



See a full recap of Wednesday's basketball game against Utah. Sports, page 6


**PAPERBACK NONFICTION BEST SELLERS**

- 1 Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama
- 2 The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama
- 3 Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- 4 Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
- 5 Marley & Me by John Grogan
- 6 The Middle Place by Kelly Corrigan
- 7 I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell by Tucker Max
- 8 The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
- 9 Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
- 10 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey — The New York Times



Politicians should pay their taxes. Opinion, page 3

**PECULIAR FACT**  
CLEVELAND — Police in Cleveland say a man called 911 because he felt he was in danger — then asked the dispatcher to hold on while he made a drug deal. Police say he was arrested after the call and was charged with possessing cocaine.  
— Associated Press

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
 **65 52**  
HIGH LOW  
Sunny  
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 69/56  
Saturday: Mostly sunny 73/56



A study abroad program being developed will take students to Ghana, possibly by summer 2010. Tomorrow in News



The stimulus package won't help the economy. Tomorrow in Opinion.

# More freshmen take jobs, report shows

By Libby Davis  
Staff Reporter

Nicholas Jackson, a sophomore English major, said he maintains a part-time job to pay for his phone bill, car insurance and to get a little spending money, but often feels overwhelmed by the joint responsibility.

"I find it harder to find energy to commit to hours of studying," Jackson said. "Work forces you to micromanage all of your time and if you have a strong work ethic, it's hard to choose between putting more effort into your work or school."

A 2008 survey of college freshmen by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute reported that 49 percent of students planned to get a job during college to meet expenses.

John Thompson, executive director of Career Services, said his office has seen about 30 student resumes in the last week, whereas the office used to receive five to 10 a week. The number of resumes posted on FrogJobs increased after the university allowed students to access the site on their personal computers instead of going to Career Services, he said.

Thompson said that while the federal government would ideally provide more funding to students to lower the cost of college, there is no real way to qualify students to receive more aid than they already receive. However, he said he does think that students benefit greatly from working while in college.

"Working gives students a competitive edge in the marketplace," he said.

He said students should aim to find a job

that relates to their major and post a resume on the FrogJobs Web site.

Although specific numbers were not available, Human Resources Information System manager Jenny Dick said the university employs more than 1,000 students with one-third of them using the work-study program.

George Kuh, director of Indiana University's Center for Postsecondary Research, said while students ideally shouldn't be required to have a job in college, on-campus or off-campus employment can benefit them in the long run.

"Work can be a very powerful learning experience," Kuh said. "It can be a great opportunity to apply what one is learning."

Scott Williams, associate professor of German, said he is impressed by how well stu-

dents juggle work and school, but feels that schoolwork sometimes takes a back seat to other priorities.

"Why should a university's expectations be lower than that of the outside world?" Williams said. "I see advantages to working while in college — particularly time management, but if students don't work, they inevitably fill up the free time with clubs."

Angelica Rodriguez, a sophomore accounting major, said working 24 hours a week helps her balance her time.

"I have to designate time to study," Rodriguez said. "It has improved my grades."

Catelyn Gray, a sophomore social work major who works to pay for college, said while

SEE JOBS · PAGE 2

# SIGNING DAY

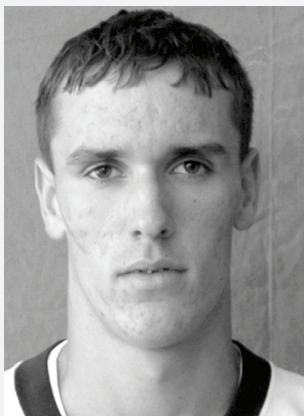


JASON FOCHTMAN/Multimedia Editor

Head coach Gary Patterson talks about the 2009 football class during a press conference in the Four Sevens Team Room on Wednesday. TCU signed 20 players to National Letters of Intent including seven that were ranked in Rivals' Texas top-100. This year's class also included four four-star signees. TCU had just 5 four-stars in the past eight years.



Waymon James, Running Back



Casey Pachall, Quarterback



Jurell Thompson, Safety



Malcolm Williams, Safety

Head football coach Gary Patterson held a press conference Wednesday to announce the latest additions to the Horned Frog family. Four of the players are rated as four-star recruits by Rivals.com. The football team only had five four-star recruits in the past eight years combined.

Page 6

Go to **DailySkiff.com** for a video of the press conference.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC LECTURESHIP Speaker: People-global relationship in transition

By Elle Cahalan  
Staff Reporter

Mary Evelyn Tucker of Yale University had no problem reconciling science and religion, and as people continue to better understand science, she said, their idea of the divine will be enlarged.

Tucker, a senior lecturer and research scholar at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, spoke Wednesday night to an almost-full Ed Landreth Hall, as a guest of the Brite Divinity School.

Her speech, titled "Reconnecting Humans to Earth Community: Imagining a New Way into the Future," touched on issues of global climate change, evolution and environmental degradation, but the overarching theme of her talk and the question she asked her listeners to take home with them was, "What kind of story do you want to be a part of?"

"Humans must begin to see themselves as 'planetary people,' rather than focusing only on how they connect with the local community."

Mary Evelyn Tucker  
research scholar

Complimenting the university's mission statement, "to educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community," Tucker said that humans must begin to see themselves as "planetary people," rather than focusing only on how they connect with the local community. She said they must begin to look more closely at their relationship with the global community, and finally to the earth commu-

SEE LECTURESHIP · PAGE 2

**U.S. ECONOMY**

# Professor makes sense of stimulus package



By Mark Bell  
Staff Reporter

James Riddlesperger is a political science professor. Riddlesperger teaches courses in American politics and issues in political science, focusing on the presidency and Texas politics.

**Q:** Do you think the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will pass through the Senate unchanged and rec-



Riddlesperger

oncile the House version and will President Barack Obama have the bill signed by Presidents Day, as was his goal?  
**A:** It's feasible. I don't know if it's advisable. The Senate bill that is coming forward is somewhat different than the House bill, and the Senate Republicans have come forward with a dramatically different bill, so we're going to see some negotiations over the next three to five days. The question that is going to ultimately confront President Obama is, just how much negotiating does he want to do with the Republicans? His desire is to come out with a bill that is supported by at least some mainstream Republicans. He's willing to make changes, and it seems like some rel-

atively large changes, to accomplish that task. If after all the negotiation, you still have unanimity in opposition to the bill, he is ultimately going to be confronted with the question of whether bipartisanship is worth it or if the fact that he has a working majority in Congress already is sufficient to move forward.

**Q:** Do you think Obama has done enough to involve the Republicans in Congress?

**A:** Eight years ago when (President George W.) Bush came into office he had a bare working-majority in Congress, and of course he won the election while losing the popular vote. He chose to govern by rallying his base rather than trying to broaden his coalition. I think that Obama wants to set a completely different tone than that. Clearly he has done enough in terms of talking to and including Republi-

cans in the decision-making and listening to what they have to say. What he hasn't done is to give as much as the Republican leadership would like for him to give in terms of his proposals. Ultimately, that is where the conflict is going to be.

**Q:** Do you think Obama has enough of a popular mandate to push the bill forward, or is the economy simply bad enough to necessitate an economic stimulus bill of this size?

**A:** I think he has plenty of backing for an \$850 billion stimulus package. His ratings have declined in the last two weeks but he's still supported by two-thirds of Americans, and that's a pretty heavy number. I think if the Republicans' demands are too high, he's just going to say, "Look, I won. The people want us to act, they

SEE STIMULUS · PAGE 2

## NEWS

## STIMULUS

continued from page 1

don't want us to debate about little things that delay action."

**Q:** Do you think the economic stimulus plan will jump start the U.S. economy?

**A:** There are economists on both sides of the issue. Most economists believe the bill is necessary but not sufficient. Paul Krugman, the liberal economist, has said one-third of a loaf is better than no bread at all. He thinks we really need a larger stimulus. The other side thinks that we live in a capitalist economy — what we need to do is let it hit bottom and then it will recover on its own. So what you are left with is a stimulus pack-

age that tries to accomplish both of those things. To give enough money to give some indications that recovery is possible and hope that it spurs economic activity.

**Q:** Do you think the measures taken to help college students and improve higher education are beneficial?

**A:** Absolutely. In a bad economy there are people who need something to do and we need educated people in our society. It's a good investment because it makes people who are currently unemployed productive and it prepares us for taking advantage of the economic recovery when it comes. And more students mean more jobs on university campuses.

## JOBS

continued from page 1

she understands why students have to work, it might not always benefit their grades.

"Working and being an RA adds extra stress to my day," Gray said. "It's one other thing I have to do during the day."

Kuh, whose group conducted the National Survey of Student Engagement, found that grades are not hurt unless a student works more than 25 hours a week.

Kuh said the survey found that students who work on campus are given more opportunities to display their knowledge, are more likely to stay enrolled in college and have more access to resources that unemployed students might not have.

**"Work can be a very powerful learning experience. It can be a great opportunity to apply what one is learning."**

## George Kuh

director of Indiana University's Center for Postsecondary Research

Scott Langston, a religion lecturer, said students who don't have to work should see it as a gift, but they should take some financial ownership of their education.

## STEM CELLS

## Researchers repair spine damage in mice

TOKYO — A team of researchers at Keio University has succeeded in improving spinal cord damage in mice by transplanting into them neural stem cells produced with human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, they said.

The transplant is the first of its kind in which a therapeutic effect of human iPS cells — which can be transformed into various types of cells — has been confirmed. The results of the study are expected to pave the way for a treatment for people with spinal cord injuries.

Spinal cord injuries often cause motor function loss in victims. It is generally accepted that motor function in the legs and other body parts cannot be recovered once the central nerve in the spinal cord has been cut.

Scientists had previously succeeded in treating spinal cord damage in mice using iPS cells from mice. Transplants of human iPS cells often caused adverse reactions in mice and did not improve their condition.

In the latest study, Keio University Professor Hideyuki Okano and his research team used mice whose immune reactions they had repressed. The researchers paralyzed the mice's hind legs by injuring their spinal cords and later transplanted neural stem cells produced with human iPS cells into the mice.

Four weeks later, the mice partially recovered from their injuries and were able to walk on their hind legs.

Other mice in the study that had not received the iPS cells were able to only slightly twitch

their hind legs and were unable to stand up.

Regenerative medicine is said to be problematic because transplanted cells often become cancerous.

Tumors have yet to be found

**"To confirm the safety of the treatment, we need to monitor the mice for more than six months from now to see whether they develop tumors. ... We'd like to conduct (similar) tests on monkeys as a step toward practical use (of the procedure) on humans."**

## Hideyuki Okano

professor, Keio University

in the mice from the Keio study seven weeks after the transplant.

"To confirm the safety of the treatment, we need to monitor the mice for more than six months from now to see whether they develop tumors," Okano said. "After that, we'd like to conduct (similar) tests on monkeys as a step toward practical use (of the procedure) on humans."

— The Yomiuri Shimbun

## LECTURESHIP

continued from page 1

community, which includes ecosystems and what makes them up.

"Your generation is the first truly international generation," she said.

With the availability of instant communication around the world, the college-age generation will be able to easily acquire a global perspective and become citizens who embody the university's mission statement, Tucker said.

Tucker said that 20,000 animal species go extinct each year, and spoke of the endangerment of the horned lizard in Texas. Whereas this example is one that hits close to home, Tucker said, the American mindset of invincibility and distance must shift for survival of life on the planet.

Turning to religion, Tucker said the challenge for all faiths is to realize that all life is sacred.

"We have not yet begun to address that in its fullness," Tucker said.

Tucker said her own story began in the 1960s when she became involved in the Civil Rights Movement. She studied in Japan and said she was completely unprepared for the environmental degradation that she saw

there and continued to see over the next 35 years.

Returning home and attending Columbia University, she began to ask herself what she could contribute.

"There is a sense in the human spirit that nature is a sacred process," she said.

This desire to contribute led her to focus her studies on the relationship between religion and ecology, she said.

The integration of science and religion is a sacred story, Tucker said. While people have learned a greater sense of compassion and care for the earth, they need to constantly be reminded of the scale and complexity of what they are facing, she said.

Julie Morris, a senior communication studies and Spanish/Latin American studies major, said religious communities in the United States need to develop a greener mentality and, as Tucker said, begin to discuss how to have a more planetary world view.

Sam McMillen, a senior anthropology and biology major, said he hopes Tucker's belief that the religious body will be the biggest source of the environmental movement is something students will take away from her talk.



CALLIE MASON / Staff Reporter  
Mary Evelyn Tucker gives her lecture entitled "Reconnecting Humans to Earth Community: Imaging a New Way into the Future" in Ed Landreth Hall on Wednesday evening. Tucker's lecture was part of the Fourth Roman Catholic Lecture series.

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to the  
Finish...

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# OPINION

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*The Skiff View*

## Program came long way to attract key recruits

For a program that at once went 41 seasons without a bowl win, TCU has rebounded nicely to become one of the elite teams in the country.

Once forced to stock a team full of players that the University of Texas, Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University didn't want, the football program has become more than just an afterthought in the world of Texas recruiting.

On Wednesday, 20 players signed National Letters of Intent to play here, including a handful of four-star recruits.

Tailback Waymon James, quarterback Casey Pachall, and safeties Jurell Thompson and Malcolm Williams will almost certainly be making big plays for years to come.

While UT bested every school in the state with three five-star commits and 11 four-star commits, TCU is leveling the playing field against A&M and Tech.

A&M had one five-star recruit and four four-stars. Texas Tech has five four-stars.

TCU had the 46th overall recruiting class in the nation this year, according to Rivals.com. In 2005, TCU ranked 54th overall. In 2002, the Horned Frogs were tied for the 79th.

It is no secret that head coach Gary Patterson and his staff have made the football program nationally relevant again. The fact that they have brought the quality of recruits up 30-plus spots in a mere seven years is remarkable.

Don't forget that impact players like running back Aaron Brown and cornerback Rafael Priest were two-star recruits in the 2005 class. If Patterson and his staff can turn guys like these into starters on the No. 7 team in the country, imagine what they can do with four-star players.

For years, TCU flew under the radars of many prep players in the country and had to pick at the bones left by larger programs.

That is the case no longer.

*Associate editor David Hall for the editorial board.*

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

## Commuter courtesy can ease parking woes



BILLY WESSELS

It seems like everyday this spot in the Skiff is reserved for students to vent about the lack of quality parking for commuting students.

Like everyone else, I have my issues with our current situation. I don't understand why the lot across the street from Smith Hall doesn't have at least a second floor.

But I am not using this spot to bash our administration. I am going to use it to bash my fellow commuters.

First off, there are the people who park at the end of parking rows in an attempt to fool the police into thinking they are in a real spot.

You almost never get away with it and you are causing a hazard to other drivers.

Our cops aren't stupid and they can tell when you are legally in a parking spot and when you are in one of those semi-circles at the end of the rows.

As far as being a hazard, every day accidents are narrowly avoided in the commuter lot.

For those of us who drive sedans or other small cars, it is impossible to see around giant trucks that are not in legit parking spots. I almost ran into another car Tuesday because of someone with a truck with giant tires on a suspended cab.

One of these days an accident is going to happen because of this and I hope the car at the end of the row is the one that gets held responsible for it.

Another thing that ticked me off Tuesday morning: I was 30 minutes late for class because I was looking for a parking spot. I was already in a grumpy mood, and it was exacerbated by seeing students hanging out in their cars, giving me the illusion that they were leaving.

I get it, I guess, if you have an 8 a.m. class then an 11 a.m. class with a break in between, but I don't see why you can't go to the library or bookstore and stay there for your break. But no, you decide to park your car, walk to the library or bookstore to buy coffee then walk back to your car.

You get a driver's hopes up then dash them because you need a caffeine fix.

Plus you are wasting your car's battery with the radio on and gas with the air conditioning on.

I know I am being a bit harsh here, and we can complain all we want about the parking situation, but at least we have some parking and we are all fortunate to have a car to get to our private university so we should be respectful to everyone we share it with.

One way we can be respectful to other students is to let cars waiting for a spot know when you are leaving.

How about from now on when you are leaving school, raise your hand while you walk through the parking lot so someone can take your spot and settle the madhouse that is the parking lot much sooner. That was my friend Rose's idea, but she said I could use it.

So please don't do anything stupid in our parking lot that can lead to an accident or tick anyone off and think about giving your fellow student a helping hand — literally.

*Billy Wessels is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Waxahachie.*



SXC.HU



*Don Wright is a political cartoonist for The Palm Beach Post.*

## Mom of 14 sparks query of medical ethics

When the news broke that a woman who already had six children had given birth to eight babies at a Los Angeles-area hospital, the common reaction was astonishment. Anyone who has taken home one baby from the hospital, with a highly motivated and far-flung system of relatives to provide support, knows the daunting — and exhilarating — and exhausting task ahead.

But eight! On top of six! You had to wonder about Nadya Suleman, 33, and the awesome challenges that lie ahead for her and her extended family. You had to wonder how the family would make ends meet — a second job, a third job? Would they, like other high-profile multiple-birth families, snag some free help from diaper or baby formula companies?

The story also has prompted a lot of talk about moral and ethical issues.

Suleman already had six children, ages 2 through 7. The eight, like those six, were conceived through in-vitro fertilization. There were frozen embryos left over after the earlier pregnancies, and Suleman didn't want them destroyed, so she decided to have more children, The Associated Press reported. Suleman's mother said she wanted "just one more girl."

"Look what happened," said her mother. "Octuplets. Dear God."

That was a pretty common reaction.

So what are the medical ethics in a case like this? Should it matter to her doctor that the mother already has six kids? Or no husband? Should the doctor care about her income, her psychological state? What is the doctor's responsibility in all this?

Bioethicist Laurie Zoloth of Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine said the doctor should have refused to do the procedure. "When you come to a doctor and you say, 'I want you to do this thing to me,' a doctor is not supposed to say, 'Well, whatever, just because he can do it. It's not like being a vending machine. The doctor is supposed to make medical judgments, and anticipate the risks and benefits for every activity the doctor does.'"

For the past decade, fertility doctors have reduced the number of multiple births resulting from IVF treatments, said Dr. R. Dale McClure, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

"We can say that transferring eight embryos ... is well beyond our guidelines," McClure said in a statement.

Beyond a physician's assessment of health risk, though, when and whether to have kids — and how many — is an intensely private decision. We don't want doctors playing God, deciding who can have a child and who can't based on family size, income or any other criteria.

A lot of folks will second-guess Nadya Suleman from afar. We would venture that those closest to her, though, will rally. She'll need all the help she can get. There are now eight babies needing medical care, to be fed and clothed and educated and, most of all, loved.

*This editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Tuesday. It was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*



SXC.HU

## Citizens deserve law-abiding leaders



SHANE RAINEY

According to President Barack Obama, the United States now lives in a "new era of responsibility."

Except, apparently, in Washington.

Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle is the latest casualty of the political tax evasion fiasco in the nation's capital, a situation that is far from "responsible."

Daschle has withdrawn his bid for secretary of Health and Human Services after reports surfaced that he failed to pay more than \$100,000 in taxes between 2005 and 2007, according to CNN.

Tax evasion does fall under the category of responsibility.

The withdrawal of his nomination does help the situation, but there is a bigger issue begging to be addressed.

Daschle is not the only government official to be accused of this growing political epidemic, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner fumbled with the same concerns not too long ago.

Are honesty and integrity too much to ask for in our leaders? The American people deserve better, and

they are justified in expecting the people running the country to pay up in the same manner as an everyday citizen.

On that note, if an everyday citizen tried to pull a stunt like this, the IRS

**Some politicians think they are above the law, and their dishonesty is insulting to taxpayers across America.**

would suffocate them into submission. However, if it happens to a politician or leader, it is chalked up to an "honest mistake" and dismissed.

Some politicians think they are above the law, and their dishonesty is

insulting to taxpayers across America.

The idea of having these people in charge is about as entertaining as handling a bag of agitated cobras. And just as dangerous.

Regardless of the president, the administration, or the party in control of the House and Senate, this idea of a politician's immunity is one that must be squashed.

It is too much to ask for elected officials to be flawless.

It is not too much to ask them to adhere to the same standards as those whom they serve, and this should be done before even when the world isn't watching.

Bring on the responsibility.

*Shane Rainey is a sophomore chemistry major from Fort Worth.*



OLIVER DOULIERY / Abaca Press via MCT

Former Sen. Tom Daschle addresses the Democratic National Convention in Denver on Aug. 27, 2008.

## NEWS

## WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

## Troops to combat insurgents without gunshots

By Jim Landers

The Dallas Morning News

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GHAZNI, Afghanistan — Fifty-two Texas National Guard men and women are planning an attack on a Taliban stronghold near here that other Army units estimate would take thousands of U.S. and Afghan soldiers to capture.

The Texans plan to win the battle of Khajanoor Farms without firing a shot.

This is not a plot for a Chuck Norris thriller about “One riot, one Ranger.” Instead, it’s an example of the U.S. military’s new counterinsurgency strategy, where winning friends and providing government-backed services are more important than pulling triggers.

A Texas National Guard Agribusiness Development Team plans to defeat the Taliban’s hold on the big wheat-seed farm at Khajanoor by building a larger, quality seed farm in the high mountain plains of Ghazni province.

If approved — and if the climate at 10,000 feet can be mastered — the Nawur Farm could free Ghazni’s wheat farmers from Taliban-approved suppliers and lousy products imported from Pakistan.

“It could also save lives,” said Col. Stan Poe of Houston, commander of the Texas agribusiness team.

Seven years on, the war in Afghanistan is not going well for the American military. There are fewer than 150,000 U.S., allied and Afghan army forces here fighting an insurgency spread across a country the size of Texas.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told Congress last week that the Obama administration wants to concentrate on tracking down the leadership of al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, while easing back on nation building.

“If we set ourselves the objective of creating some sort of Central Asian Valhalla over there, we will lose because nobody in the world has that kind of time, patience or money, to be honest,” Gates told a congressional panel.

Still, the counterinsurgency tactics that worked in Iraq — helping villagers find a life free of intimidation, blunting enemy propaganda, eliminating insurgent leaders and boosting loyalty to the central government — are reshaping the Afghanistan war.

“For seven years, we’ve been chasing the Taliban. They literally just come back,” said Illinois National Guard Col. David Matakas. “We can go in and kill a lot of people and do no good. It’s more important that we

**“We can go in and kill a lot of people and do no good. It’s more important that we push forward with training the Afghan forces and focus on turning a district, a tribe or a village away from the Taliban, one at a time.”**

**Col. David Matakas**  
Illinois National Guard

push forward with training the Afghan forces and focus on turning a district, a tribe or a village away from the Taliban, one at a time.”

The Taliban and other groups, including al-Qaida and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the gang blamed for December’s terrorist attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai, roam at will between much of Afghanistan and the tribal frontiers of neighboring Pakistan.

Five of the 19 districts of Ghazni province are coded red by the U.S. military, signifying a strong Taliban presence. One district in the far south of the province, Nawa, is coded black, indicating the Taliban own the area. All six districts are largely populated by Pashtun tribes, the mainstay of Taliban support.

Polish Army Col. Rajmund T. Andrzejczak, whose task is to control security in Ghazni province, has fewer than 1,600 Polish troops under his command and admits that’s not enough. His brigade’s priority is securing the highway that runs through Ghazni province and connects Kabul and Kandahar.

Taking control of red and black districts would require a far larger force just to clear the areas, and then still more troops to man forts that would have to be built to keep the Taliban from returning.

“My philosophy is less aggressive,” Andrzejczak said. “We are not an anti-terrorist brigade. We are a brigade supporting the people of Ghazni.”

The same philosophy guides the National Guard’s Agribusiness Development Teams. Texas, Nebraska and Missouri have teams working in Afghanistan. Indiana, Kentucky and Oklahoma are preparing to send teams as well.

The Texas team has Ghazni province. Khajanoor Farms is in the coded red Andar District. A large force of Taliban fighters controls the 2,500 acres of wheat fields and subsistence plots from caves in mountains overlooking the farm.

The Texas agribusiness team — 12 farming specialist soldiers plus a headquarters and security force of 40 — arrived in Ghazni in May. They are the first of five teams from the Texas Guard pledged to work agricultural issues in Ghazni province through 2013.

When the Texans arrived, a U.S. regiment then in command of security in the province asked them to evaluate the importance of Khajanoor Farms, and the two military groups brainstormed about how to recover them.

“We were estimating — guessing, really — it would take at least two U.S. battalions (about 1,600 men), the Afghan National Army and maybe some outside forces to take and hold that,” said Maj. Conan Martin of Boerne.

Facing those requirements, a military assault on Khajanoor Farms was shelved. Securing Highway 1 was a higher priority; attacks on highway



Pfc. Ryno Van Leeuwen, left, of Lake Jackson, takes a photo of Afghan children posing with Maj. Mike Singleton of Austin in Ghazni, Afghanistan. A Texas National Guard team plans to build a large wheat-seed farm to compete with an area Taliban-controlled farm.

convoys last summer forced the U.S. Army for a time to parachute bottles of water to the 2,000 troops and civilians stationed at Forward Operating Base Ghazni.

The Afghan National Army said it could not spare the troops for an assault on Khajanoor, either.

Martin helped draft some of the first agreements arming Sunni tribesmen in Iraq to expel al-Qaida, a strategy that helped defeat the terrorist organization in that country. Martin worked out another novel approach for Ghazni — build a new, rival seed farm. His colleague Maj. Devin James, an ardent Texas A&M fan who, in civilian life, works for LCR Contractors of Dallas, was enthusiastic as well.

The Texans had visited wheat farms in the far north Nawur district, an area populated by descendants of Genghis Khan known as Hazaris. Some of the Hazari farms were at elevations of 10,000 feet. Trees were growing at elevations 1,500 feet high-

er than you’d find in North America or Europe.

The Ghazni provincial government owns vast tracts of land in Nawur.

There’s plenty of water stored in a vast snowmelt playa called Daste Nawur.

Martin and James thought this offered a way to defeat the Taliban at Khajanoor Farms. They designed a giant, 20,000-acre wheat seed farm north of Daste Nawur that could provide seeds for most of Afghanistan’s wheat farmers.

The Hazaris were eager to help the Texans and willing to learn how to run a large farm.

“One Hazari leader told us, ‘While the Pashtun fight and kill each other, we are educating ours,’” James said.

Martin worked up a plan to put Nawur Farms in production by fall 2010. The cost of the project was estimated between \$7.5 million and \$9 million.

Martin estimated the cost of a military assault, occupation and rehabilitation of Khajanoor Farms at \$12 million to \$18 million.

It may not work. The right type of wheat has to be found to survive the high altitude and extreme winter conditions of Nawur, where some of the mountains are more than 13,000 feet high. Then, the farm has to find ways to move the seed to markets across a weak road system.

Tony Dath, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s specialist assigned to Ghazni province, argues that audacity is what’s needed to move Afghanistan off its impoverished base.

“To say, ‘It’ll never work,’ is a greater failure,” he said.

Lt. Col. Al Perez of San Antonio is the agribusiness team’s market specialist. He’s been in the military for 23 years, both in the regular Army and the Texas National Guard.

“This is way much better than pulling the trigger,” he said. “Way, way better.”

## Simple benchmarks can recover finances

By Matthew Brandeburg  
Young Money Magazine

If you want to get your financial life on track but don’t know exactly how to get there, following some simple benchmarks will help. In fact, most of us have a financial plan in mind and manage to fol-

**By using some benchmarks you can give yourself a quick financial check-up and find your strengths and weaknesses.**

low it, whether it’s saving a specific amount from our paycheck or keeping credit card debt within a certain range. But the problem is we don’t know if the plan we’re following is the right one for us. By using some benchmarks you can give yourself a quick financial check-up and find your strengths and weaknesses. See how close you come to meeting the following benchmarks:

## Cash reserve

Have three to six months of living expenses set aside in a checking or savings account as your cash reserve. Consider having three months set aside if there are two income earners in the family and six months if there is only one income earner.

## Savings

Save 5 percent to 10 percent of your gross income. This money should be deposited into a savings, investment, or retirement account. Gross income is annual income before any taxes are paid.

## Charitable giving

Donate 5 to 10 percent of your gross income to charity.

## Housing debt

Housing debt expenses (including mortgage principal, interest payments, property taxes, homeowner’s insurance) should not exceed 28

percent of your gross monthly income.

Example: If you earn \$50,000 a year, your mortgage payments should not exceed \$14,000 a year or \$1,167 a month.

## Total debt

Total debt expenses (including housing debt expense) should not exceed 36 percent of your gross monthly income.

Example: If you earn \$50,000 a year, your total debt payments should not exceed \$18,000 a year or \$1,500 a month.

## Consumer debt

Consumer debt expenses (credit cards, car loans, personal loans, etc) should not exceed 20 percent of your monthly net income. Net income is monthly income after all taxes are paid.

Example: If you earn \$50,000 a year before tax and \$35,000 a year after tax, your total consumer debt payments should not exceed \$7,000 a year or \$583 a month.

## Investments

Your total investments should be at least 25 times your annual living expenses (or estimated living expenses during retirement). Keep investing!

Example: If you spend \$50,000 a year, you will need to have \$1,250,000 in your investment portfolio in order to retire.

## Life insurance

You should have 6 to 10 times your annual salary to be adequately insured if someone is dependent on your income.

Example: If you earn \$50,000 a year you should have \$300,000 to \$500,000 of life insurance.

By reviewing each benchmark one at a time you’ll be able to break down the planning process into more manageable steps. Without having to pay a lot of money for professional advice you’ll be able to see where you need to improve and where you’re sacrificing too much of your resources. Compare yourself to these benchmarks every three months.

## Prisoners run toward better future

By Malcolm Garcia  
McClatchy Newspapers

TOPEKA, Kan. — When they run, the women imagine themselves with their families or near an ocean or skiing.

Anywhere but the prison that confines them.

“I think how I’d like to be a better mom,” said Michelle Eicher, 36, as she jogged around the outdoor track of the Topeka Correctional Facility, blond hair bouncing against her shoulders, breath smoky in the frigid winter air. “I want to be a better example to my two kids.”

Eicher and about 20 other women belong to the prison’s running club, dubbed “Running Free” by the inmates. They run every Saturday and Sunday between 9 and 10 a.m.

Besides exercise and a momentary sense of freedom, the club has offered the inmates an opportunity to assist local nonprofits. Since 2007, when the club was formed, the inmates have held three charity runs and raised more than \$2,000.

On a recent Saturday morning, the running club gathered around a metal cabinet filled with donated running shoes and prepared for another weekend workout. Earlier, some of them had shoveled snow off the track, refusing to allow overnight snow flurries to deny them their hour outside.

“It’s about so much more than running,” said Carol Hill, a prison volunteer since 2004.

Hill started the club with another prison volunteer, Suzanne MacDonald. Hill, who began running 20 years ago to stop smoking, thought running would help the inmates change their lives as well.

“Running’s an opportunity for them to do something they never thought they could do,” she said. “Push their bodies, lose weight. Some have reconnected with their kids and have made plans to run with them when they get out.”

Inmate Diane Raab, 36, has



Inmates and volunteers work out on the track at the Topeka Correctional Facility last month in Topeka, Kan. The women belong to the prison’s running club, dubbed “Running Free” by the inmates.

been with the club from its inception. Convicted on drug charges, she won’t be released until October 2012. Perky, with long brown hair and a ready smile that interrupts her rapid-fire talking, she joined the club to help release frustrations.

“When I run, in the summer, I’m thinking I’m on a beach,” Raab said, adjusting her headband and patting down her baggy sweat clothes. “In the winter, a mountain trail. Sometimes, I think I’m in my neighborhood. If I don’t run, I feel blah. Before I ran, all I wanted to do was sleep.”

Newer members like inmate Beth Smith, 27, often walk around the track to build stamina.

“I don’t think of anything but my next breath,” Smith said. “I thought I could just get out and run. Now I know I can’t.”

When the club started, most of the participating inmates were in poor physical condition. They had led sedentary lives marked

by drug abuse. The track was in terrible shape. The possibility of twisting an ankle was a real concern.

The track has since been resurfaced and resembles a typical school’s track. Six times around it is one mile. The track encircles a grassy area with goalposts on either end. Feet away, a metal viewing stand catches the sun. A high fence topped with concertina wire separates the women from passing cars, dog walkers and small houses dripping with melting snow.

“Running gives me a way to feel better,” said inmate Deborah Douglas-Keough, 27, who joined the club last October. “I think of my family, what changes I need to make. Thinking of them, I let myself go.”

The more physically fit inmates jog and sprint. Hill and MacDonald and other volunteers run with them. They also organize monthly meetings on physical fitness.

On the track, volunteers and inmates alike can, for a moment, transcend the limitations imposed on them.

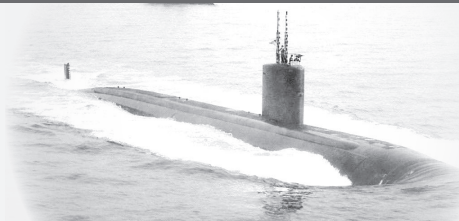
“I’m reminded of who I am,” Eicher said, slowing to walk after jogging several times around the track. “I’m reminded I’m more than an inmate.”

Since 2007, the Running Free club has raised money for the Race Against Breast Cancer, Helping Hands Humane Society and a Topeka battered women’s shelter.

The inmates, many of whom earn less than \$1 an hour, donate \$20 of their own money toward the charitable causes sponsored by the club. Volunteers seek contributions from the community.

In April, the club hopes to raise \$10,000 for KSDS Inc. in Washington, Kan., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the training and placement of assistance dogs to individuals with disabilities, by running about three miles on the prison grounds.

# ETC.



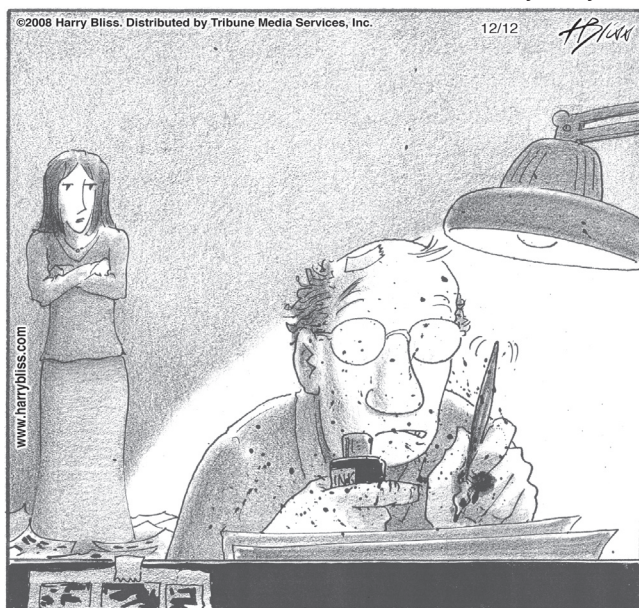
**Today in History**

The Anchor line steamship Tuscania, traveling as part of a British convoy and transporting over 2,000 American soldiers bound for Europe, is torpedoed and sinks off the coast of Ireland by the German submarine U-77 on this day in 1918. — History Channel

**Joke of the Day**

Q: What do you call a blonde in the freezer?  
A: A frosted flake.

Bliss by Harry Bliss



"Why don't you just go back to writing your memoirs and forget about the whole graphic-novel thing?"

Michael Capozzola's  
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	1	4			9	3
			9	4		
	3	5				8
8			6	3		
2	3	1		8		
	9	2			5	
6				8	2	
	7	4				
8	3			9	5	

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

See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

**Wednesday's Solutions**

4	5	9	2	3	6	1	8	7
7	6	8	5	9	1	4	3	2
2	1	3	7	8	4	6	9	5
8	4	7	9	5	2	3	6	1
6	9	1	3	4	7	5	2	8
5	3	2	6	1	8	9	7	4
1	2	6	4	7	9	8	5	3
3	7	4	8	6	5	2	1	9
9	8	5	1	2	3	7	4	6

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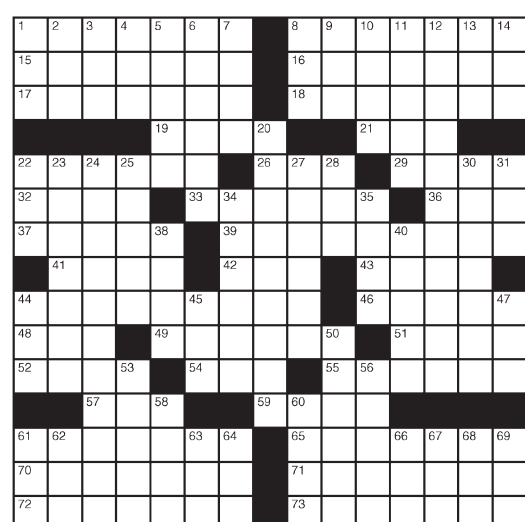
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- ACROSS**
- Surveying instrument
  - Token amount
  - Holiday singer
  - Ground-hugging stems
  - Start of Joe Paterno quote
  - Part 2 of quote
  - On... (no contract)
  - Bobbey twin
  - Scarcity
  - Bullying shout
  - Camp beds
  - Confront
  - On the front burner
  - Oolong, for one
  - Twisted forcibly
  - Part 3 of quote
  - Tip ending?
  - Part 4 of quote
  - Bit
  - Part 5 of quote
  - Buy off
  - Extinct bird
  - Songs of praise
  - Related
  - Irritating tingle
  - Baseball legend
  - Mel
  - Online newsgroup system
  - Gear tooth
  - Writer Ferber
  - Part 6 of quote
  - End of quote
  - Failed to keep a promise
  - Direct route
  - Erik of "CHiPs"
  - D and C, in D.C.
- DOWN**
- Do something
  - Well...-di-dah!
  - Anger
  - Part of DJIA
  - Social category
  - Oracle site
  - Perry's penner
  - Colo. hours
  - Of the ear; pref.
  - Pillow stuffing
  - Of a pelvic bone



By Alan P. Olschweg Huntington Beach, CA 1/29/09

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

- Implied idea
- One; pref.
- Handwritten doc.
- Reverse direction of an electric current
- Texas airport letters
- Hearing range
- Mark above a vowel
- Make fresh
- Tea brand
- Rock producer Brian
- Well-founded
- Took seats
- Canned corn morsel
- Small amount of liquid
- Handhold
- Rich cake
- Leaky PA reactor
- Tony Randall movie, "7 Faces of Doctor..."
- Summer hrs. in D.C.
- Day's end
- One with aspirations
- Hoarder
- Bonkers
- Claim to a share
- Prefix's prefix
- Hi-... graphics
- Crimson or scarlet
- Writer LeShan
- de-France
- Dead heat
- Opp. of syn.
- Guitarist Paul

Got an opinion? Vent a little... Go to [opinion@dailyskiff.com](mailto:opinion@dailyskiff.com)

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## SPORTS



The soccer team gets back to action with two home games this weekend. Tomorrow

MEN'S BASKETBALL • UTAH 62, TCU 54

## AIR BULJAN



TCU junior forward Zvonko Buljan dunks the ball during the first half. The Horned Frogs dropped their third straight conference game with the 62-54 loss against Utah.

JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

## Team falls to Utes in weak 2nd half

By Joe Zigtema  
Staff Writer

Wednesday night was not a good one for University of Utah star center Luke Nevill.

But it was a great one for guard Carlon Brown.

The Ute sophomore put in 14 points and a career high 12 rebounds as the University of Utah used a strong second half performance to hand the Horned Frogs a stinging 62-54 loss at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum Wednesday night, their third straight.

"When the shot clock was 10 or under, he would just drive us, and we weren't tough enough to guard him," said head coach Jim Christian. "He's obviously not going to make it easy for you, but in those situations somebody on our team is going to

have to step up and play one-on-one defense, and he made all the big plays."

The Horned Frogs led by as many as seven in the first half behind shooting from freshman Ronnie Moss, who started in place of junior Edvinas Ruzgas. Moss started the game seven of 10 from the field and finished with 14 points.

But a six-minute TCU dry spell early in the second half allowed the Utes to take their first lead at the 13-minute mark. Utah never lost the lead from that point, though the Horned Frogs cut it to one with seven minutes to play.

TCU hit just 27 percent from the field in the second half after a 52 percent shooting performance in the first. Meanwhile, the Utes shot 72 percent from the floor in the second half to

keep the Horned Frogs at a distance.

"We went away offensively from what we were doing well," Christian said. "We got too individualistic on our end of the floor. We weren't as patient, and we weren't running our stuff well."

Utah's Nevill, who averaged better than 17 points per game entering Wednesday's game, finished with 12 total points on the night but was held without a field goal in the first half for the first time this season.

"Some nights it's not his night to score," Utah coach Jim Boylen said about his 7-foot-2-inch center. "They figured him out a little bit, and they weren't going to let him score from the baseline."

Senior Kevin Langford said youth contributed to some of

the second half struggles TCU faced. Langford finished with 22 points and seven rebounds.

"We're capable of beating every team we've played," he said. "It's just about going out there with a focus and putting two halves together and doing what we do. Sometimes we get away from what we do."

The team will hope to snap its three-game skid at Colorado State University on Saturday and at University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Tuesday. They return home Feb. 14 against Brigham Young University at 6:30 p.m. All games will be broadcast on The Mtn. network.



For a slide show of the game go to [Dailyskiff.com](http://Dailyskiff.com)

## Frogs reel in four four-star recruits

By Billy Wessels  
Staff Writer

The university announced the recruitment of 20 new Frogs at the National Signing Day press conference Wednesday.

"One of the things I am most impressed with is the kind of people they are," head football coach Gary Patterson said.

Overall, the Frogs landed the No. 46-ranked recruiting class according to Rivals.com, two spots behind Mountain West Conference rival University of Utah.

"Everybody has paper tigers, but the key to it is how you develop them," Patterson said. "We have been getting 'C' grades on Signing Day forever and try to turn them into 'A's. Now we've got a class that is a 'B' or 'A' class, and we are trying to not let them turn into 'C's or 'D's."

Of the players who signed national letters of intent were four defensive linemen, four offensive linemen, three linebackers, three tailbacks, three safeties, one quarterback, one wide receiver and one cornerback. But despite the variety of positions, Patterson said a lot of these players have something in common.

"Out of these 20 kids, 10 of them have been tailbacks or carried the football at some point in time in their career," Patterson said. "Some of those guys who were tailbacks are on the offensive and defensive line. It's quite a group."

The three full-time tailbacks are Waymon James, of Sherman, Matthew Tucker, of Tyler, and Dwight Smith, of Carthage.

"We feel like it is as good of a tailback group as we have ever recruited," Patterson said.

James is one of four four-star recruits for the Frogs this season. James was also rated the second-best running back in Texas and the 10th best running back in the nation, according to college sports Web site Rivals.com.

Josh Boyce, a wide receiver, is another player to join the Frogs, Patterson said.

According to ESPN, Boyce, of Copperas Cove, is the highest-rated recruit for TCU, earning a grade of 80 out of 100.

Casey Pachall is also one of the four-star recruits in this year's class.

Pachall is ranked as the No. 9 dual-threat quarterback in the nation according to Rivals.com.

Patterson said the leading man out of the four offensive line recruits is Ty Horn, a center out of McGregor, and is the No. 78 player in the state according to Rivals.com.

The future at linebacker for the Frogs comes from the group of Tanner Brock, of Copperas Cove; Kenny Cain, of River Ridge, La.; and Justin Isadore, of Beaumont.

Cain is the only recruit from outside of Texas and was a member of the New Orleans Times-Picayune's Top-25 Blue Chip list. Isadore is rated as the 27th-best inside linebacker in the country.

Patterson said safety Malcom Williams, of Athens, is the top recruit out of the secondary after recording five interceptions, including two returned for touchdowns, as a sophomore at Trinity Valley Community College.

Joining him in the secondary will be safeties Trent Thomas, of Brenham; Jurell Thompson, of Wichita Falls; and cornerback Michael Venson, of Katy.

Thompson is ranked No. 19 in the nation among safeties. Rivals.com also ranked Thompson as the fifth-fastest safety in the nation.

Patterson compared the job he has in front of him with these 20 recruits to the job of a baker.

"If you have a better quality of flour, you may make a better cake, as long as you have a good cake," Patterson said. "The bottom line is we have to have a good cake, whether you have bad flour or good flour, it really doesn't make a difference."

## List of Recruits

Josh Boyce	WR	Copperas Cove (Copperas Cove HS)
Tanner Brock	LB	Copperas Cove (Copperas Cove HS)
Ray Burns	DL	New Boston (Maud HS)
Kenny Cain	LB	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis Christian School)
James Dunbar	DL	New Boston (Maud HS)
Ty Horn	C	McGregor (Midway HS)
Bryant House	D	Maud (Maud HS)
Justin Isadore	LB	Beaumont (Ozen HS)
Waymon James	TB	Sherman (Sherman HS)
Stansly Maponga	DT	Carrollton (Hebron HS)
Casey Pachall	QB	Brownwood (Brownwood HS)
Dwight Smith	TB	Carthage (Carthage HS)
Eric Tausch	OL	Plano (Jesuit College Prep)
Trent Thomas	S	Brenham (Brenham HS)
Jurell Thompson	S	Wichita Falls (Rider HS)
Matthew Tucker	TB	Tyler (Chapel Hill HS)
Michael Venson	CB	Katy (Morton Ranch HS)
Malcolm Williams	S	Athens (Trinity Valley CC)
John Wooldridge	OT	Houston (Episcopal HS)
D.J. Yendrey	OL	Edna (Edna HS)

POINT • COUNTERPOINT

## Does Michael Phelps deserve legal action for smoking marijuana?

Role model to children and adults alike should be responsible in limelight

World-class swimmer not only celebrity who was caught smoking weed



MICHAEL CARROLL

Michael Phelps captivated the world with his performance in last summer's Olympic Games in Beijing.

After winning eight gold medals and setting seven world records, he returned home a hero, with more fame than any of us could possibly imagine.

Sponsorships, a Sports Illustrated cover, a Saturday Night Live hosting opportunity and millions upon millions of adoring fans welcomed him back to our country.

He had everything a 23-year-old could ever want. He could do no wrong.

But because of one stupid mis-

take he made in the fall, Phelps has risked everything he worked so hard to earn.

Smoking pot is not an issue for many people in our country. Millions of people do it.

But seeing someone of his stature do it is a little jarring, and horribly disappointing.

The man is an idol to people everywhere in this country, especially to children. There's no telling how many little boys and girls have recently taken up swimming in hopes of one day becoming the next Michael Phelps.

And for that reason alone, Phelps deserves to be dropped by all the companies who have matched their products with his name.

What are parents supposed to say when their 7-year-old children ask them what pot is because they saw a story about their hero getting in trouble for it? That's a question no parent should have to hear, or answer, from a child that young. People have enough

problems these days.

Phelps deserves to be made an example of. Far too often, athletes' poor decisions are simply swept under the rug. That shouldn't happen in this case.

All professional athletes need to be more aware of their responsibilities. Not only to their fans of all ages, but to their teammates, coaches, owners and sponsors.

It is because of all of these people — fans included — that athletes are paid millions and millions of dollars to play sports and live lives of leisure.

Phelps' golden-boy image has forever been tarnished — something no amount of gold medals can ever undo.

Michael Carroll is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Coppell.



Which side are you on? Go to [Dailyskiff.com](http://Dailyskiff.com) and cast your vote.



BILLY WESSELS

The world is in shock after a photo of Olympic great Michael Phelps was leaked over the weekend of the swimmer using a marijuana bong at the University of South Carolina last fall.

People are wondering whether or not the man who captivated us during the Summer Olympics will still have his sponsorships or possibly face legal trouble.

In my opinion this is a non-issue as far as money and legal issues go.

Phelps is still by far the biggest name in the world of swimming, so Speedo would be committing business suicide if they let this big fish get away.

As far as the possibility of legal issues goes, I think if South Carolina police officials were to have a chance to bust one of the biggest names of 2008, they would want to catch him in the act. Even then, I think he would have had a chance to wriggle off the hook.

It was just some kid who snapped a picture because he couldn't believe he was witnessing Phelps smoking pot. I don't think that warrants legal action against the Olympian.

Plus, he could always just pull a Bill Clinton and say he didn't inhale.

I am not going to argue whether the plant should be legal or not, but I think if musicians like Snoop Dogg, 311 and Bob Marley can expand their fame for using or encouraging the use of the substance, how can we judge an athlete who hasn't been caught with anything.

Plus, people tend to be fans of marijuana-related songs or

Phelps is still by far the biggest name in the world of swimming so Speedo would be committing business suicide if they let this big fish get away

movies, like Cheech and Chong or Pineapple Express, so this shouldn't even blip the radar of most people.

The only issue I see here is whether or not Phelps' public image toward kids and parents is tarnished in any way.

But I think Phelps did the right thing to nip this in the bud as quickly as possible.

Billy Wessels is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Waxahachie.