AP picture on which he based

the “HOPE” image because he dramatically changed it. The AP countersued, saying the uncredited, uncompensated use of an AP photo violated copyright laws and was a threat to journalism.

Neither side has responded to messages seeking comment.

Mississippi Governor: Time to open civil rights museum

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, a potential 2012 presidential candidate, says his state should build a civil rights museum in downtown Jackson.

Barbour came under fire last month for comments that critics said minimized the difficulties of Mississippi’s civil rights era.

In the prepared text of his State of the State speech, Barbour says 2011 is a good time to move forward with the museum because it is the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders’ journey that challenged racial segregation. And it’s the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

Such a museum was first proposed in 2007 but stalled over discussions of location and funding.

Barbour is delivering the speech Tuesday night.

Court hears challenge to \$65 million Facebook settlement

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Former Harvard University classmates of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg

want to throw out a \$65 million settlement of their lawsuit that alleged the social network was their idea.

Lawyers for twins Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss argued their case before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday. They claim they were duped into agreeing to the 2008 settlement after Facebook lawyers and executives misrepresented the value of the company.

But the three-judge appeals panel appeared reluctant to reopen the case. According to the San Jose Mercury News, the judges noted that the Winklevosses were well-educated and had good legal advisers at the time, so they should have known what they were getting into.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

35¢ PER WORD; 45¢ PER BOLD WORD PER DAY
www.tcudailyskiff.com/classifieds TO PLACE YOUR AD

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

SPORTS-MINDED IS HIRING \$20.00/ Hour!
Flexible Schedule. Part/ Full Time. Walk from TCU,
Grant at Top Gun 817-922-9520

STUDENT BARTENDER WANTED. Showdown
Saloon 817.233.5430

Skiff Advertising
817.257.7426
dailyskiff.com

FOOTBALL

Frogs finish at No. 2



GUS RUELAS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

TCU head coach Gary Patterson speaks at a news conference in Los Angeles, Friday, Dec. 31, 2010.

By Stephen Hawkins

Associated Press

TCU has gone from being a one-win team when Gary Patterson arrived with a new coaching staff to undefeated and No. 2 in the final poll.

"We're excited. ... It's obviously very gratifying that the writers and our peers in the coaches poll voted us No. 2," Patterson said Tuesday. "Where we started 13 years ago and where we are today, it's quite an honor to be a part of all that."

The Horned Frogs (13-0) are No. 2 behind BCS cham-

pion Auburn (14-0) in the Associated Press Top 25 that was released Tuesday.

TCU completed its first undefeated season since its 1938 national championship with a 21-19 victory over Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

When Patterson arrived as defensive coordinator after the 1997 season, the Frogs were coming off a 1-10 record. He is 98-28 in 10 seasons as head coach, and TCU has won at least 11 games in six of the last eight seasons. Last week, he got a two-year contract extension through the 2018 season.

Patterson, attending the American Football Coaches Association convention, watched Auburn's 22-19 victory over Oregon in the BCS national championship game Monday night alone in a hotel room.

"I watched it as much as a fan as I did anything else," Patterson said.

While Patterson admittedly would have relished the chance to play Auburn or Oregon for the title, he insists that he didn't watch the game wondering how his team would have fared against either one of them.

"Like I've said before, I would like to have played them. That's what coaches do," he said. "You want to play at the highest level. We want to play for a national championship some day. ... The rules were we played in the Rose Bowl. It was a great venue and we played a really, really, really good Wisconsin team, so we feel very fortunate to win. And I watched two good teams play (Monday) night."

Patterson, whose Frogs led the country in total defense and scoring defense, said he told people the BCS title game was "going to be more of a defensive struggle than they thought."

In a team meeting Monday before the BCS title game and the No. 2 final ranking, Patterson talked to his players about offseason workouts and provided a somewhat sobering message.

"I told them ... that was last year, now we're 0-0 and how do you begin and do it all over again. So here we are," Patterson said. "For us, we're back in the weight room, going back to school, doing the things we need to do."

BREAKING NEWS

Yeager kicked off TCU men's basketball team

TCU head basketball coach Jim Christian has kicked Sammy Yeager off the team for a violation of team rules, according to a press release from TCU media relations.

Yeager was the team's third leading scorer and rebounder, averaging 9.3 points and 4.2 rebounds for the Frogs in 16 games.

Before playing for TCU, Yeager averaged nearly 20

points per game for Weatherford College last season.

TCU (9-8, 0-2 MWC) will play Wyoming (8-8, 1-1 MWC) Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Check dailyskiff.com for more updates.

OPINION

BCS not worth celebrating



Ryne Sulier

TCU athletics director Chris Del Conte told ESPN Tuesday he loves the system in place that put undefeated TCU at No. 2 in *The Associated Press* rankings after No. 1 Auburn defeated then-No. 2 Oregon 22-19 in the BCS National Championship — at least until they get a system that is going to be absolutely perfect, Del Conte said.

I was unable to get in contact with head football coach Gary Patterson regarding TCU's No. 2 AP ranking, but he has also reiterated to ESPN that he was content to live by the current system.

I don't love the current system, and there will never be an absolutely perfect system in place, but I think there are other systems a lot closer to perfect that would still make gobs of cash for everyone.

Sure, celebrate a 13-0 season, celebrate a 21-19 Rose Bowl victory over then-No. 5 Wisconsin, even celebrate an upgrade to an automatic-qualifying conference — but please don't celebrate the system itself.

Don't celebrate a system that breeds "Little Sisters of the Poor" comments from Ohio State president E. Gordon Gee. Don't celebrate chants of "SEC! SEC! SEC!" at Southeastern Conference bowl games. Don't celebrate the often baseless banter

from the talking heads on national television that all but doomed TCU and No. 9 Boise State's national title hopes before the Broncos lost to No. 11 Nevada or after No. 3 Oregon and Auburn finished the regular season undefeated.

In 2004, when the same Auburn Tigers were left out of the BCS National Championship after a perfect season, there was little celebration of the system in Auburn, Ala.

I don't love the current system, and there will never be an absolutely perfect system in place, but I think there are other systems a lot closer to perfect that would still make gobs of cash for everyone.

The BCS is everything wrong with college football.

In what sensible world does it make sense to determine who plays for a national championship based on polls and formulas rather than actually figuring it out on the field — in a playoff? Speculate all you want in the Football Championship Subdivision, National Football League or NCAA basketball regular season, but it's all played out on the field or hardwood in the postseason. Sure there are imperfections in selecting the field of playoff qualifiers in each league, but it's a whole lot closer to perfect than the BCS.

Go ahead and defend the indefensible, but celebrate it?

TCU received three final first-place AP votes. It should have received all of them. Without a way to determine whether undefeated Auburn or TCU was better on the field, a split national championship should have been the only viable alternative — that certainly isn't unprecedented.

A plus-1 format would have solved this conundrum and left only one team undefeated as the national champion.

A playoff would have determined whether No. 7 Wisconsin might have actually been a game away from playing in the national championship, as opposed to playing in the BCS' consolation game.

"How do you determine that in a playoff system when you take your numbers down to only 16?" Del Conte told ESPN. "I don't worry about all that stuff because I can't. What I'm saying is right now is it's an imperfect system, but it's a system I embrace because our student-athletes, our fan base — the Purple Nation — we're Rose Bowl champions."

The NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, which will employ a new 68-team format this year, has been lauded by some as the greatest tournament in all sports. If a 16-team playoff works in the FCS, a 16-team format can work in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Celebrate a perfect season. Celebrate a Rose Bowl victory. Celebrate the move to the Big East. But please, don't celebrate the system.

Ryne Sulier is a senior journalism major from Plano.

PLAN YOUR
SPRING BREAK

Oceanfront
Condo

Daytona Beach, FL
March 13-20

TCU Alum's family offering 450SF Oceanfront Condo for rent at Harbour Beach Resort in Daytona Beach, FL. Private Balcony with Ocean View. Sleeps 4, king bed in master BR & queen sleeper sofa in LR. Fully equipped kitchen w/pots, pans & dishes. Resort also offers heated outdoor pool & hot tub. \$1200/week. Reserve by Feb 11. kbcox73@gmail.com for info

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Frogs look to snap losing streak against Wyoming

By Kylie Osterloh
Staff Writer

The Horned Frogs will look to end their four-game losing streak against conference opponent Wyoming (8-8, 1-1 MWC) at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

The Cowboys enter the game with confidence as they secured a buzzer-beater win last week against No. 25 UNLV, a team that has skirted in and out of the top-25 rankings early this season.

Although Wyoming is entering the game on a high, the Frogs (9-8, 0-2 Mountain West Conference) are determined to make their way back into the win column.

"We feel like we're a better team than Wyoming," said junior guard J.R. Cadot, who

currently leads the MWC in offensive rebounds. "We lost four games, but we know that's not our team."

Head coach Jim Christian talked about the Cowboys' strengths entering the game.

"We have a good team, and we need to start playing like it."

Nikola Gacesa
Senior forward

"They're one of the best teams in the league getting to the free throw line by driving the basketball," Christian said. "They're very tough inside."

Leading Wyoming's offensive attack is sophomore guard Desmar Jackson and senior forward Djibril Thiam.

Jackson ranks third among MWC scorers, averaging 16.0 points per game. Thiam also averages in the double digits with 11.6 points per game.

The TCU squad is confident it can play at a high level although it has fallen short in recent contests.

"It's up to us to turn our season around and start making a statement about our team," senior forward Nikola Gacesa said. "We have a good team, and we need to start playing like it."

TCU vs. Wyoming

When: 6:30 p.m. today

Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum

The game is scheduled to be broadcast on The Mtn. as well as KTCU-FM 88.7 and KCLE-AM 1460. Listen live or follow on GameTracker on GoFrogs.com.



SKIFF ARCHIVES

Junior guard Ronnie Moss runs past an SMU defender earlier on in the season. The basketball team is currently 10-8 on the season.

OPINION

Mavericks need to fix problems to get back into contention



J.D. Moore

After a blazing 24-5 start, the Dallas Mavericks have lost five of their past seven games and are losing momentum. With former all-star forward Caron Butler out for the season and Dirk Nowitzki suffering from a sprained knee, the Mavericks had the perfect chance during their recent off-days to regroup and assess what they need to do for the remainder of the season. For Dallas, there are two urgent problems that need to be solved.

The first and foremost need for the Mavericks is getting a healthy Nowitzki back on the court. The former NBA MVP is the

leader and driving force of the team. Without him, Dallas plays lack consistent focus. In recent games against the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Orlando Magic, Dallas' offense clicked in the first half, putting up 55 points and 57 points, respectively. By the end of those games, Dallas lost its momentum on the way to double digit loses.

Nowitzki said to ESPN on Friday that he had hoped to return to the team sometime during its upcoming four-game road trip. If Mavericks head basketball coach Rick Carlisle's recent refusal to talk to the media about Nowitzki's health is any indication, the Mavs could be suffering for longer than they hoped. Without their team captain, the Mavericks can only dream of reaching the NBA Finals.

The other pressing need for the Mavericks is to find

a permanent replacement for Butler. Before ending his season with a torn tendon in his knee, the small forward was averaging over 15 points per game and was shooting over 43 percent from the 3-point line. While forward Shawn Marion has been playing admirably in Butler's absence, averaging 18 points per game since becoming a starter, Dallas' deep bench has taken a critical hit.

Unless the Mavericks get a healthy Nowitzki and find a replacement for Butler, the team will slowly drop closer and closer toward the bottom of the standings.

For a temporary fix, the Mavericks signed former first-round draft pick Sasha Pavlovic to a 10-day contract. Although

Pavlovic was once a solid prospect, his recent stats do not reflect a permanent solution for the club. In 71 games for the Minnesota Timberwolves last season, the 6-foot-7 forward averaged only 3.7 per points a game. His 3-point range, along with questions about how much he still has left in the tank, is questionable. If Mavericks owner Mark Cuban wants to seek a permanent answer, he should look into making a splash at the trade deadline, by acquiring players such as Charlotte's Stephen Jackson or Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala. Both players are great perimeter shooters and would work well at the small forward or shooting guard positions.

Dallas still holds the second-best record in the Western Conference, but upstart teams

like Oklahoma City and Utah are playing consistent basketball and feature healthy starters. The Spurs continue to show dominating performances on the floor, and the Lakers are always a threat as the defending champions.

Unless the Mavericks get a healthy Nowitzki and find a replacement for Butler, the team will slowly drop

closer and closer toward the bottom of the standings. Conversely, if they answer those problems, Dallas will get over its slump and will go back to being a favorite in the Western Conference.

J.D. Moore is a freshman journalism major from Honolulu, Hawaii.

Circle Cleaners

Professional Dry Cleaning Minor Repairs Free

SAME DAY SERVICE
in by 10am
out by 5pm

\$5 off
any \$15
DRY CLEANING ORDER
with coupon - one per visit

Leather Cleaning
Bulk Cleaning
Expert Alterations
Charge Accounts

\$3 off
any \$10
DRY CLEANING ORDER
with coupon - one per visit

3450 Bluebonnet Cir.
(817)-923-4161

BASKETBALL

The men's team looks to snap a four-game losing skid.

SPORTS

TOMORROW

Can Jason Garrett resurrect America's team?



SKIFF ARCHIVES

TCU's Matt Purke pitches against the Arizona Wildcats last season. The Horned Frog baseball team is ranked No. 1 in the preseason.

Frogs take the No. 1 spot in preseason rankings

By Ryne Sulier
Sports Editor

TCU baseball earned its first-ever No. 1 preseason ranking by Collegiate Baseball and was also named the 2010 NCAA Team of the Year by FieldTurf.

Head coach Jim Schlossnagle was also awarded FieldTurf's Coach of the Year honors, but while Schlossnagle said he believed the accolades are great for the program, he said it means nothing for the team going into the 2011 season.

"I think that kind of thing is a great [thing] for the program in general, it's really a recognition for what's gone on in the past and the

hard work that our assistant coaches have done on putting together on paper what looks like a good team," Schlossnagle said. "In terms of our particular team, within the walls of our locker room, it means nothing.

"Last year South Carolina was barely top-25 [preseason], and they won the national championship. It is what it is, it's nice to be recognized, but it doesn't dictate the future," he said.

Last year the Frogs stayed relatively injury-free and ended up playing their best baseball of the season going into the 2010 NCAA Baseball Tournament. After defeating the University of Texas in the Austin Super

Regional, TCU earned its first berth to the College World Series.

"We want to continue what we've done here for seven years and that's get back to the NCAA tournament," Schlossnagle said. "I've always said the more that you go to the NCAA tournament, the more likely you are to advance."

The Frogs are one of 14 teams to appear in the last seven NCAA baseball tournaments, and they have four straight 40-win seasons. While TCU had a school-record 54 wins in 2010, being the preseason No. 1 team won't change how TCU views itself or its opponents.

"Our thought process

has always been to play the game and be better than we were yesterday,"

Schlossnagle said. "A ground ball hit by California State Fullerton, or a ground ball hit by Air Force or a ground ball hit by the [New York] Yankees is still just a ground ball.

"If you let the outside things affect the process then you're going to be in a lot of trouble. We're just going to keep that kind of focus, and we've been doing that for quite awhile," he said.

TCU ranked 18th in attendance nationally

While the Frogs can't boast a No. 1 attendance ranking to go with their

No. 1 team ranking, TCU ranked 18th nationally with an average of 3,127 fans during the 2010 season. TCU ranked 21st nationally with a total attendance of 90,687 fans.

"I think our attendance has steadily improved over the time that I've been here," Schlossnagle said. "It's great to be working for an administration that wants to grow right along with us."

Lupton Stadium adding about 1,000 seats

Lupton Stadium is undergoing minor renovations that will add about 1,000 more seats to the upper deck. The addition will include more chair back seat-

ing and an expanded student section.

The stadium's expansion was anticipated during its original construction. Renovations should be completed before the Feb. 18 home opener against Kansas, according to TCU baseball media relations.

"The success on the field gets better, then you want the program to continue to improve," Schlossnagle said. "We've created some good problems around here in terms of we need more space for our season ticket holders and for our fans.

"If you compare apples to apples, we're doing really well."