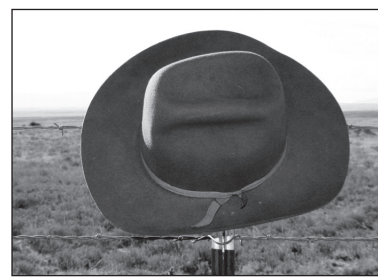


FEATURES | Coming tomorrow

DELICIOUS DIVES

Learn about seven spots right in Fort Worth's backyard, yet not within walking distance to the TCU campus.



NEWS | 4

BRANDED

Ranch management had its annual Roundup this weekend to raise money for scholarships.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006

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Students, community members discuss improving city

Civic literacy conference shows numerous plans for bettering Fort Worth

By GRETCHEN HOLLIS
Staff Reporter

The weekend's rain didn't stop more than 100 students and community members from discussing ways to make Fort Worth shine.

The Center for Civic Literacy con-

ference Saturday brought forth ideas such as the importance of voting, disaster response and ways to eliminate traffic congestion, which would help solve some of the problems facing Fort Worth.

Paul Geisel, chairman of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, said Fort Worth residents should work to control pollution. He said the period between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. is when air becomes most harmful in the city

because of excess traffic.

"We are going to have to change our habits," Geisel said. "We have to change our transportation system."

He said Brewer High School, which is close to TCU, won't have athletics during this critical period because 50 percent of the athletes would need to be hospitalized because of the air pollution.

Geisel said that if everyone in Fort Worth eliminated one trip per day,

we could improve traffic congestion by half.

Fort Worth native and TCU alumna Mitzi Boyd said the prospect of clean air motivates her because she developed adult asthma several years ago.

She said she found Geisel's PowerPoint presentation illustrating Fort Worth's pollution problem stunning.

"This visual just blew me out of

the water," Boyd said. "I'm freaked out."

Other audience members' interests were sparked by Fort Worth's public art program, which is designed to enhance the city's public spaces with visual art by using community input.

"I'm really interested in the art program," said Laura Jewell, a freshman political science major.

See LITERACY, page 2

TCU to work with FWISD on training

Extended Education offers free Command Spanish classes for district employees

By JEFF ESKEW
Staff Reporter

Ask Judy Gillette, librarian at Meadowbrook Elementary School, "¿Cómo está usted hoy?" (How are you doing today?), and you will probably receive a blank face. Ask her again after she completes the 12-hour Command Spanish program and you might hear, "Muy bien gracias. ¿Y tú?" (Very well, thank you. And you?).

The Extended Education department is offering 260 Fort Worth Independent School District employees the opportunity to take free Spanish lessons.

According to the FWISD Web site, 42,964 students are of Hispanic descent, nearly 55 percent of the student body.

Julie Lovett, assistant director of Extended Education, said Command Spanish was chosen to receive a \$20,000 grant through Chancellor Victor Boschini's Vision In Action plan. It was one of 26 proposals that got selected.

Goal four of the Vision In Action plan says TCU is "to accelerate our connection with the greater community: Fort Worth, Texas, the nation, and the world."

"Our hope is that the employees will be able to better communicate with their Spanish-speaking students and their parents," Lovett said. "It is very difficult when a teacher is trying to discuss a student's academic future and can't communicate with the parents."

Harold Nichols, vice principal at Polytechnic High School, said that about 58 percent of his students' families speak Spanish as their primary language.

"I'm taking this class to be able to communicate with my students and their parents," Nichols said. "I know hardly any Spanish."

Maria Thibodeau, an instructor in Command Spanish, said that because the class participants range from librarians to administrators, she isn't going to teach anything too specific.

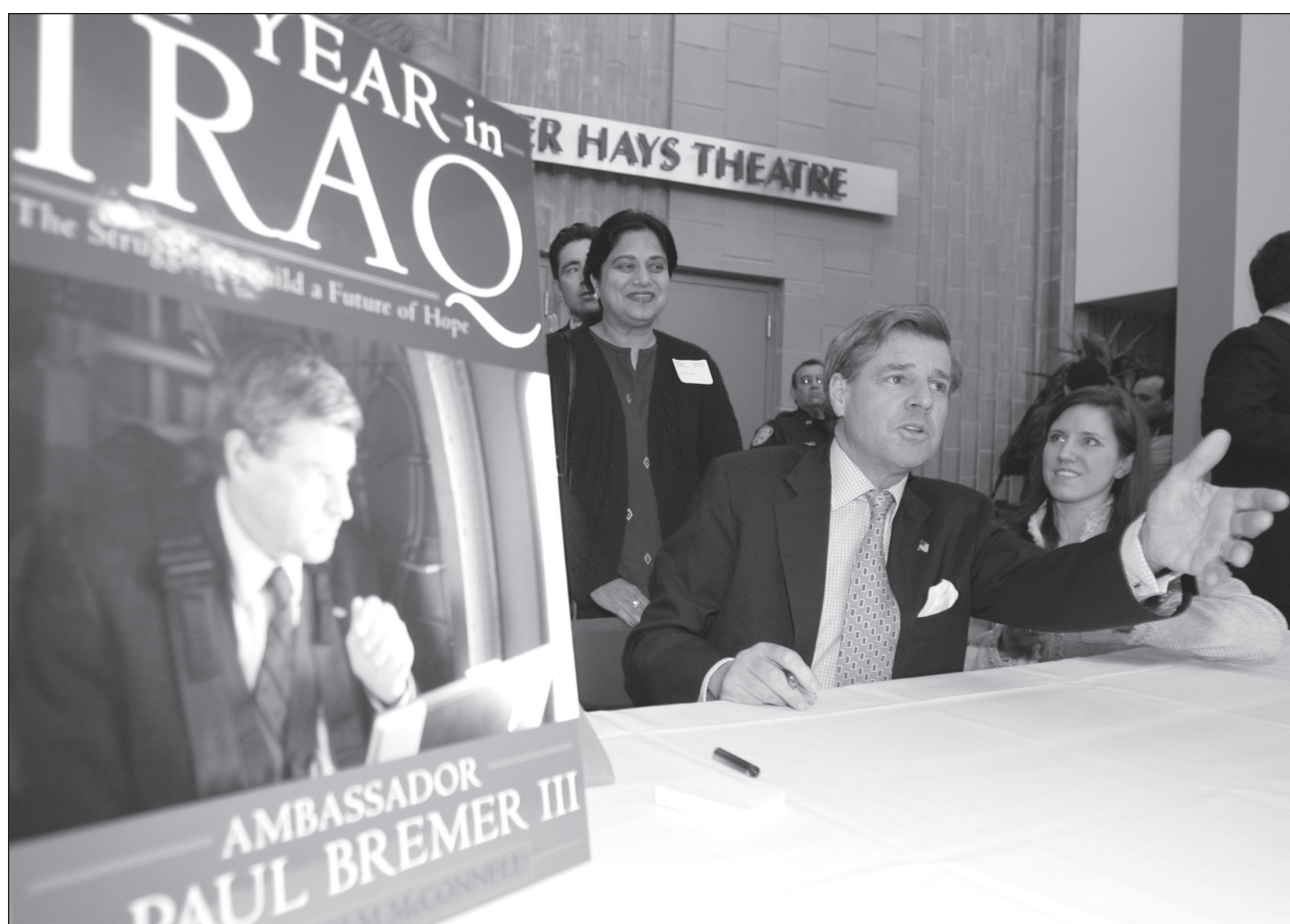
See SPANISH, page 2



LANA HUNT / Chief Photographer

Fort Worth Independent School District employees are taking free Spanish lessons through a 12-hour Command Spanish program, offered by the extended education department.

AGREE TO DISAGREE



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Staff Photographer

Paul Bremer reaches to sign his book "My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of Hope." Peace action participants Robert Grebel, a junior political science major, and Lyndsay Peden, a freshman biology major, protest while Ambassador Paul Bremer spoke at Ed Landreth Auditorium Friday.

Iraq envoy draws war protesters

By JESSICA ST. JOHN
Staff Reporter

As former ambassador Paul Bremer spoke inside Ed Landreth Auditorium Friday, student protesters outside voiced their opposition to the war in Iraq.

"What Will War Accomplish?" read a sign held by one student protestor on the lawn outside the auditorium.

Bremer, who served as presidential envoy to Iraq, spoke to promote his new book "My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of Hope."

Lyndsay Peden, a freshman biology and political science major, is one of the students who organized the anti-war protest, which varied in size, ranging from four to 12 people.

"I don't agree with the reasons the war was started," Peden said.

Robert Grebel, a junior political science major and a member of Peace Action, the group that helped put together the protest, said he disagrees with how the war in Iraq has been handled.

"Bremer's presence on campus gave us the perfect opportunity to protest," Grebel said.

Other posters displayed by the protestors read: "More Trees, Less Bush," "Imperialism: We're Soaking in It" and "Support Our Troops, Bring Them Home."

Pam Christian, a crime prevention officer for the TCU police, was just one of the many TCU and Fort Worth police officers present during the protest.

See PROTEST, page 2



TCU has mixed reaction to Bremer

By JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE
Staff Reporter

The American who oversaw Iraq's first steps toward democracy told about 500 students, faculty and citizens at Ed Landreth Auditorium that he thinks he'll see a stable Iraq in his lifetime.

Paul Bremer, who served as presidential envoy to Iraq from May 2003 to June 2004, said Friday that the most important result of the war in Iraq was getting the Iraqis on a path to democracy.

"We did a really noble thing in liberating 27 million Iraqis from one of the most brutal dictatorships anywhere in the world at the end of the 20th century," Bremer said.

Although some critics predict a civil war in Iraq, Bremer said, he is optimistic about the future of the Middle-Eastern nation and hopes Americans will be patient as the war-torn country continues its struggle toward democracy.

"I don't think you win a war by setting a timetable," Bremer said.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said he was pleased with the relevance of Bremer's TCU visit.

"This could be the most important issue in America right now: security," Boschini said.

Bremer was promoting "My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of Hope," a book his wife and children encouraged him to write.

"I thought it was important to make a record of what we tried to do while it was still fresh in my mind

See REACTION, page 2

Scientist: Human 'footprint' destructive

By OLGA BOGRAD
Staff Reporter

A National Geographic explorer said Monday that students need to start thinking seriously about the next 100 years because that is what they are going to inherit.

J. Michael Fay, a scientist and conservationist, spent more than 600 hours flying over about 27 African countries to document the human impact on the region. He shared with the TCU community the best of 110,000 photographs he took on the trip, when he spoke in Winston-Scott Hall.

Fay gave an example of the importance of the human "footprint" when he described Mozambique. He said the general belief about the country is that it has been torn apart by years of war and gone "to hell in a handbasket." However, he said, the country is a lot better off than most because it is not overpopulated, fertile and has not been extensively damaged by humans.

"If you look at the (human) footprint perspective, these guys are rich," Fay said. "If you ever want to settle down in a place in Africa,

Mozambique is the place."

He said his flight ended in January 2005 but has gone back several times for more research and will go again in March.

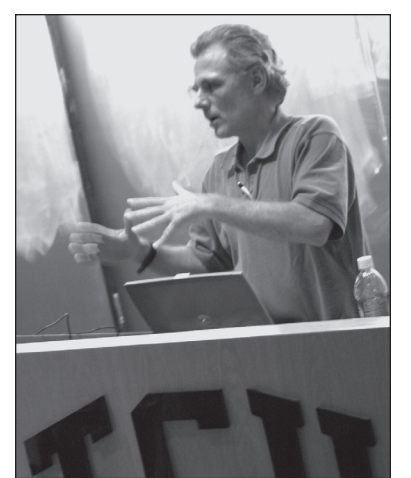
"If I haven't lost my girlfriend yet, I just might this year," Fay said.

He said he has been working to get attention for the results of his research.

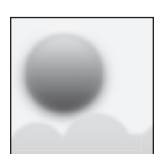
"We need to think about our impact on the planet; conservation is a good start," he said.

He encouraged TCU students to conserve as much as possible, by

See AFRICA, page 2



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Photographer
Conservationist Michael Fay talks about his flyover experience of Africa as a conservationist for National Geographic.



WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly sunny, 69/49

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny, 75/47

TOMORROW: Mostly sunny, 72/46

FUN FACT

A woman who died at age 98 bequeathed her \$1.1 million estate to the federal government, requesting that it be used to help pay the \$8.1 trillion national debt. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Recent crime alert to campus, page 2

OPINION: These boots aren't walking, page 3

SPORTS: LeBron James at top of NBA, page 6

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU