



The women's basketball team pushes its winning streak to six. Sports, page 8



Is advising effective? Students respond. Tomorrow in Opinion



Some professors are creating digital lessons to improve student comprehension. Tomorrow in News

VISION IN ACTION

# More grant programs face funding losses

By Madison Morgan  
Staff Reporter

Some programs have found ways to survive the expiration of the Vision in Action grant while others struggle to find other means of support.

Like the RealWorld ad agency, the Science and Engineering Research Center's VIA grant will also expire, and without additional funding the program will most likely be shut down, said Dick Rinewalt, associate dean of the College of Science and Engineering.

The center does research for all departments, and it is currently working with the psychology department on a study about physical contact between human beings, he said.

Rinewalt said the SERC requested more funding from the university in October.

"The letter outlines the benefits of the center and the national recognition it has brought to TCU, but we still haven't received any response," Rinewalt said.

The SERC is one of several programs that are facing funding issues. Out of the 52 pro-

grams that have received VIA funding, 16 will be funded through the 2010 fiscal year, said Ann Sewell, associate provost for academic planning and budgeting.

The VIA grant was set up in 2005 and provides funding for projects set up by students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni that are intended to enrich student life on campus, said Leo Munson, associate vice chancellor of academic support.

The Board of Trustees allocates money for the VIA grants from the university's general budget, Sewell said.

Sewell said the grant usually has \$3 million to disperse among various programs, but because of budget cuts, only \$2 million will be available for programs for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Catherine Wehlburg, executive director of the Office for Assessment Quality Enhancement Council, reviews each grant and makes recommendations to the provost about which ones should receive funding.

"There is only so much money to go

SEE FUNDING • PAGE 2

HARDCOVER FICTION  
BEST SELLERS

- 1 The Associate by John Grisham
  - 2 Run For Your Life by James Patterson
  - 3 The Host by Stephenie Meyer
  - 4 Fool by Christopher Moore
  - 5 Bone Crossed by Patricia Briggs
  - 6 True Colors by Kristin Hannah
  - 7 The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
  - 8 The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
  - 9 Plum Spooky by Janet Evanovich
  - 10 Very Valentine by Adriana Trigiani
- The New York Times



Campus musicians and fans should take advantage of local open mic nights. Opinion, page 3

# ON A ROLL



Seniors Chris Ellington, right, and Matt Carpenter celebrate after scoring runs in the first inning. The two runs came after freshman Taylor Featherston hit a single.

JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

The baseball team continued its hot start with a 8-2 victory over the Texas State University Bobcats last night at Lupton Stadium. Solid hitting and pitching propelled the team, ranked 16th, to its fourth win in just five games. Next up for the streaking team is a three-game series on the road against the University of Mississippi, the No. 22 team in the country. Page 8

MENTAL HEALTH

# Counselors see increase in traffic

By Annie Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Worries about finding a job after graduation and the economic crisis are just a few of the reasons why more students are seeking help from the university's mental health center, a university official said.

Linda Wolszon, director of Counseling, Testing, and Mental Health services at the counseling center, said the number of counseling appointments has increased about 8 percent since this time last year, and the number of walk-in appointments is up about 16 percent from this time last year.

The busiest time for the counseling center is around midterms when students are burdened by the stress of doing well on exams, Wolszon said.

According to a survey conducted by the American College Health Association in fall 2007, about 8,000 of the 20,507 college students who participated said they had been diagnosed with depression in the past 12 months. The 2007 survey also reported that 51 percent of students reported feeling that things were hopeless one to 10 times during the past 12 months.

SEE COUNSELING • PAGE 2

# Freshman retention rate improves

By Mark Bell  
Staff Reporter

Even with tough economic conditions around the country, the percentage of freshmen returning for the spring semester has increased for the third year in a row.

The percentage of freshmen who returned for the spring semester rose to 96 percent this year from 94 percent last year, said Mike Scott, director of scholarships and student financial aid.

Scott said a variety of factors contributed to the rise in retention rates, including an increase in money for student financial aid.

"It was perfect timing with what happened with the economy," Scott said. "Had we not had the increase we would have been in trouble."

Scott said the rise is a good indication that the official retention rate taken next fall will also rise.

The official retention rate last fall for the 2007 freshman class was 86.3 percent, compared to the 2006 freshmen class rate of 85.8 percent, he said.

The official retention rate measures the percentage of the freshman class that returns to the university in the fall.

According to the TCU Fact Book, in 2006, the university's retention rate was 83 percent, Baylor University's was 83 percent and Southern Methodist University's was 87 percent. That was the last year data were available for all three schools.

Retention rates became a top priority for the university four years ago, Scott said.

SEE RETENTION • PAGE 2

CAMPUS TOURS

# Buses guide prospective students

By Jordan Smith  
Staff Reporter

The admissions office is making a novel addition this year to the familiar campus tour.

For the first time, prospective students were given guided bus tours around Fort Worth in addition to the usual walking-tour around campus, said admissions counselor Lauren Nixon.

The tours, which began Friday, are intended to help students who have been admitted to the university make a final decision on where they want to go, Nixon said.

"It's really great because a lot of people who have visited campus before and done the campus tour might not be interested in seeing the exact same thing again," she said. "This is a great way for them to explore some other parts of campus as well as parts of the city of Fort Worth."

SEE BUS TOUR • PAGE 2

FROGHOUSE

# Fundraiser to feature eco-friendly fashions

By Patrick Burns  
Staff Reporter

FrogHouse and Residential Services will team up to host the TCU Project Runway, a fashion show fundraising event based on the popular Bravo TV show.

In the show, scheduled for March 7 in the Brown-Lupton University Union auditorium, residence hall floors will compete against each other in a fashion contest using only environmentally friendly materials, said Laura Lee, a resident assistant and the director of service and learning for FrogHouse, a student Habitat for Humanity project.

All proceeds will go to FrogHouse's 2009 housing project, Lee said. The idea to use only eco-friendly clothing stems from the motto, "Bleed Purple. Live Green," she said. Students can nominate their residential assistant to model for the event for \$20, and residential assistants can nominate a hall director for \$40, she said.

Lee said the idea for the project came from necessity as well as her perspective

as a member of both organizations.

"At the end of last semester, we were supposed to raise \$65,000, and we were a little bit short of that," Lee said. "Since I'm an RA, and I work closely with residential services, I just thought it would be a really good idea to team up with them."

Potential prizes include a game console for the winning hall wing, and a gift certificate to the winning RA. The organization also hoped to get a trophy for the winning team as well, Lee said.

Participation in the event by an RA and his or her wing will count as a planned activity for the month, Lee said. RAs are required to put on activities for their wings during the year, Lee said.

Steidl said he believes this event could become one of FrogHouse's major fundraising events.

"It's for a good cause, and it's under the banner of a program that's already been founded," Steidl said. "As long as the residents and resident assistants show their creative energy for it, there's no reason why it can't go on for the next few years."

TODAY'S WEATHER

85 51  
HIGH LOW  
Windy

Tomorrow: Partly Sunny  
65 / 40

Saturday: Windy  
57 / 35



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.



## NEWS

## BUS TOUR

continued from page 1

Mike Vosters, a sophomore marketing major and member of the Student Foundation that gives the tours, said the students get to see many areas of Fort Worth, especially those around the university. Students get to see the Botanic Garden, the Stockyards and Sundance Square, he said.

The extra tour of the city is a good way to let prospective students see what they can expect from the Fort Worth community, Vosters said.

"On the way down there we talked about the art museums, different restaurants, places to eat, just kind of where students hang out," Vosters said. "We try to do the tour from a student's perspective, not too factual, keep it conversational, tell them what our experiences were and how we interact with Fort Worth."

Donna Morgan, the mother of a prospective student, said that although she and her family live in Fort Worth, they took the tour because they were told it would give them a fresh perspective of the city. She said what really stood out, though, were

the tour guides themselves.

Although all students who are accepted to the university are offered the chance to tour the city, the program is specifically aimed at orient-

**"It really gives them a chance to see the city from a student perspective, since the tour guides are all students."**

**Lauren Nixon**  
admissions counselor

ing out-of-state students to the area, Nixon said.

"It really gives them a chance to see the city from a student perspective, since the tour guides are all students," Nixon said.

Originally from Kansas, Vosters said he thinks a tour of the city is a good way to acclimate students from outside the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"It's just getting it so that they

have a little bit more familiarity with the surroundings," he said. "Coming back the second time, it's just really good to show them the city they're going to be at, the crowd they're going to be around and what it has to offer."

Student Foundation planned two more bus tours for this semester. The next one is scheduled for March 27 and the last on April 26, Nixon said.

Nixon said she does not know of any other major university that offers such a program. Officials from Baylor University, Southern Methodist University and the University of North Texas all said they had no program in place to show prospective students around their local areas.

The admissions office still has not decided whether this will be a permanent addition to the recruitment process, Nixon said. She said that decision will be based on the success of this year.

"So far the feedback has been great; the people really enjoyed it," she said. "If it turns out to be a success, then we'll make it a part of our program for sure."

## FUNDING

continued from page 1

around, and in this economy it would be impossible to support everyone," Wehlburg said. "We look for programs that are going to be beneficial to a wide number of students."

She also said VIA grants were not set up to last indefinitely, and they will expire in 2010.

"The VIA was not designed to extend for more than five years as a granting project, however the projects themselves are fully capable of remaining on campus if they acquire additional outside funding," Wehlburg said.

After applying for a VIA grant, the Quality Enhancement Council will determine whether a program falls under the transformational category, Sewell said.

Transformational projects are those that are expected to or prove to transform the nature of the university and raise its academic profile, giving it a greater international presence, according to the Strategic Initiative Fund Grant Proposal Guidelines.

One program that proved itself to be transformational is the Supply Chain Technology Laboratory.

The laboratory received a transformational grant in 2006, said director Charles Lamb, who is also a marketing professor and department chair of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management.

Lamb said it was set up in the Neeley School of Business to provide students with hands-on training related to supply chain technology.

"Now that our aid from the grant is up, the Neeley School will fund the

program," Lamb said. "This was our plan going into it, and since the laboratory has been so successful in its effectiveness the business school will allocate the funds needed to keep the laboratory running."

Dan Williams, English department chair, professor and director of the Writing Associates Program, said that the program received a transformational grant in 2006 and that it has received additional funding until 2010. The program selects and trains highly qualified students to work as peer tutors in specific courses, Williams said.

"The program will disappear without continued university funding," Williams said. "It would be a real disappointment to see certain programs go if they had proven to enrich student life for students as well as faculty year after year."

## COUNSELING

continued from page 1

"Lately, we are seeing students who want to talk about a parent losing his or her job and graduating seniors with anxiety about finding jobs," Wolszon said.

Wolszon said psychological and psychosocial problems are the most frequent causes of derailment of students' academic careers.

Since 2005, the counseling center has hired three additional staff members. The center now has five staff members, and there is a counselor on-call every day

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist students who do not have an appointment with crises and urgent care, Wolszon said.

Wolszon said last year 65 percent of clients reported depressive symptoms and 45 percent reported cases of anxiety, both of which have remained about the same this year.

She said the center advertises its services in a number of ways including presenting information to students in residence halls, fraternities and sororities and athletics. Wolszon also said students are referring other students.

"More and more frequently we

hear students tell us 'I came because my friend, roommate, RA, etc. was worried, and they told me they had been there before and it was helpful,'" Wolszon said.

Wolszon said starting last year, counselors are attending every orientation session to inform new students and parents of their services because part of the job is to promote students' mental health and well-being.

"If we ever manage to convince the population that seeing a counselor is no more shameful than seeing your family doctor when you have a fever, society will be better off," Wolszon said.

## RETENTION

continued from page 1

Chancellor Victor Boschini said he was surprised by the increase in the spring retention rate.

"I'm just happy any time retention improves," Boschini said. "It's a really hard variable to get our fingers around, so as long as it's going up, I'm happy."

Scott said the total number of undergraduate students who re-enrolled for the spring semester was 6,928, up from 6,855 last year.

Deidra Turner, associate director of the Center for Academic Services, said two programs, College 101 and Compass 101, were created four years ago to help increase student retention.

College 101 is a mandatory one-day workshop for first-year students who are on academic warning or academic probation, Turner said. The program teaches students what went wrong and what they can do to

have a more successful semester, Turner said.

Compass 101 is a continuation of College 101 and pairs each student with a mentor who helps him or her through the semester.

**"It was perfect timing with what happened with the economy, had we not had the increase we would have been in trouble."**

**Mike Scott**  
director of scholarships and student financial aid

mester, she said.

Nick Whitesell, assistant dean of Campus Life, said another program aimed at increasing retention is the Early Alert System put in place by Campus

Life. The program allows faculty members to e-mail concerns about students, Whitesell said.

These concerns include students' class performance, class attendance and any other problem areas they might notice, Whitesell said.

Campus Life will filter the e-mails and determine whether to contact students and have them receive help through various campus programs such as the Center for Academic Services, Whitesell said.

The e-mail system went live last week and has already received more than 100 concerns, Whitesell said.

Boschini said the university has put a lot of effort into student retention, and he is pleased with the direction it is taking.

"I think we should commit that if we admit you to TCU, we have a stake in you graduating from here," Boschini said. "It is my goal that every student admitted here can graduate if they want to."

## Senate debates Congressional seat for District of Columbia

By William Douglas  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Senate is poised to vote soon on a historic measure to give residents of the District of Columbia full membership in the House of Representatives for the first time, potentially healing a wound that has social, racial and political overtones in this largely African-American city that's the nation's capital.

Senators debated Wednesday the merits and constitutional ramifications of a bill that would give the heavily Democratic District of Columbia — a 61-square-mile area with a population of almost 600,000, about 55 percent of it black — a voting House seat, along with a balancing new seat for Republican-leaning Utah.

Though a District of Columbia House seat still faces obstacles — Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., tried

unsuccessfully Wednesday to derail the measure on a procedural vote — this is the closest that Washington has come to achieving its long-held dream.

While the Senate debated, the House Judiciary Committee began marking up its version of the bill, which is expected to pass the Democratic-controlled House easily.

President Barack Obama has expressed support for Washington voting rights and is expected to sign the bill once it reaches his desk.

Washington residents long have chafed under what they view as Congress' paternalistic role in the city's affairs without representation there, despite residents being federal taxpayers. That sentiment is summed up frankly by the motto on the district's license plates: "Taxation Without Representation."

"It's a big deal because D.C. has been treated as a colony of

the United States," said Jane Freundel Levey, a historian for Cultural Tourism DC, a nonprofit group. "It's a big deal because D.C.'s budget is subject to the approval of Congress; no other city has that. It's a big deal because Congress controls our judiciary and courts."

Opponents criticize the bill on constitutional grounds, saying that the Constitution limits voting rights to residents of states.

"I have said previously my quarrel is not with the intent of the legislation, but with the vehicle with which Congress is seeking to effect or bring about this change," said Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., who thinks that Washington voting rights should be sought through a constitutional amendment. "Simply passing a law that grants voting rights to an entity that is not a state ... is plainly circumventing the Constitution."

Byrd, McCain and other critics promised that if the bill were successful, it would face a tough court challenge. Voting rights supporters say that they're willing to take their chances.

A House committee oversees Washington, which has been a source of irritation at times for residents. They complain that Congress — particularly during Republican control — has used Washington as a test laboratory for issues ranging from school vouchers to pushing the courts to roll back local gun-control laws.

"Citizens have felt that they are treated as second-class citizens in this country," said Ronald Walters, a University of Maryland political science professor. "They've been treated as a stepchild or guinea pigs for political experiments or pet ideas of members of Congress who wouldn't do it in their districts."

Washington residents gained the right to vote for president after a 1961 constitutional amendment gave the city three electoral votes. Residents cast presidential ballots in 1964 for the first time in 160 years.

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# OPINION

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*The Skiff View*

## House has no room for Greek disputes

Some Student Government Association representatives should be ashamed that loyalties to outside organizations sometimes affect their voting patterns.

The members of the Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternities should vote on what is best for their constituencies, not on how their brothers vote.

Members of the House such as Joey Parr, chair of the Elections and Regulations Committee, and student body treasurer Marlon Figueroa, members of Pi Kap and Sig Ep, respectively, have admitted that Greek affiliation can impact the votes of House members. It is refreshing to see that these men are acknowledging the problem.

With members of the two fraternities making up 32 percent of the House, it is delusional for people to think that Greek loyalties don't influence voting.

Fraternities are great social institutions for those looking to make the most of their college years, but brotherly ties must be kept separate from other organizations on campus.

Students pay student government fees every year, in what essentially amounts to tax dollars, for SGA to represent their best interests. Each representative has a group of people to speak for (College of Fine Arts or senior class, for example) and should act on behalf of them, not what his or her friends are voting for.

If the university is supposed to be educating students to be ethical leaders, House members should be working hard to gauge the wants and needs of their constituents who elected them to the position, not showing up to a meeting once a week and voting on a whim.

Representatives should check their Greek affiliations at the door to ensure that SGA is an organization that students can respect.

*Associate editor David Hall for the editorial board.*

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

### YOUR VIEW opinion@dailyskiff.com

#### Instead of condemning others, lead by example

In response to Rev. Andrew Weatherford's opinion piece from Wednesday's issue titled "University not reflective of 'Christian' in name," I would like to offer just a few points.

Before I am decreed unholy, or a failed "(representative) of what is supposed to be the most prestigious Christian element on our campus," let me also explain that I am a licensed minister, Brite seminarian and currently on track to become ordained.

First, the word Christian in Texas Christian University is to indicate that it is an institution of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), not a full-out religious institution. It is a school, not a church. There are students who attend who are not of the same system of belief as Weatherford. There are students who are probably not even Christian. The emphasis in TCU is University, with Christian indicating

its Disciples roots. In fact, the Disciples pride themselves on disagreement, discernment and deliberation.

Second, the Bible is a book meant to be interpreted. Perhaps this is not where Weatherford stands, and that's OK. However, I think we would both agree that faith is not something one can prove, or, rather, belief in miracles, creation, or any other Biblical principle requires faith, not fact.

Courses that examine the Bible not as the absolute truth but rather a text used by a religious group of people for the last two thousand years might actually want students to use their brains, not just their souls. Or, if not, perhaps we should also take the U out of TCU. But then it would just be "Texas," and that wouldn't bring in students.

Finally, Weatherford should probably lead by example, and not by condemning everyone else for their faults. That is what Jesus did. Even in the revolutionary stance he took, he dined with sinners, and died for sinners. That said, I do not care what Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, thinks of my actions or anyone else's. I refuse to pay homage to the word Christian, just as I refuse to pay homage to anything but God.

And all this is because the Creator of the Universe loves me enough to send his son to die for my sins. And nothing I do, no matter how profane I am, no matter how often I question, doubt and examine, not even the horrible person I have been, will be and am, can change that.

*Arthur Stewart is a graduate student at Brite Divinity School.*

#### Objective study of Bible necessary for solid education

Andrew Weatherford needs to come down off of his cross. Mr. Weatherford's Feb. 25 column "University not reflective of 'Christian' in name" is an example of the kind of intolerant, self-righteous hogwash that drives people away from Christianity. He implies that his particular fire-and-brimstone brand of southern-fried Protestantism is the only true faith, scorning interpretations of scripture that don't mesh with his views. He eagerly passes judgment on anyone who does not subscribe to his particular

guilt-based moral code. We should all be grateful that TCU does not reflect his warped, hateful beliefs. I, for one, am glad that our school takes its obligation as a place of education and culture seriously enough to teach an academic, objective interpretation of the Bible and to accept students from all walks of life. Mr. Weatherford might do well to seek out a school more suited to his views — Bob Jones or Liberty University, perhaps.

*Jarrod Greene is a junior radio-TV-film major from Fort Worth.*



*Terrence Nowicki is a cartoonist for the (Western Washington University) Western Front.*

## Campus artists need to pump energy into local music scene



NAHEIL QUDAH

Hey, lazy musicians: stop languishing and give Fort Worth some fresh tunes to tap its toes to.

Garage drummers, bedroom guitarists and closet maraca players, I'm looking at you.

I have walked by enough dormitories to know that this campus is full of musicians. I have stopped by enough 1873 Sports Bar & Grill jam sessions to know

**We all know weeknights are not for studying; in fact, they are for finding new and interesting ways not to study.**

that some of those musicians want to perform for a live audience. But somehow, I have never met another student at any of the open mic nights around Fort Worth.

We all know weeknights are not for

studying; in fact, they are for finding new and interesting ways not to study. An open mic night is an opportunity to get out of the house, hang out with friends and hear some flourishing local music. If you're a musician yourself, it's a great way to network with other musicians and get a following around town.

The Ridglea Theater is re-opening its lounge to local artists today. It will be the kick-off event of a recurring open mic session every Thursday from 8 p.m. to midnight. The Cellar bar on Berry Street started hosting Monday open mic sessions every week at 10:30 p.m. with alumnus Ben Napier. These are just a few examples of some opportunities for fun and music during the week.

"But Naheil, last time I tried to play an instrument I injured everyone's eardrums within a five-mile radius. What can I do to help?"

Every music scene needs support to continue running. By being part of an enthusiastic audience, you contribute to the growth of the live music and entertainment scene in Fort Worth. You can find a jam session on any night of the week and there is always a wealth of booked shows at local bars and clubs on any given Friday or Saturday night. Stop by for a couple of drinks if you are of age or listen to a few sets and tip your local starving artists. We're hungry.

It's time to put the "funky" back in

Funkytown, folks. Get out there and keep Fort Worth in tune.

For the scoop on local open mic nights Sunday-Thursday, visit the Skiff Arts & Entertainment blog at <http://skiff-ae.blogspot.com>.

*Naheil Qudah is a junior marketing major from Amman, Jordan and a local performing artist.*



SXC.HU

## Obama's leadership echoes FDR

ALEX S. TURNER

Faced with an economic crisis not too far removed from the track we seem to be on now, FDR tried his best to stabilize the American economy in the 1930s. From the fireside radio chats to undercutting Congress to get bills passed, he took the necessary initiative to relieve the economic agony Americans were facing.

Although some of his theories were unpopular at the time, he was recently named the third-best president in American history in a CSPAN survey that included responses from historians and viewers. President Barack Obama is often compared to FDR because he has the same initiative.

Obama gave a speech to mayors of urban cities Friday regarding his massive economic stimulus plan. The president's intent is for the funds to be used to improve the highways, sewage pipes, and water systems in cities. The stimulus is expected to create as many as 400,000 jobs for American citizens, according to CNBC.

Such a plan obviously requires a great deal of taxpayer money to finance. It also could entail a great deal of corruption if money is placed in the wrong hands. How many wealthy CEOs have graciously accepted bailout funds only to be disgraced in news stories concerning their extravagant spending practices? It is asking too

much of us to trust these mayors to put the money toward projects that really aid the working-class people? Mismanagement will only place us in greater economic disparity.

"If a federal agency is proposing a project that would waste that money I will not hesitate to call them out on it and put a stop to it," Obama said in his speech Friday. "The American people are watching; they need this plan to work."

His administration created a Web site called [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov) for taxpayers to access information on where their hard-

earned money is going. Obama's handling of the economic stimulus package is evidence that he truly is a president for the people, by the people. Cut out all the bureaucratic nonsense and give me a president who is straightforward and has the initiative to set politics as usual aside and fight for progress where we need it the most. In other words, give me Barack Obama.

*Alex S. Turner is a freshman political science and philosophy major from Dallas.*



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## NEWS

## UNIVERSITIES

## Virginia Tech graduate sees risk in Texas concealed weapon bill

By Emily Ramshaw  
The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN — John Woods' heart still jumps when he hears hammering or shouting outside his window, even two years after his girlfriend was killed in the Virginia Tech massacre. The routine emergency sirens at the University of Texas, where he's now a molecular biology graduate student, tie his stomach in knots.

Now, Texas lawmakers are proposing the worst thing he could possibly imagine: allowing people with concealed handgun permits to carry weapons on college campuses.

He and others say that bringing more weapons on campus can only increase the chances of a deadly incident because of the possibility of accidents or sudden meltdowns.

"Crime on campus is, statistically, incredibly low. Virginia Tech got very, very unlucky," said Woods, who graduated from Virginia Tech shortly after the shootings and has become UT's de facto gun control spokesman. "If students have guns on campus, that can only create more danger."

Gun-rights advocates took a much different lesson from the Virginia Tech case and a similar massacre at Northern Illinois University last year, arguing that the measure, expected to be introduced in the Legislature this week, will give students and professors the chance to protect themselves. Right now, Texas universities

are gun-free zones, they say, leaving them virtually defenseless until campus police can respond.

"I don't want to wake up and read in the paper that Texas students were mowed down like sitting ducks on campus because they weren't allowed to defend themselves," said Republican Sen. Jeff Wentworth, who is filing the "campus carry" bill this week. "It's a matter of personal safety and self-defense."

Currently, 11 U.S. universities allow concealed weapons on campus, nine of them public. Last year, 17 states considered campus carry legislation, but none enacted them.

In Texas, gun-rights lawmakers have agreed to throw all their Second Amendment capital behind the campus carry bill, which would apply to all colleges in the state.

At UT, where Charles Whitman's 1966 shooting rampage from the university tower left 14 dead and dozens of others wounded, the student government, graduate student assembly and faculty advisory council have all overwhelmingly passed resolutions against the measure. Several Texas campuses, including UT-Dallas and Texas State in San Marcos, are home to their own chapters of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

Supporters of campus carry say the measure's opponents are painting inaccurate visions of every student and teacher carrying a loaded weapon. Anyone who wants a concealed handgun on campus would

still have to be 21 or older and go through the state's rigorous licensing and training program. Currently, less than 5 percent of the 90,000 Texans with concealed handgun licenses are between the ages of 21 and 25 — and only a tiny fraction of them are in school.

"At Virginia Tech, in Illinois, it's possible someone might have been able to stop that carnage," said Republican Rep. Joe Driver, who is sponsoring the bill in the House.

But it's exactly this anonymity that frightens opponents of campus carry. They foresee gun-averse students afraid to go to class, or teaching assistants who fear angering students with poor test scores. And they worry suicidal or mentally ill students will use them to take their own lives — or someone else's.

After the Virginia Tech shootings, Woods said, he was paralyzed with thoughts about how the bloodbath could have been stopped, and he shuddered every time he entered a classroom. But he never once thought allowing students or professors to carry guns on campus was the answer.

"I spent a lot of time feeling like a victim," said Woods, who went on his last date with his girlfriend three days before the shooting. "But this idea that school shooters would be deterred, or that licensed students or professors would be in the right place at the right time — I just don't buy it."

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## Obama nominates Locke for post

By Les Blumenthal  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Taking note of his Chinese immigrant roots and calling him an "outstanding" public servant, President Barack Obama on Wednesday nominated former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as the secretary of commerce.

The nomination requires Senate confirmation. A two-term governor, Locke is Obama's third choice for the post. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson withdrew in January amid disclosures of a grand jury investigation

of state contracts. Later, Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire withdrew, citing "irresolvable" differences with the administration.

"Now, I'm sure it is not lost on anyone that we've tried this a couple of times, but I am a big believer in keeping at something until you get it right," Obama said.

Obama, joined by Locke and Vice President Joe Biden, made the announcement in the ornate Indian Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, across from the West Wing of the White House.

Locke's wife, Mona, a former Seattle television news anchor, stood with reporters while the announcement was made.

Locke was the nation's first Chinese-American governor. Obama

noted that Locke's grandfather left China more than 100 years ago on a steamship bound for America, where he had no family. He worked as a houseboy for a family in exchange for English lessons. The family lived less than a mile from the governor's mansion in Olympia, where Locke and his family later lived.

"It took our family 100 years to move that one mile, a journey possible only in America," Locke told Obama in accepting the nomination. "My family's story is America's story."

As the commerce secretary, Locke will head an agency that oversees everything from international trade to the National Weather Service and from the census to fisheries. He'll also be part of the administration's economic team.

## MILITARY



U.S. Air Force airmen train in a mock ambush scenario during a week-long combat simulation course at Fort Dix, N.J., on Feb. 17 before deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. Intensive training began three years ago after airmen's mounting casualties.

## Intensive training prepares airmen to survive combat

By Edward Colimore  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — When his convoy entered the village, Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Hunt wasn't sure what to expect. A group of friendly civilians in Arab garb waved as the six Humvees passed by. Everything seemed fine.

But the 27-year-old Philadelphia native knew things could change in an instant — and they did.

A few feet ahead, a roadside bomb knocked out a Humvee amid clouds of smoke from grenade and mortar explosions and the piercing "pop-pop-pop" of insurgents' AK-47s.

Airmen transferred the wounded to Hunt's vehicle, returned fire, and pressed on.

"It was a little hectic, but everyone reverted to their training," said Hunt, the convoy commander.

The realistic training exercise, staged in a mock village at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center at Fort Dix in New Jersey, is part of new combat preparedness received by airmen who perform the ground duties that keep planes flying.

The convoy's 25 members passed their test last week: They learned to "shoot and scoot." They were among 187 airmen at the center to receive advanced training before deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

President Barack Obama has authorized sending up to 17,500 troops to Afghanistan in the coming months to thwart an expected spring offensive by the Taliban and stepped-up attacks before the country's presidential election in August.

The role of the Air Force in Afghanistan is crucial, especially as Taliban forces try to close a supply route through Pakistan's Khyber Pass and Kyrgyzstan seeks to shut a U.S. air base in that country.

Nearly 600 airmen have been killed or wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — and 96 percent of them have been on the ground, according to Air Force officials.

The service members are trained to load, unload, fuel and maintain aircraft. They tend to the base buildings and runways and perform administrative, medical and food services.

Their mounting losses — partly due to expanded duties off base — prompted intensive training, begun three years ago, to help the ground airmen survive combat.

"Who's responsible for making them mission-ready? That's us," said Maj. Gen. Kip L. Self, commander of the Expeditionary Center.

"The Air Force made a great leap in the last few years. ... We need to make sure they have the same professional background and training that our aviators have."

In a classroom on the center's 34-acre campus, Tech. Sgt. Jason Marsh gave final instructions to the airmen before sending their convoy on its mission.

After two weeks, their final test would be to transport a noncombatant between bases, through a village believed to contain insurgents.

"It's important you stay on track," said Marsh, 35, who manages the course. "Don't do something above and beyond what you're supposed to do."

The airmen gathered their M-16s and gear and hopped into their Humvees.

"I never thought I'd be doing this," Hunt said. The civil engineer expects to be deployed to Iraq within weeks.

"When we go downrange" into combat areas, he said, "we might be needed. And if we are, we'll be a positive asset."

After hours of classroom and

field training, most of the airmen were confident.

"I know what to do," said Senior Master Sgt. Tom Chatburn, 42, an aircraft maintenance worker who lives in Ocean City, N.J., and is heading to Iraq.

"If you said I'd be doing this in 1985, I'd say, 'You're crazy,'" remarked the 23-year veteran. "This is the kind of training you hope you never have to use."

The "insurgents" saw the Humvees bearing down on them from afar and darted for their AK-47s.

"We want them to know what to expect," said Tech. Sgt. Clinton Ackerley, 38, an instructor who helps coordinate the explosions. "Here they come!"

When the convoy got to the middle of town, it was stopped by explosions and small-arms fire. Smoke obscured the vehicles as airmen shot blanks from their M-16s.

The staccato fire of a real .50-caliber machine gun on a nearby Fort Dix range added to the chaos.

From his gun turret atop a Humvee, Chatburn emptied three magazines on the attackers while Hunt radioed from another Humvee and Conner sat in the driver's seat of yet another, ready to hit the gas.

In minutes, the airmen finished the transfer of "wounded" and were speeding to their base. They would get a critique of their performance in class an hour later.

"Did your weapons work?" asked Tech. Sgt. Samuel Young, an instructor and aircraft mechanic, as he reviewed the mission.

"Yes," was the reply, as several men unloaded blanks from magazines.

"You returned fire, stepped on the gas, and got out of the area," said Young, 36, approvingly.

In a conference room later, Self stressed the growing importance of combat training. "You won't be a detriment" to fellow service members, especially the Army soldiers and Marines who usually run the convoys, he said. No matter what, "you'll know how to take care of yourself and your buddy."

The Air Force is changing to meet the needs of all its members, Self said.

"Dropping the bombs and delivering people and bullets, that's flying," he said. "But that doesn't happen without a force on the ground."

## QUICK NEWS

## UC Davis to open campus brewery, winery

University of California, Davis, officials have announced plans to build a state-of-the-art complex focusing on wine, beer and food science research.

The University of California regents approved design plans for the Research and Teaching Winery

and August A. Busch III Brewing and Food Science Laboratory last week, a UC Davis news release states.

The new facilities will be part of the university's Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science. Construction on the 34,000-square-foot building, which will house the winery and

lab, will be completed next year, the release states.

The brewing and food science lab will house a food processing pilot plant, a dairy processing facility and a pilot brewery for the Department of Food Science and Technology.

—McClatchy Newspapers

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## POINT • COUNTERPOINT

## Do high school athletes need to be tested for steroids?

Programs' results prove steroid testing not worth \$6 million price tag

Young athletes' health needs to be prioritized, no matter the cost



MICHAEL CARROLL

In 2007, the state of Texas instituted a \$6 million program for testing male and female high school athletes for steroids. The program will aim to test 50,000 students by the end of this school year.

Last Friday, the University Interscholastic League released its second round of test results from the program. A test of nearly 19,000 students yielded just seven positive results for steroid use. The first round of results, which tested around 10,000 students, caught just four high school athletes.

The results may surprise some, but we're talking about 16-, 17- and 18-year-old athletes. Gaining

a competitive advantage in high school sports is the least of their worries, and the results prove that point. If you're good at a sport in high school, you know it. In most cases, it's only when athletes reach higher levels of competition that they begin searching for an edge on the competition.

The math is simple — almost 30,000 tests, 11 positive results. That's less than .04 percent, folks.

Now, divide the \$6 million cost of the program by the number of positives. So far, the state of Texas has spent \$545,454.55 per positive test.

That's an outrageous sum of money to be spending on something that appears to be a non-issue.

The State of Texas could be spending the \$6 million on a worthwhile cause like creating jobs and bolstering the education system, especially during these uncertain economic times. Testing high school students for steroids should be the least of our

That's an outrageous sum of money to be spending on something that appears to be a non-issue.

state's worries.

At least be fair to the athletes and test all high schoolers for all illegal substances. That would probably yield some interesting positive results.

The steroid problem has certainly left its mark on the current era of sports, but not at the high school level. The steroid testing program is proving to be a total failure and a complete waste of money and it should be scaled back or done away with as soon as possible.

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



BILLY WESSELS

After just 11 positives out of 28,934 tests since last year, the University Interscholastic League is considering cutting back on steroid testing.

Scaling down testing in high school sports in Texas is a terrible idea.

Sure the testing program costs \$6 million, but can you put a price on the safety and future of our high school athletes?

In case you don't know the possible side effects of steroids, here are just a few, according to [www.anabolic-bible.org](http://www.anabolic-bible.org): acne, aggression, anaphylactic shock, birth defects, blood clotting, cardiovascular disease, depression, hair loss, high blood pressure and

possibly the least pleasant, testicular atrophy.

As much as I love sports and as much as I want to see the best product on the field, I would rather see these youngsters thrive in life instead of hitting a couple extra home runs or running faster sprints.

There are too many risk factors and too much peer pressure on these young athletes to not continue to test the athletes as frequently as they are now.

While the UIL feels like it has done enough to save the integrity of the sports, this is about much more than the game.

Kids turn on ESPN everyday and hear about athletes like New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez and San Diego Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman testing positive for steroids and they begin to think they might have to do the same thing one day if they become a big-name athlete.

As of right now, we only know the short-term effects of steroids.

There are too many risk factors and too much peer pressure on these kids to not continue to test the athletes as frequently as they are now.

One day we will learn about their long-term effects and if they are anything as bad as what we have seen in the short term. We need to get these kids off the juice now and save their future.

Right now, the UIL has shown that high school athletes are pretty much clean. Let's just hope it doesn't cut back on its testing and instead ends up keeping its conscience as clean as the players'.

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

## NFL

## Jacobs to remain with N.Y. Giants

By Tom Rock  
Newsday

It turns out the tag was temporary.

The Giants on Wednesday signed running back Brandon Jacobs to a four-year contract worth \$25 million with \$13 million of it guaranteed. Jacobs, 26, was said to be looking for a longer term on the deal during negotiations, but the average of \$6.25 million per year puts him among the highest paid running backs in the NFL. The Giants likely were nervous about extending the contract beyond four years due to Jacobs' injuries; he has yet to play a 16-game season despite rushing for over 1,000 yards in each of the last two.

Earlier this month the Giants put a franchise tag on Jacobs to prevent him from becoming a free agent. Both sides said at the time they would continue working on a long-term deal. It wound up being agreed upon a day before free agency began.

"I was confident all along that this was going to get done, I didn't panic one bit," Jacobs said in a statement through the Giants. "I know

the reason we did it the way we did. I knew I was going to be here. I was super-confident and I am here. I'm happy about it."

It's unclear how the con-

**"I was confident all along that this was going to get done, I didn't panic one bit."**

**Brandon Jacobs**  
Giants' running back

tract will affect the Giants' salary cap, but it will leave the Giants with more room than the \$6.621 million they would have been on the books for had Jacobs signed his franchise tender. The Giants' other 1,000-yard running back, Derrick Ward, will become a free agent on Friday.

"Both parties are happy to get a long-term deal done," general manager Jerry Reese said. "Now Brandon can totally concentrate on the off-season program and get himself ready to go this fall."

Added Jacobs: "I'm looking for big things out of our football team next year."

## BASEBALL

continued from page 8

that is resilient."

Carpenter and Ellington would score again in the third and put the Horned Frogs ahead for good.

Carpenter led off the inning with a double into the gap in right-center field. Ellington reached base on an error by Loftin, putting runners on the corners. A wild pitch by Bobcat junior starter Michael Russo would score Carpenter and put Ellington on second. Junior first baseman Matt Curry crushed a double to left field to score Ellington and put the Frogs up 4-2.

"We had a lot of good at bats," Schlossnagle said. "They ran their best pitcher at us. He was getting us with the breaking ball early. I think we had a lot of competitive (at bats) and eventually wore down the pitcher."

The Horned Frogs doubled their score in the bottom of the sixth.

The inning started with a shot down the left field line for a double by sophomore catcher Jimmie Pharr. Senior second baseman Ben Carruthers followed Pharr with an infield single. With runners on the corners, Carpenter hit a sacrifice fly to shallow center field to score Pharr. Ellington singled to left to score Carruthers. Curry drew a walk; then freshman left fielder Jason Coats hit a single to left to load the bases. Featherston recorded his third RBI of the game with a sacrifice fly to score

**"It's going to be tough for someone to come in and shut us out."**

**Taylor Featherston**  
freshman shortstop

Ellington. Senior designated hitter Matt Vern hit a single up the middle to score Curry.

Featherston lead the offense with three hits in four at bats and knocking in three runs. "I saw the ball well," Featherston said. "I guess me being a freshman I am getting a lot of fastballs, and that is what I have been looking for."

The pitching staff also did their part in the win, allowing just six hits, two of those came in the first inning.

With a Horned Frog win and a loss by the New Mexico Lobos on Wednesday, TCU jumped into first place in the Mountain West Conference.

"Everything is kind of coming into place," Featherston said. "We have a deep pitching staff this year and our lineup has a bunch of good bats. It's going to be tough for someone to come in and shut us out."

Next up for the baseball team is a road trip against the No. 22 Ole Miss Rebels.

"We are going on the road to face a great SEC program," Schlossnagle said. "It will be a real good test for our ball club and where we eventually want to be."

## EQUESTRIAN

## Horned Frogs to face unfamiliar N.M. foe

By Elise Smith  
Staff Reporter

The equestrian team hopes to bounce back from a weekend loss against Southern Methodist University and gain some momentum for the National Championships as they take on the New Mexico State University Aggies this Saturday in Mansfield.

It will be the first time the team has

**"The last game was an eye opener for us but it gave us inspiration to work even harder and kick it into gear."**

**Taylor Frederick**  
freshman

faced the Aggies, and head coach Gary Reynolds said his riders are looking forward to competing against them because they have a great team and could be a great rival for TCU.

The No. 7-ranked team lost to SMU last weekend 3-8, despite strong performances from sophomores Milana Trimino and Jessica Hagen in equitation on the flat.

"The last game was an eye opener for us but it gave us inspiration to work even harder and kick it into

gear," said Taylor Frederick, a freshman member of the English team.

Reynolds said the riders were not very sharp in their last competition and are working on improving their focus and mental preparation in executing their patterns.

"We are coming off of a big road trip and we had a lot of games in a row," Reynolds said. "We had some mistakes happen all at one time but we will work those out at practice this week."

Carrie von Uhlit, a senior member of both the English and Western teams, said the riders are approaching their difficulties differently by reviewing previous rides through videos and discussing their previous performances more.

Reynolds said it has been a long, hard run for the team the past couple weeks but he is proud of how hard the riders have worked this season. He said they are pushing to make the last 10 days of the season before the championships the best.

Frederick said the team has matured and grown a lot since the beginning of the year. She said they have finally learned how to buckle down and get the job done.

Reynolds said the team is looking forward to the next two competitions, taking time off and gearing up for nationals in April.

The team will host against Oklahoma State University March 8 in its last competition before nationals.

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Erica Upshaw

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# ETC.



### Today in History

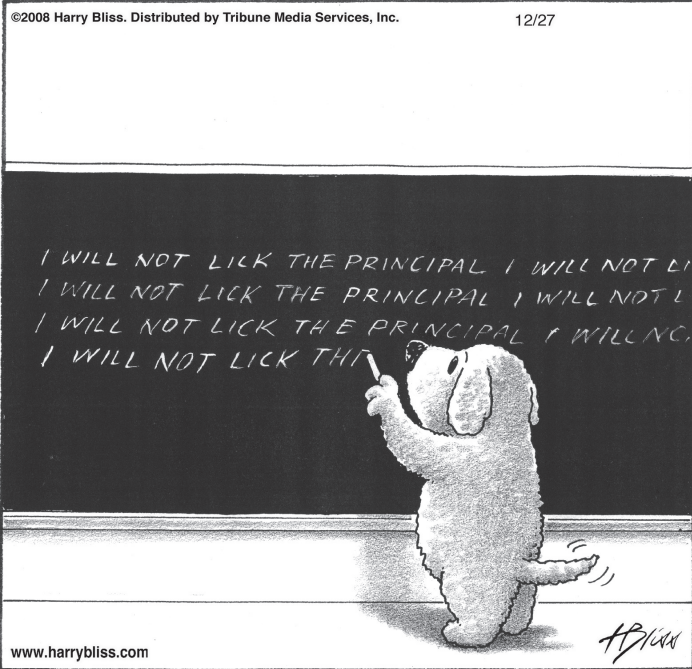
On this day in history, two national parks were established in the United States 10 years apart — the Grand Canyon in 1919 and the Grand Tetons in 1929.  
— History Channel

### Joke of the Day

Q: Why do birds fly south?  
A: Because it's too far to walk.

### Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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**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

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

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15 Actress/director Lupino  
16 Overseas  
17 Start of a quip  
19 Hogs the mirror  
20 Bedazzlement  
21 Golfer Ernie  
22 Also  
23 Wacky  
25 Republican symbol  
29 Part 2 of quip  
31 Cover crop  
32 Depleted  
35 Brown shades  
36 Swab brand  
37 Tippy vessel  
38 10 of calendars  
39 False appearance  
40 Singer Vallee  
41 Kin partner  
42 Wrinkles  
43 Tavern brew  
44 Part 3 of quip  
46 Good fortune!  
48 Paradise  
52 Tracy's Trueheart  
53 As easy as \_\_\_  
54 Cape \_\_\_, MA  
55 Neville and Burr  
58 End of quip  
60 One with fair hair  
61 Winner's letter  
62 Sellsame  
63 Senior  
64 End hunger  
65 Martial \_\_\_

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By Ed Voile Gillette, WY 2/26/09

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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# SPORTS



The men's basketball team prepares for a weekend matchup against SDSU. Tomorrow

BASEBALL • TCU 8, TEXAS STATE 2

## OUTTA HERE



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Junior first baseman Matt Curry tags out freshman left fielder Tyler Sibley during the first inning against Texas State University.

## Horned Frogs take MWC lead

By Billy Wessels  
Staff Writer

The baseball team has now won four straight games after snapping the Texas State University Bobcats' three-game win streak.

After giving up two runs in the top of the first, the Horned Frogs recovered and scored eight unanswered runs on the way to the 8-2 victory.

"That was probably the best Greg Holle has pitched since coming to TCU," head coach Jim Schlossnagle said. "We played

good defense behind him and got enough timely hits to stretch (the lead) out and we had a lot of guys throw well out of the bullpen."

After a two-run bomb over the left field wall by Bobcat junior first baseman Paul Goldschmidt, the Horned Frogs rallied to tie the game in the bottom of the inning.

After senior third baseman Matt Carpenter drew a one-out walk, senior right fielder Chris Ellington hit a single to put runners on first and second. A wild pitch moved both runners into

scoring position.

Three batters later, freshman shortstop Taylor Featherston smashed a grounder between second and third that took a funny hop and nailed Bobcat shortstop Lance Loftin in the face. Both Carpenter and Ellington scored as the ball caromed into center field.

"Anytime you can get some rebound runs it's a great thing," Schlossnagle said. "It gives you a chance to give the pitcher some confidence. It's good to have a club

SEE BASEBALL • PAGE 5

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



BRETT LARSON / Staff Photographer

Junior Shayla Moore shoots a three-pointer during the first half against New Mexico. The Lady Frogs captured their sixth win in a row with the 41-38 victory.

## Lady Frogs win low-scoring affair

By Curtis Burrhus-Clay  
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team extended its win streak to six games in exciting fashion, edging out the University of New Mexico Lobos 41-38 in the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum Wednesday night.

The 41 points marks the lowest point total in a win in team history. The previous low was a 49-47 victory against Southwestern University in 1982.

The game ended with an off-balance shot by New Mexico junior guard Amy Beggin that failed to go down.

The Lady Frogs struggled offensively, shooting just over 24 percent from the field, but they picked up the slack on the defensive end, forcing 19 New Mexico turnovers.

Head coach Jeff Mittie said he thought his team played its most complete defensive game of the season.

"I thought we were really active," Mittie said. "We were trying to be more aggressive on their guards than we were last time."

The Lobos cut the lead down to one point on several occasions in the second half but were unable to jump in front of the Lady Frogs.

After missing her first two attempts, sophomore guard Helena Sverrisdottir made two clutch free throws to put the Horned Frogs up by three with only 19 seconds remaining in the game. Sverrisdottir said she couldn't find a rhythm all night, but she was glad she could come through when her team needed it most.

"I could not make a shot this whole night so I was really impressed that those two went in," Sverrisdottir said. "It was the most important time of the game."

Mittie said this was a big win in the final stretch, especially since their final two games are against some of the league's top teams, San

"This is a big win for us. The top of the league plays each other here in the next week and a half so there will be some separation."

Jeff Mittie  
head coach

Diego State University and the University of Utah.

"This is a big win for us," Mittie said. "The top of the league plays each other here in the next week and a half so there will be some separation."

The Lady Frogs head to San Diego State on Saturday to face the Aztecs before closing out the regular season against Utah at home.

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