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# 'BIG BEN'

Steelers hold  
press conference  
on campus.

See [DailySkiff.com](http://DailySkiff.com)

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is interviewed regarding the Super Bowl on Sunday in TCU's Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.  
**MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR**

For coverage of the Steelers press conference and Sports Editor Ryne Sulier's interview with LaDainian Tomlinson, go to [DailySkiff.com](http://DailySkiff.com).



CAMPUS

# North Texas' deep freeze bursts pipe, shuts down campus connectivity

By Libby Davis  
Editor-in-Chief

**University remains closed Friday**

Campus will remain closed Friday due to weather, according to the TCU website.

**Broken pipe in Sid Rich leaves campus disconnected**

A pipe in Sid Richardson Hall burst Thursday morning, taking out power to the TCU servers.

University e-mail, phone and most Internet was taken offline, according to a TCU alert sent Thursday afternoon.

University officials said basic services like Internet, e-mail and university phones should be back up within about a day. However more complicated services, like servers, could be offline into next week.

The flooding was caused by a burst pipe, which left the technology room under several inches of water. Until that water can be drained and power restored, some servers on campus will remain offline.

**Winter weather hangs on into weekend**

The winter storm that blew into North Texas will stay through Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

There is a 40 percent chance of snow showers Thursday night into Friday morning. Temperatures will not rise above freezing until Saturday.

Current weather reports indicate that North Texas could see snow showers Monday.

According to the university's Twitter page, students will not lose a holiday because of the unusual number of snow days taken by the university.



Workers survey the damage caused by flooding from a burst pipe in Sid Richardson. The pipe left the room with a few inches of standing water. Workers said e-mail, phone and Internet services should be back up within the day; however server repair could take longer.

LIBBY DAVIS / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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## POLITICS

# Republicans move to cut budget

By Andrew Taylor  
Associated Press

Republicans now controlling the House promised Thursday to slash domestic agencies' budgets by almost 20 percent for the coming year, beginning their drive to cut spending to the level it was before President Barack Obama took office.

"Washington's spending spree is over," declared Paul Ryan, the House Budget Committee chairman who announced the plan. "The spending limits will restore sanity to a broken budget process," he said, returning "to pre-stimulus, pre-bail-out levels."

Republicans won't get everything they want. Democrats are in charge of the White House and the Senate, and even House Republicans may have second

thoughts when the magnitude of the cuts sinks in.

The White House says the GOP effort could cause widespread furloughs of federal employees, force vulnerable people off subsidized housing, reduce services in national parks and mean less aid to schools and police and fire departments.

House Republicans are seeking to keep their campaign promise to cut \$100 billion from domestic programs. The initial cuts would win approval over the coming weeks as Congress wraps up the long-overdue 2011 budget. The second stage would come as the House GOP advances a fresh round of spending bills for the 2012 budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

The hardest hit agencies would include the Food and Drug Administration,

the Internal Revenue Service and the departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture, according to partial details released by the House Appropriations Committee. Foreign aid on an annualized basis would take a 6 percent cut. Congress' own budget would be barely touched.

Republicans made a campaign promise to cut \$100 billion from Obama's request for domestic agencies such as the Department of Education, for the budget year that began last October. But that year is under way, and they're so far falling short, just \$58 billion under the plan released Thursday. They promise to try to fully impose the dramatic cuts during what is sure to be a contentious debate.



ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

## INTERNATIONAL

# Tens of thousands protest in Yemen

By Ahmed Al-Haj  
Associated Press

Tens of thousands of protesters Thursday staged unprecedented demonstrations against Yemen's autocratic president, a key U.S. ally in battling Islamic militants, as unrest inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia spread further in the Arab world.

The West is particularly concerned about instability in Yemen, home of the terrorist network al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. U.S. counterterrorism officials are worried that Yemeni security forces will be more focused on protecting the government, allowing al-Qaida to take advantage of any diminished scrutiny.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in office for more than three decades, announced Wednesday he would not seek re-election in 2013 and would not seek to pass power to his son. Saleh's pledge was seen as an attempt to defuse growing calls for his ouster.

Opposition groups said they are suspicious of Saleh's offer, however, and want concrete proposals for change.

On Thursday, they led tens of thousands in protests in seven towns and cities across Yemen, with chants of "Down, down, down with the regime!" and banners calling on the president to resign now.

In the capital of Sanaa, several thousand government supporters staged a counterdemonstration, carrying banners warning that the opposition is trying to destabilize Yemen. Military helicopters hovered in some areas, and there was a heavy security presence around the Interior Ministry and the Central Bank.

The marches were largely peaceful, although witnesses said police opened fire in one provincial town, critically wounding a protester. In the capital, scuffles and stone-throwing briefly erupted between govern-

ment supporters and opposition marchers, but police stepped in and there were no reports of injuries.

The Obama administration has cautiously praised Saleh's offer of reform, in contrast to the sharp tone on Egypt, where President Hosni Mubarak is trying to cling to power until September, despite demands delivered in 10 days of massive protests that he leave office immediately.

The White House said President Barack Obama called Saleh and urged him to follow through on his pledge to reform his government, and asked that Yemeni security forces refrain from violence against protesters.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley welcomed Saleh's "positive statements" about including opposition elements in a reform process, but said that "it is important for governments across the region ... to follow statements with actions."

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## ECONOMICS

# Stock market holds above 12,000 on news of economic growth

By Chip Cutter and David K. Randall

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks posted small gains Thursday after Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke said the central bank will stick to its efforts to spur the economy.

In a speech at the National Press Club, Bernanke said that the Fed expects the economy to improve this year and inflation to remain low despite the jump in commodity prices.

“Chairman Bernanke basically indicated in his speech that he considers unemployment to be the bigger problem than inflation and that the Fed will continue to focus on that,” said Doug Roberts, chief market strategist at Channel Capital Research.

The Federal Reserve has a plan to buy \$600 billion in bonds, a tactic known as quantitative easing, aimed at spurring lending and making stock ownership more attractive. Some economists had worried that the Fed could end its bond

purchases earlier than anticipated.

Stocks had fallen for the most of the day as concerns over violent protests in Egypt weighed against better-than-expected economic news in the U.S.

**“Chairman Bernanke basically indicated in his speech that he considers unemployment to be the bigger problem than inflation and that the Fed will continue to focus on that.”**

**Doug Roberts**

Chief market strategist at Channel Capital Research

Clashes continued in Egypt between pro- and anti-government demonstrators, leaving some analysts worried about the stability of the Middle East and the unrest's impact on oil-rich countries throughout the

region, such as Saudi Arabia.

“That’s the fear,” said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners.

But better-than-expected January sales figures sent shares in retail companies higher.

Consumer-discretionary companies in the Standard and Poor’s 500-stock index gained 1.2 percent after national chains reported that sales were nearly double what analysts had forecast despite heavy snowstorms in much of the nation.

Shares in the consumer-discretionary companies were the best performers among the 10 company groups that make up the S&P index. Industrials companies were the only group to fall.

Costco Wholesale Corp., Nordstrom Inc. and Gap Inc. all gained more than 4 percent.

The S&P 500 — the benchmark for most U.S. mutual funds — gained 3.07 points, or 0.2 percent, to close at 1,307.10. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 20.29 points,



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, left, is asked a question by National Press Club president Mark Hamrick, Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, at the National Press Club in Washington.

or 0.2 percent, to 12,062.26. The Nasdaq composite rose 4.32 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,753.88.

Among the positive economic reports, the Labor Department said Thursday that fewer people applied

for unemployment benefits last week. A separate report showed that worker productivity in December rose by its largest amount since 2002. Economists say many employers have reached the limit in terms of how much work they

can squeeze from their employees.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.55 percent from 3.48 percent late Wednesday. Bond prices move in the opposite direction of their yields.



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## INTERNATIONAL

# Protests stall Egypt's economy

By Tarek El-Tablawy  
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — For more than a week, Zaki Abdel-Aziz had been out of work and nearly out of money, joining millions of Egyptians living more on hope than cash as the capital plunged into chaos and the economy ground to a virtual halt.

His wife and three children were hungry, tired and tense. There was just over \$17 (100 pounds) in their apartment, and no way to borrow more. Then a chilling call came Tuesday night.

"The guy asked me, 'Zaki, you haven't worked for a week, right? You don't have money?'" Abdel-Aziz, 45, recalled. "He said, 'Come out tomorrow and you'll get 100 pounds and a bag of food. All you have to do is join us against those traitors in Tahrir.'"

Abdel-Aziz, who works in a government records office, angrily rebuffed the offer. "I'm hungry, but I won't sell my soul to eat," he said. On Wednesday, supporters of President Hosni Mubarak converged on Tahrir Square in central Cairo, fighting deadly battles with protesters who seek the Egyptian leader's ouster.

The protests engulfing Cairo since Jan. 25 have shuttered businesses, forced factories to

halt operations, closed banks and the stock exchange, and limited suppliers' ability to restock store shelves. Three days into February, many salaries have not been paid, even as rents are due. The price of some basic goods has spiked over 50 percent and other products have started to disappear from shelves.

**"I'm hungry, but I won't sell my soul to eat."**

**Abdel-Aziz**  
Government records worker

The shortages and price increases are adding to the economic pinch that many

protesters say was among the key catalysts for joining the demonstrations. But they have also fueled anger, both at the government and the protesters, pitting Egyptian against Egyptian.

Anti-government protesters allege that some of those who attacked them in Tahrir Square were paid to do so. And some Egyptians are losing patience with the demonstrators, saying Mubarak's offer not to run for office again was a major concession.

"Enough," said Mamdouh Sweilam, a mechanic who has been out of work since the first day of the unrest. "Like them, I want to be able to live, to earn a decent salary. But this isn't living."



LEFERIS PITARAKIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Jan. 30, 2011 file photo, an Egyptian man uses his mobile phone to take a picture of the Arcadia shopping center, that was looted, damaged and set on fire by people in Cairo, Egypt.

## NFL

# Questions linger about Steelers QB's marketability

By David Crary  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — By Sunday night, Ben Roethlisberger could be in rarefied company as a three-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback.

Yet even if he joins the likes of superstar Tom Brady and Hall of Famer Troy Aikman, marketing experts say the Steelers QB probably won't overcome his off-the-field notoriety — including two sexual assault accusations — and pick up the flurry of endorsements NFL champs typically enjoy.

"You don't build back trust with a one-game performance, even if it's the Super Bowl," said Bill Glenn, senior vice president of the Dallas-based sports-business firm The Marketing Arm. "I'd be surprised if there's a long line outside his agent's office even if he wins MVP."

Roethlisberger has had a minimal presence in advertising since he was accused in March of sexually assaulting a 20-year-old college student — the second time since 2008 that he faced assault allegations.

Georgia authorities declined to bring charges, but he

received a four-game suspension at the start of this season for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy.

His sturdy play since his return, particularly in the playoffs, has won back the hearts of some Pittsburgh fans who had soured on him. But nationally, according to marketing experts, his image remains tarnished, and he needs more time to rehabilitate it.

**"But with good game and a quiet offseason, there's an opportunity to develop a maturation of his brand in the future."**

**Kevin Adler**  
CEO of Engage Marketing

"The best thing Mr. Roethlisberger can do is have a very quiet week off the field and a very loud week on the field," said Kevin Adler, CEO of the Chicago-based sports consulting firm Engage Marketing.

Even with a championship, Adler said, "there's a significant percentage of corporate America that would still be a little gun-shy."

"But with good game and a

quiet offseason, there's an opportunity to develop a maturation of his brand in the future."

The challenge facing Roethlisberger is starkly illustrated in the so-called N-Scores which the Nielsen Co. compiles to rate athletes' endorsement potential based on their appeal, name recognition and other factors. His score has plummeted from above 140 in 2008 to 24 in the wake of the assault cases; by comparison, Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers' score is 39 and Peyton Manning's is 262.

A comparable rating system run by The Marketing Arm — the Davie Brown Index — shows Rodgers ahead of Roethlisberger in endorsement potential and trust, even though the Steeler star is better known.

Chris Anderson, a Marketing Arm spokesman, said Roethlisberger's trust levels were on par with celebrities such as Snoop Dogg, Allen Iverson and Kim Kardashian.

John Sweeney, a professor of sports communication at the University of North Carolina's School of Journalism, noted that Roethlisberger — even pre-scandal — was never in Manning's league as a pitcher.

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# SPORTS

Check out **DailySkiff.com** to read about the Steelers' reaction to TCU facilities and their stay in Cowtown.

## SUPER BOWL



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Members of the musical group The Black Eyed Peas answer questions from the media regarding their upcoming halftime performance in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

## Halftime gig is a 'dream come true' for Black Eyed Peas

By **Jamie Stengle**  
Associated Press

The Black Eyed Peas aren't revealing their set list, but they say they're ready to give an energy-packed performance at Sunday's Super Bowl halftime.

Band member Taboo said Thursday at a news conference that the opportunity to provide entertainment for the NFL's ultimate game is "a dream

come true for us as football lovers."

Another member of the group, Fergie, told the media that it's a "huge honor" to be picked as halftime performer for the matchup between the Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Black Eyed Peas have sold more than 28 million albums worldwide and are known for songs like "Boom Boom Pow," "I Gotta Feeling" and "Imma Be."



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## ATHLETICS

### Equestrian's 'Great Duel' against Baylor canceled

By **Ryne Sulier**  
Sports Editor

TCU equestrian's Fort Worth Stock Show Bowl against Baylor on Friday has been canceled due to weather conditions. It would have been the second annual Fort Worth Stock Show Bowl.

Last season the then No. 8 Frogs defeated Texas A&M

5-3 at the Stock Show. The Aggies were the defending national champions.

The Frogs, ranked No. 5 and 4-0 on the season, will next face Fresno State Feb. 13. TCU has won five-straight regular season matches, while Baylor (6-5) came off a loss to South Carolina on Sunday. Baylor will next face Texas A&M in College Station Feb. 12.

## SUPER BOWL

### Just for kicks, Super Bowl could come down to feet

By **Dennis Waszak**  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Jeremy Kapinos expected to be punting for the Green Bay Packers and helping them make a Super Bowl run.

Instead, he wasn't re-signed last season and was out of a job until December — when the Pittsburgh Steelers signed him as an injury fill-in. Now, he gets a chance to help beat the team that rejected him.

Kapinos could play a pivotal role in the Super Bowl on Sunday by helping establish field position against the tough Packers' defense. It'll be the same for Green Bay's Tim Masthay, also a guy whose bumpy NFL journey landed him on the biggest stage of all.

With two stingy defenses on the field, Packers kicker Mason Crosby and the Steelers' Shaun Suisham know a ring could depend on the reliability of their feet, too.

Want to work at the Skiff?

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