



For coverage of the men's tennis team's match against SMU, go to **DailySkiff.com**.


Are gigantic contracts for pro athletes helping or hurting sports and its fans? **Sports, page 6**

- PAPERBACK NONFICTION BEST SELLERS**
- Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
 - Dream From My Father by Barack Obama
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 - 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey
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Students still rue the day the tailgate died. **Opinion, page 3**

PECULIAR FACT
 AMSTERDAM — Dutch artist Johan van der Dong has set up a local telephone number in the Netherlands, where he urges people to leave messages for God on his answering machine.
 — Reuters Life!

TODAY'S WEATHER
 **84 60**
 HIGH LOW
 Windy
 Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny 79 / 61
 Saturday: Mostly Cloudy 75 / 59



The university is seeing an increase in enrollment, bucking a national trend. **Tomorrow in News**



ABC's "The Bachelor" ending is a disappointing reflection of poor character. **Tomorrow in Opinion**

TECHNOLOGY

Google launches social tracking device

By Callie Mason
 Staff Reporter

Do you ever get the feeling you are being followed? With new advances in technology and tracking devices, you very well may be.

Google launched Latitude last month, which uses laptop and cell phone data to show one's location to friends.

Sam Altman, a Stanford University student, developed a company called Loopt in 2006. Similar to Latitude, it also provides location to friends and is now available for varying cell phones.

Norman Sadeh, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., said he decided to invent his own tracking device that provides users a chance to choose friends who are able to see them and at what time. Latitude and Loopt require users to deselect other users who don't want to see their locations, whereas users with Sadeh's device select the people they want to see their whereabouts.

Sadeh's device is called Locaccino, and it is mainly used on laptops. Within weeks however, the application will be available for cell phones, he said.

After much research, Sadeh said the largest

problem people have with tracking services is privacy.

Sadeh said it's not the case with his tracking device.

Locaccino is location-based, which means students are able to decide where they want to be located, he said.

"What the people have are preferences that are linked to where they are," Sadeh said. "For instance, when they are on campus, they are willing to share their location and when they are off campus, they don't."

Locaccino gives users options as to when they want to be tracked, on what days and at

what time, Sadeh said.

"There is actually a security element to being able to show your location to some people," Sadeh said.

The tracking device can be useful in both social and serious scenarios, Sadeh said. If a person is going to some remote location, it would be useful to let some people know where they are, in case something goes wrong and they would need to be rescued, he said.

There are two different ways that a person can use this application. One is to allow

SEE LAPTOP · PAGE 2

JUST SHORT



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Sophomore Steven Maxwell fires a pitch Wednesday night against Baylor at Lupton Stadium. Maxwell allowed one run in four innings in a 2-1 loss.

The Horned Frogs' top 25 matchup with Baylor on Wednesday night lived up to its billing, but the team ended up on the wrong end of a 2-1 final score. The team's recently potent bats fell silent as strong winds blew in at Lupton Stadium. A ninth-inning comeback fell short with a man on second and a pinch-hitter at bat.

See page 6

IMPROVE TCU

Sustainable campus among concerns

By Eric Anderson
 Staff Reporter

The ideas SGA representatives received at the second annual Improve TCU Day ranged from outlandish, like a moving walkway from Worth Hills to the Brown-Lupton University Union, to the more practical, like limiting motorized carts on the walkways during passing periods, an event coordinator said.

Justin Brown, senior psychology major,

"Most of the substantive ideas involved green or sustainability issues like water conservation, a food compost system and recycling,"

Justin Brown

chairman of the Student Relations Committee and coordinator of Improve TCU Day

chairman of the Student Relations Committee and coordinator of Improve TCU Day, said Student Government Association representatives received more than 1,000 ideas from students on potential ways to improve their college experience.

Brown said parking, meal plan issues and tuition costs topped the list both this year and last. Many students brought up the new issue of sustainability as a major concern, he said.

"Most of the substantive ideas involved green or sustainability issues like water conservation, a food compost system and recy-

SEE IMPROVEMENTS · PAGE 2

BIOLOGY

Student discovers species of orchid in South America

By Alexandria Bruton
 Staff Reporter

Inside an unassuming red brick warehouse downtown, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas houses more than a million rare, dried botanical specimens. Among the millions of botanical species are some discovered by TCU students.

Rebecca Repasky is one of these students. Repasky, who graduated from the university with a masters in biology, participated in a collaboration between BRIT and the Andes to Amazon Biodiversity Program, which researches relationships between organisms and their environments in



ALEXANDRIA BRUTON / Staff Reporter

TCU alumna Tiana Franklin, collections manager at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, shows a unique plant specimen at the BRIT library in downtown Fort Worth on Tuesday afternoon.

SEE ORCHID · PAGE 2

STUDY ABROAD

University establishes ties with Singapore institution

By Jordan Smith
 Staff Reporter

Horned Frogs are common in Fort Worth, but they've been known to migrate to places like France, Japan, Ecuador — and now Singapore.

Sonny Lim, the director of International Relations for Nanyang Technological University, visited campus Wednesday to finalize the exchange program agreement between the Singapore-based university and TCU, giving students interested in study abroad programs another opportunity to experience life outside Texas.

Although Nanyang Technological University was founded as an engineering school, it offers a well-rounded variety of schools and degree plans, including art, communication and business, said Jane Kucko, director of International Studies at TCU. This made Nanyang an ideal choice

to partner with, she said, because students in any degree plan will be able to study there.

Also appealing is the fact that Nanyang is located in a primarily English-speaking city, Lim said.

"I think Singapore offers a unique opportunity in the sense that we teach in English," Lim said. "We function in other languages socially ... but we have a common connecting language in English. Singapore would be a unique study abroad opportunity because it is a soft landing — a very good landing — into studying abroad. It's Asia 101."

This is the first exchange program TCU will offer to Asia that will not require student competency in a foreign language, Kucko said.

Students have always had a wide selection of schools outside the coun-

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NEWS

ORCHID

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South America.

The program is mostly funded by a \$2.3 million challenge grant awarded to BRIT by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, said alumna and BRIT collections manager Tiana Franklin. The grant required BRIT to make a commitment to education, which in part led to the collaboration between the university and the institute, Franklin said.

During her time in Peru, Repasky discovered a new orchid species, she said. Without the opportunity the university provided her, she never would have had this experience, she said.

"Without a doubt this was the best experience I had at TCU," Repasky said. "TCU and BRIT gave me the chance to make a difference in the world, and that's really special."

She participated in the program at first because funding was available and she couldn't miss the opportunity to do hands-on research, Repasky said. Repasky, who received funding for one year, said she had to decide between studying bat feces or orchids, and the choice was simple.

"Studying orchids just sounded better at first," Repasky said. "It definitely sounded more appealing than bat excrement."

During her stay, Repasky lived among locals and fellow researchers in Peru's Cloud Rainforest. Each day she walked the preset trails and noted every plant or flower within her area, she said.

One day, she noticed a flower she hadn't seen before, she said. She took pictures of the specimen and collected samples, which she sent to Eric Christenson, one of the world's top orchid experts, to analyze.

Christenson said it was fairly easy to recognize that Repasky's findings were a new species.

"Sometimes it can take

months to determine if a specimen is a new species or not," Christenson said. "In this particular case it was fairly simple, with only 20 of species between Peru and Bolivia, it was easy to recognize that this plant was not like the rest."

Repasky said the process of identifying the orchid can be an arduous task because there are an estimated 30,000 different types or orchids.

Repasky's finding was published in *Orchid Digest* and named *Stellilabium cuscoense*, she said.

Christenson said the entire plant is about as big as an index finger and the flower itself is bigger than a pinhead but smaller than a fingernail.

Repasky said *Stellilabium cus-*

"Sometimes it can take months to determine if a specimen is a new species or not."

Eric Christenson
orchid expert

coense's appearance is unique. The yellow and purple flower looks exactly like a female version of a particular insect, she said. The male insect, in attempts to mate with the flower, ends up pollinating the surrounding area.

The culture shock and difficult research was all worthwhile the moment her discovery was officially labeled a new species, Repasky said.

"I lived off just potatoes and rice for a year, which was really difficult," Repasky said. "Research is hard, and it doesn't always turn out perfectly but a moment like this, where I made a discovery and a significant contribution to science, made the whole experience, including the meals, worth it."



Courtesy of JANE KUCKO
A group of Nanyang Technological University students study in the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information building in Singapore.

SINGAPORE

continued from page 1

try where they could study, but many of those opportunities are arranged through organizations like the Council on International Educational Exchange or IES Abroad, said Bonnie Melhart, associate provost of academic affairs.

Because this program is offered directly through TCU, and not through a third party, the cost of studying abroad in Nanyang will be significantly less than studying at campuses where TCU does not have a program, Kucko said. Kucko compared the cost of studying at Nanyang to the cost of living on campus at TCU.

"It's a very affordable location," Kucko said.

Although Nanyang is a primarily English-speaking school, Melhart said students studying there will still be able to immerse themselves in a truly international city.

Students will also get to learn what it's like to study at a much larger institution. About 25,000 students are enrolled at Nanyang Technological University, Kucko said.

Besides culture and size, Nanyang will offer students the opportunity to study at a technologically advanced institution, Lim said. One feature Nanyang offers is automatic video recording of every class on campus, he said. Lim said if students miss class, they can simply watch it later on Nanyang's intranet system.

TCU students will be able

to study at Nanyang beginning in fall of 2009, and they may choose to stay for either a semester or a year, Kucko said. The program will be small at first, with only one or two students traveling for the first semester, she said.

Melhart said she hopes that in the future professors will also participate in the program.

Additionally, since this is an exchange program, Nanyang will be sending a similar number of students to Fort Worth beginning the same semester, Melhart said.

Nanyang, which translates to "South Seas" in Mandarin, Lim said, already has study abroad agreements with Cornell University, New York University, San Diego State University and many others.

IMPROVEMENTS

continued from page 1

cling," Brown said.

Students submitted suggestions in person to SGA representatives, who wore blue shirts, and also on the dialogue boards in the University Recreation Center and Market Square at the Feb. 18 event.

Representatives in the House have started the task of responding to the suggestions that included contact information on them, Brown said.

Student Body Vice President Matt Dietrichson, a sophomore political science major, said the goals of Improve TCU Day were to allow students to give suggestions on ways to make TCU a better place and to put a face with their representatives.

"It was a great event that hopefully can be made into a bigger event," Dietrichson said.

Myra Mills, junior music education major and Fine Arts Representative to the House of Student Representatives, attached a 20-foot banner to the construction fence behind Frog Fountain where many students wrote ideas directly on it.

Mills said Improve TCU Day grew substantially in its second year on campus.

"The goal was the same, but the support for it increased this year," Mills said.

Brown said the next Improve TCU Day will be held this fall and depending on the amount of student feedback, it will be held every semester thereafter to accommodate the changing needs of the student body.

Next semester, SGA members will attempt to man tables in every college in order to better represent their constituents, Brown said.

LAPTOP

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others to see where you are located, Sadeh said. This can be done by downloading the application to your computer or cell phone, which is called the locator client. After downloading, you can go to Facebook and configure the settings that specify who will be allowed to see your location, he said.

"If no rules are set, by default, no one can see where you are," Sadeh said.

Carrie White, a junior interior design major, said her parents don't know where she is most of the time, so it shouldn't be necessary for her professors to.

Homophobia attacked via airwaves

By Jessie Mangaliman
San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — As a young college student studying Oriental philosophy in Saigon during the early part of the Vietnam War, Vuong Nguyen was hired by the American military to be a radio news writer and reader.

"My job was to communicate to Communist Hanoi," she said, "to tell them to disarm and come to the South."

Nguyen, now 66, is communicating to a different kind of audience in America today but using the same quiet but determined tactic against an unseen enemy: homophobia.

Known as "Chi Vuong," or "Older Sister Vuong," Nguyen is founder of Song That — Vietnamese for "live truthfully" — the country's first Vietnamese gay and lesbian radio program, which she started 10 years ago in March. Broadcast every Sunday night on San Jose's KSJX-AM and streamed online at www.songthat.com, the hourlong program seeks to battle ignorance about homosexuality in the Vietnamese community. There is no Vietnamese word for homosexuality, and gays and lesbians are unflatteringly referred to as half-man, half-woman, or worse, as having "sick lives."

"We can't let people treat us as bad people," said Nguyen, a petite woman with shiny henna-red hair that falls past her shoulder. "We need to speak out and make them understand. To know us!"

The show she founded is recorded digitally in one corner of her cramped living room, the rosewood furniture hidden behind and under stacks of CDs of past radio programs and photo albums of past gay pride parades. A wide desk is shoved in one corner by the front door, illuminated by a dim glass lamp. A wireless microphone is propped up inside a black ceramic coffee mug. A sign above the desk reads: "Song That Radio."

As she has done for the past decade, Nguyen writes the program. Long hand. "I can't type," she said apologetically. Then she lines up her readers, whom she



NHAT V. MEYER / San Jose Mercury News via MCT
Vuong Nguyen, left, 66-year-old co-founder of the country's only Vietnamese gay and lesbian program, "Song That," helps Duc Le record his voice at her home in San Jose, Calif. on Feb. 18.

coaches firmly as they read.

Her longtime friends describe her as selfless, courageous and a tireless advocate who has spent thousands of dollars of her own money to pay for the radio's operation.

The program is a Vietnamese-style broadcasting mix of news, contemporary music, poetry and letters from readers.

At a recording session one recent Wednesday, there was news about continuing work on same-sex marriage in California; a first-ever lesbian wedding scene on the soap opera "All My Children"; a poem from listener Jason Tran, whose lover committed suicide after being disowned by his family for being gay.

Duc Le, the radio's board secretary, read an e-mail from a man in his late 20s. It's an open letter to parents, from a closeted son.

"I don't blame you for not understanding my personal life," Le read, "a life that's filled with sorrow and oppression."

Le, 39, met Nguyen almost 14 years ago at one of the monthly get-togethers that Nguyen hosted at her home. Many in the group were closeted, but Nguyen, Le

said, led by example. She was out and she had a partner.

"She is the heart of the queer LGBT Viet community," said Kim Loan Nguyen, 34, of San Jose.

She is not related to Vuong Nguyen, who she said is "a humble woman who has single-handedly gone out there gathering and welcoming alienated, isolated, lost, closeted souls ... eventually giving birth to a very much needed new family."

At the Tet parade in February, the newly out and proud family led by Nguyen — lesbian mothers with their children, straight allies and non-Vietnamese supporters — marched in downtown San Jose. It was a watershed for the Vietnamese gay and lesbian community and, some say, testament to Nguyen's years of hard work.

As big as the war that she fought in her own way as a young person in Vietnam, Nguyen has her eye on perhaps an even larger goal for the radio show.

"Parents will open their hearts to their kids," she wrote in a grant proposal seeking funds for the radio program. "There will be no more broken families, no more tragedies in families."

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

University should actively aid graduation

The university's decision to implement a flat-rate tuition in 2001 was supposed to encourage a greater number of students to take enough classes to graduate in four years.

Under this tuition system, a full-time student taking 18 hours pays the same amount of money as a full-time student who is taking just 12.

Although the move to the flat rate was designed to benefit students, it has seen limited success up to this point. A 44.9 percent four-year graduation rate in the year 2000 jumped to just 54 percent by 2004.

Campus officials argue that since the flat-rate tuition system hasn't been as helpful as hoped in enticing students to get through college faster, adding another incentives, like a four-year graduation guarantee that Mercer University has implemented, would likely be unsuccessful as well.

With its four-year graduation guarantee, Mercer pledges to pay for all additional classes, on-campus housing and meal plans for students who need more than four years to graduate. The students must meet certain requirements like enrolling full time, meeting regularly with advisors and maintaining good grades to qualify.

The university says that while helping TCU students graduate in four years is a priority, a student's engagement with his or her school is more important than a high graduation rate.

But if the university is really concerned with helping students graduate in a period of four years, instituting a program like the four-year graduation guarantee would be an excellent step toward ensuring that students meet that goal. It would also force the school to improve the current advising system, one of the top three reasons students said their graduations were delayed.

Also, the current flat-rate tuition is unfair to students who work full-time and take 12 hours of classes who have to pay the same amount as non-working students taking 18 hours.

Guiding students through an engaging college experience in four years, by whatever method, should be a priority for the university as it moves forward.

Sports editor Michael Carroll for the editorial board.

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

Limiting tailgate booze doesn't promote safety



LAUREN FARRELLY

Oh, the glorious memory of tailgates. Greeks chillin' and hot dogs grillin' makes one reminisce about times when students actually came together in one central location to support their school in what I believe is called "school spirit."

The advent of the 2008 football season with a new designated tailgate location and a ban on alcohol consumption marked the end of student tailgating as we knew it.

Most current students won't remember, but the administration should recall that six years ago, according to TCU Magazine, "SGA organized the first student tailgate on the Morris Practice Fields. But grilling was not allowed and students could only bring a six-pack or less. It flopped. In 2006, Student Affairs moved the tailgate to a lot north of Brachman Hall with more relaxed rules for food and beverage."

Our core curriculum requires every student to obtain a historical traditions credit for a reason: to learn from the past. History repeats itself. If the tailgate restrictions in 2003 discouraged student attendance

then, what makes the administration think this time is any different?

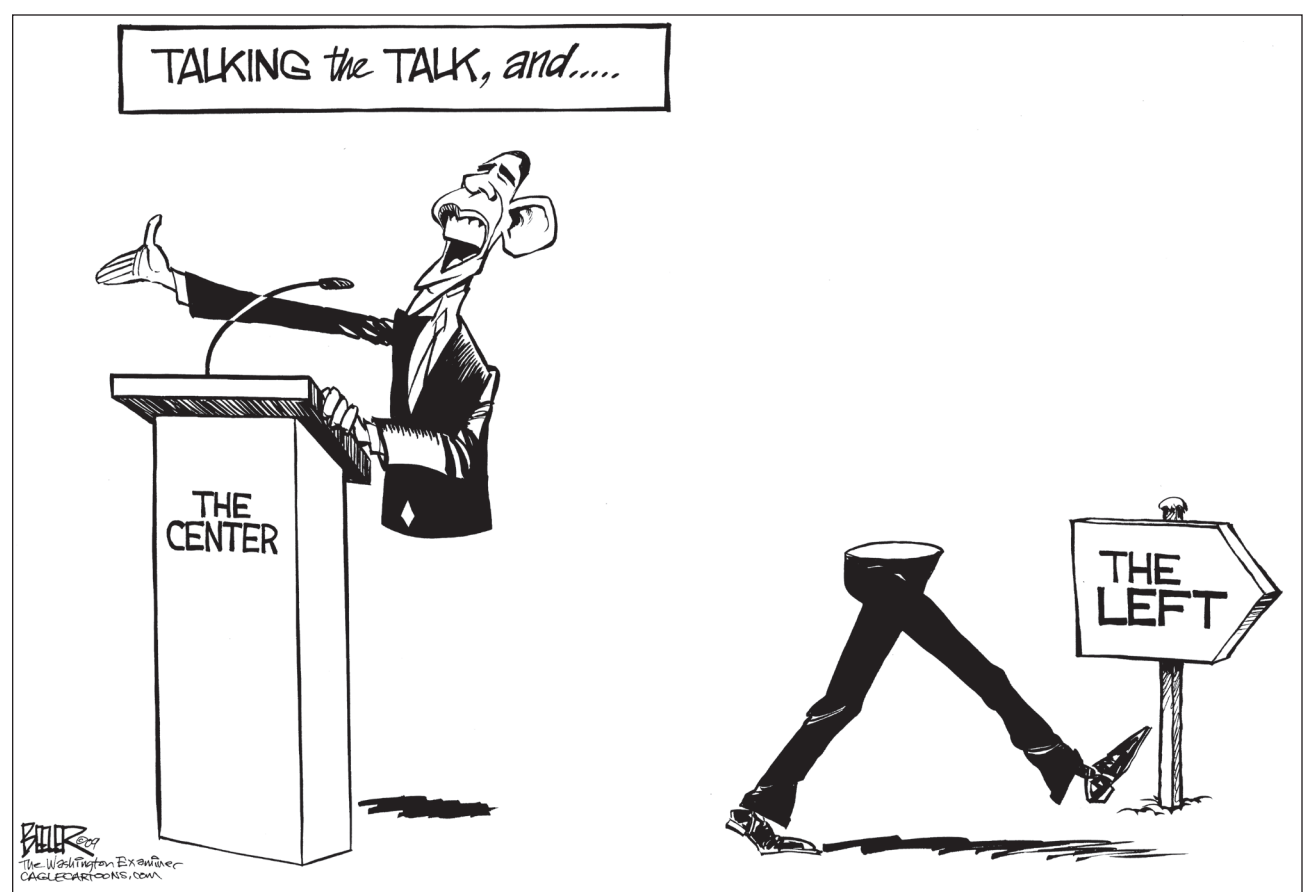
Underage drinking is obviously a liability issue, but serious precautions were always taken to ensure it did not occur. Event staff checked IDs and stamped hands of students who were of drinking age, while the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission patrolled for violators.

With the alcohol ban, Yvonne Giovanis, assistant director of the Alcohol and Drug Education Center said in a Sept. 3 Skiff article that she hopes students who go elsewhere to drink do so responsibly. "We are concerned about students' safety, but we cannot police personal, individual behavior," Giovanis told the Skiff.

Ridding student tailgates of alcohol has not and will not address the problem of underage drinking. If anything, it exacerbates the dangers by relocating the action to off-campus locations. Having a centralized tailgate enables monitoring by officials and is much more effective than a fruitless attempt to prevent students from drinking while simultaneously destroying a Horned Frog tradition.

The university cannot "educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community," when they prevent us from thinking and acting for ourselves so we can develop into responsible adults.

Lauren Farrelly is a sophomore international finance major from Fort Worth.



Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

Pickens Plan underestimates benefits of using foreign oil



MICHAEL LAUCK

As broadcast reporter John Stossel said, "It's amazing how ideas with no merit become popular merely because they sound good."

On Monday, T. Boone Pickens talked about how America must become energy independent. He said that our generation must take charge to make a change.

It sounds great to be energy independent. We wouldn't have to keep financing foreign powers and dealing with the political repercussions.

However, to believe these things is ignoring common sense and basic economics.

First, Pickens talks about making the U.S. energy independent like it's a new idea. Since President Richard Nixon was in office, the United States has tried to end its dependence on foreign oil. Today the U.S. uses more foreign oil than ever.

Secondly, this whole idea that cheap oil has put us in a trap is nonsense. In countries like Great Britain and Sweden, gas has always been expensive.

Cheap oil is a way for a working class, single mother to get to work. It's a way for families to afford the gas for two cars to get to work. Energy independence would hurt all Americans. Let me also remind you that if we reject foreign oil, Pickens will probably be supplying our energy.

Also, are we independent on anything? On a small scale, all of us are dependent on each other. My mother and father do not farm, make clothes, or build houses yet my family is clothed, fed, and sheltered. It's called specialization of labor and it's a simple economic term.



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor
 T. Boone Pickens, chairman of the hedge fund BP Capital Management, delivers his speech "The Pickens Plan - Ending Our Dependence on Foreign Oil," Monday at the Brown-Lupton University Union Ballroom.

Cheap oil is a way for a working class, single mother to get to work. It's a way for families to afford the gas for two cars to get to work. Energy independence would hurt all Americans.

If we try to do everything ourselves, our standard of living will be lowered. This is the same with countries. As well as getting oil from other countries, we also get clothes, food and other essential products. Trying to avoid imports would make everything more expensive.

In the case of solar and wind energy, neither has been profitable

and that is why they have not been developed.

Nuclear energy is a viable option, but government has restricted that growth by increasing the permit fees astronomically.

A lot of people say that we need to be energy independent because we are buying oil from countries that we don't like. People claim that countries like Venezuela, Iran, and Saudi Arabia are getting all of our money. However, critics of foreign oil ignore the benefits. We are getting a valuable resource that is difficult to obtain.

The costs greatly outweigh the gains of energy independence. People need to re-examine what they are actually supporting rather than just supporting something that sounds good.

Michael Lauck is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Houston.

American Holocaust survivors still haven't found justice

Holocaust survivors have not fared well over the past 11 years in their efforts to get European companies to compensate them for unpaid life-insurance policies bought before World War II. The survivors, whose numbers are diminishing, have had setbacks in the courts, at the White House and in Congress. Now, with a new congressional majority and a new team in the White House committed to change, there is hope that justice finally will prevail. The survivors' cause is more than just — it is a grievous wrong that must be righted.

Survivors expected that the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, which was created in 1998, would process and fairly resolve the insurance claims. However, when the commission concluded its work in 2007, it had paid out less than 3 percent of the estimated \$18 billion owed to victims

and their families. That was acceptable to some, but not all, of the survivors. Most offensive is that the settlement, metaphorically, sweeps so much more under the rug.

The settlement has been upheld by the courts, including the Supreme Court, and strongly defended by the Bush administration. But those outcomes must not be allowed to stand. Some insurers are believed to have double-crossed their Jewish clients by turning their names or addresses over to Nazi authorities, knowing full well the consequences — and profiting from the unpaid claims. It would be criminal not to identify any such perpetrators and assess penalties for their ill-gotten gains.

In 2000, a national coalition of survivor leaders founded the Holocaust Survivors Foundation, USA Inc. to represent the interests of disaffected

survivors. In a recent letter to President Barack Obama, HSF members wrote: "Only a fraction of the funds actually looted was recovered by individual owners or heirs, and only a small portion

Seeking fair redress for a historical wrong should be the business of all members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation.

of funds paid out for 'humanitarian purposes' have trickled down to meet the pressing needs of living Holocaust survivors."

Citing 2004 data from the Jewish Federation system, HSF says that 25

percent of an estimated 174,000 Holocaust survivors in the United States live at or below the poverty line. An equal number have incomes so low that they are de facto poor considering the high cost of living in their communities. Most now are in their 80s and 90s. Many suffer with poor nutrition and inadequate shelter, health care, dental care, etc. Much worse is that most get little help in dealing with the long-term effects of starvation, beatings, disease, injury and other Holocaust-related deprivations.

Last year, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., proposed the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act, which did not survive a divided Congress. Ros-Lehtinen said she would file similar legislation this year. The bill would create a public registry that includes the names of Holocaust-era policy holders. This would allow victims and heirs whose policies

have been destroyed to file claims. The bill also would explicitly give victims the right to sue for damages in court, a basic right that was lost in the recent court decisions.

Indeed, seeking fair redress for a historical wrong should be the business of all members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation. President Obama has many pressing items on his agenda, and Holocaust survivors, admittedly, represent a relatively small universe of people. However, creating a path to justice for Holocaust victims is an achievable goal, one deserving of bipartisan support and worthy of the attention of a president who understands the value of using power to achieve a greater good.

This editorial appeared in the Miami Herald on Sunday. It was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

SPORTS

POINT • COUNTERPOINT

Outrageous contracts: Pretentious or just part of sports entertainment?

Big-time athletes shouldn't shoulder blame for earning big-time money

Huge deals a punch to the gut for fans struggling to make ends meet



MICHAEL CARROLL

Athletes, despite the fame and over-the-top attention given to them, are really no different than you and I.

They are making their way through life, going to work every day and earning a living just like the rest of us are, or soon will.

While some of the recent money being thrown at high-profile athletes might seem a bit absurd — see star defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth's \$100 million deal with the Washington Redskins or slugger Manny Ramirez's new two-year, \$45 million deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers — how can we blame them for taking what their owners are silly enough to shell out for them? What's wrong with the idea of

getting the best possible deal out there?

If you were job hunting and you knew for a fact that you could play your cards right and bargain for more salary, there's no way you wouldn't try to get as much extra money as possible.

Whether these players deserve the amount of money they have been receiving lately is a different question. But huge contracts aren't thrown at players because they're genuinely good people or because they get along well with teammates, coaches and fans. Big money is handed to the best of the best. Those who score touchdowns, hit home runs and flat out dominate the competition get the biggest piece of the pie — and deservedly so.

The only reason athletes are paid so well is because people like you and me continue to throw money at sports franchises without hesitation. We are responsible for helping build these mammoth, money-spewing teams.

If you don't like your favorite

Big money is handed to the best of the best. Those who score touchdowns, hit home runs and flat out dominate the competition get the biggest piece of the pie — and deservedly so.

athletes making more money in a year — or a month — than you'll make in a lifetime, I suggest finding some other way of keeping yourself entertained.

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



Which side are you on? Go to DailySkiff.com and cast your vote.



BILLY WESSELS

While the majority of the American public is scrimping and saving, there is a certain group of people that is doing nothing but making a mockery of the economy.

This group I am talking about is professional athletes.

Seeing offers of \$20 million a year getting turned down is the last thing the American people want or need to see in the newspapers or on TV.

Especially Manny Ramirez. It's hard to be mad at a guy who has won me a couple fantasy baseball leagues, but seeing a guy turn down offers of \$45 million dollars over two years repeatedly, before eventually coming to his senses and accepting the deal, is just ridiculous.

These guys are going to get their money — a lot of money for most of them — and there is nothing wrong with getting what you have earned. However, turning down ridiculous amounts of money on numerous occasions is like a slap in the face to all Americans fighting to keep their head above water in these trying times.

Very few of us can count to \$45 million, let alone ever have a chance to see that much money in our bank account.

These players should be jumping at offers like this, not trying to milk every last dime out of owners. Eventually, if athletes keep doing stupid stuff like this, fans will turn away, which may or may not bother the players at first. But when no owners want to deal with divas that frustrate fans, those gigantic paychecks the players are used to seeing will be turning away.

The moral of the story of free agency is this: Sure, go out and get the best offer you can, but when the fans you didn't think about when you turned

It's hard to be mad at a guy who has won me a couple fantasy baseball leagues, but seeing a guy turn down offers of \$45 million dollars over two years repeatedly, before eventually coming to his senses and accepting the deal, is just ridiculous.

down that multi-million dollar offer leave you, don't cry. None of us can afford a Kleenex to wipe away your tears.

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

MEN'S TENNIS • TCU 4, SMU 3



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Junior Adrian Simon returns the ball in front of the net during a doubles match against SMU's Chris Hooshyar and Artem Baradach on Wednesday night.

For the complete story, visit DailySkiff.com.

WARNER

continued from page 6

both a Christian and a capitalist. "All I know is that I've worked hard to get to the point where I'm at," Warner said. "It just so happens for what I do, that's the market."

The deal makes sense for both sides. Warner, who will turn 38 this summer, gets \$19 million of guaranteed money the first year; if he gets hurt and Arizona decides to cut him after the 2009 season, he's already received the bulk of the contract.

Conversely, the front-loaded contract means the Cardinals could waive Warner and the cap hit for 2010 (\$7 million) wouldn't be exorbitant.

Most importantly, the Cardinals had to retain Warner. Letting him go to another team,

particularly an NFC West rival, would have been devastating, on the field, in the locker room and in the community.

"We're very fortunate to have a player playing at his level and also one that has his integrity and character," coach Ken Whisenhunt said.

Warner's signing will have a couple of immediate repercussions. The \$19 million in up-front money means Arizona will have significantly fewer dollars to spend in free agency.

Second, it shouldn't be long before the Matt Leinart camp demands a trade. Leinart will not be thrilled about the possibility of sitting two more years behind Warner.

But, those are worries for another day. The Cardinals got their quarterback, and Warner got what he wanted.

BASEBALL

continued from page 1

Ellington's outstretched glove. Baylor leadoff man Brooks Pinckard scored from third on the play after bunting for a base hit, stealing second and advancing on a fly ball.

"I felt like I made most of the pitches that I threw, things just didn't go my way," Maxwell said. "I just really hate to lose more than anything."

TCU loaded the bases in the bottom of the first on three straight walks with one out, but a Jason Coats strikeout and Taylor Featherston ground ball stranded all three runners.

After Baylor pushed another two-out run across the second, both teams put up zeroes until the eighth. Horned Frog relievers Trent Appleby, Kaleb Merck and Erik Miller combined for 4 2/3 innings of shutout baseball.

BOAT ACCIDENT

Coaches, teammates remember player

By Steve Corkran

Contra Costa Times

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Marquis Cooper arrived here in early November, hopeful of catching on with the Oakland Raiders.

Cooper was one of several unemployed players seeking to impress Raiders coach Tom Cable enough to receive a contract.

The other players struggled through the football-related drills and running exercises during the tryout. Cooper blew through each drill with little difficulty.

"Marquis was in the front," Cable recalled during a news conference Wednesday, "and it was like, 'What's the next thing?' So, I was very impressed that way. He had done what it took to be prepared for that opportunity."

That is how Cable and others prefer to remember Cooper in light of his disappearance in the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday and presumed death once the U.S. Coast Guard ended its extensive search Tuesday night.

"It shows that he's still out there and he's still fighting and he's going to find a way to get to shore."

Kirk Morrison
Raiders linebacker

Cable met with Bay Area print, radio and TV media Wednesday in an effort to share with people the Cooper that the Raiders came to know in his eight-game stint last season.

Cable spoke of a player who attended the team's chapel meeting every Saturday night, a person whose smile seemed to be a permanent feature on his face, a player who enjoyed his profession and someone who worked in the community.

"He became a huge part of what we were doing," Cable said. "And in that light, he became a leader, became someone people drew to. When you watch him walk in the

Search ends

U.S. Coast Guard has called off the search for the three remaining boaters, missing since Sunday off the coast of Florida. Two of the missing are NFL players Corey Smith and Marquis Cooper.



Everglades 211 CC

Length 21 ft. (6.4 m)
Width 8 ft. (2.4 m)
Cruising speed 40 knots
Max speed 50+ knots

About 6:30 a.m. ET, Saturday

Boaters depart from the Seminole Boat Ramp in Clearwater Pass

• Conditions: Favorable

Saturday, about 11 a.m. ET

Possible destination: well-known fishing spots 15-50 mi. (24-80 km) west of Tampa Bay

• Conditions: Wind gusts up to 23 mph (37 kph), 4-6 ft. (1-1.8 m) waves

Saturday afternoon

Boat capsizes; boaters cling to the vessel wearing their life jackets

Sundown Saturday

Parking lot empty except for Marquis Cooper's GMC truck

• Conditions: By 11 p.m. ET, wind increases

© 2009 MCT

1:30 a.m. ET, Sunday
Coast Guard search begins when the men are reported missing

• Conditions: Winds reached a steady 26 mph (42 kph) by 4 a.m., ET, with 33 mph (53 kph) gusts

• Conditions: Improved

1:20 p.m. ET, Monday
Schuyler taken to Tampa General Hospital

6:30 p.m. ET, Tuesday
Coast Guard ends search for missing boaters

Source: iboats.com; buyusedboatsforsale.com; tampabay.com
Graphic: Moses Harris, Martha Thierry, Detroit Free Press

building, in the locker room, or go out to the field, he had that glow about him ... That attitude and that honorable approach, if you will, to what this game is, certainly rubbed off on everybody."

Cooper earned two game balls for his special teams play last season.

Beyond that, he earned the admiration and respect of a team that, long before he arrived, formed a tight bond through offseason workouts and training camp.

Cooper and three other men went fishing off the west coast of Florida on Saturday morning and failed to return that night, as planned.

High winds and rough seas overturned the boat owned by Cooper and started a chain of events that resulted in only one of the men being rescued.

The Coast Guard said it called

off the search because it was confident that no one was in the water within their 24,000 square mile search area.

Cable, defensive backs coach Willie Brown and several of Cooper's teammates said they remain hopeful that Cooper still is alive.

"Knowing him as a football player and as a person, being around him, turn on the film of the games he's played in," fellow Raiders linebacker Kirk Morrison said in an interview on Sirius Radio. "It shows that he's still out there and he's still fighting and he's going to find a way to get to shore."

Brown has coped with numerous tragedies during his long Raiders career.

He said it doesn't get any easier for him or managing general partner Al Davis.

"We're hopeful that he will show up some place, that they still can find him," Brown said. "We're not going to give up hope. That's the main thing. But if he doesn't show up, if he's not here, he will be missed."

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ETC.



Today in History

On this day in 1963, the Hula-Hoop, a hip-swiveling toy that became a huge fad across America when it was first marketed by Wham-O in 1958, is patented by the company's co-founder, Arthur "Spud" Melin.

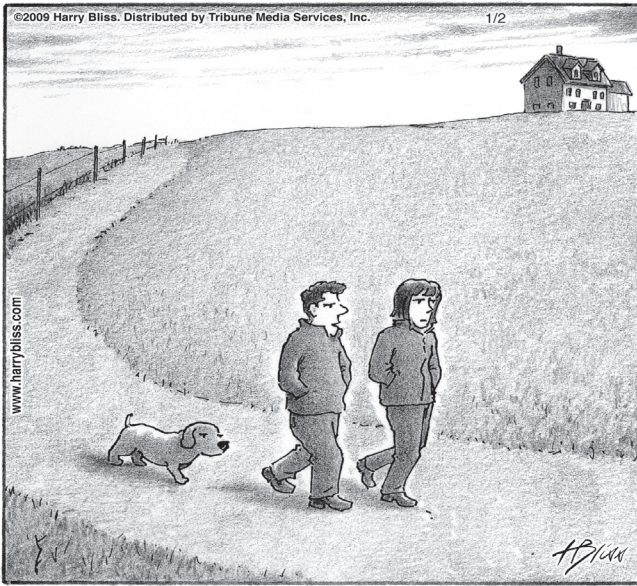
— History Channel

Joke of the Day

Q: Why is it hard to play poker in the jungle?
A: Because there are so many cheetas.

Bliss

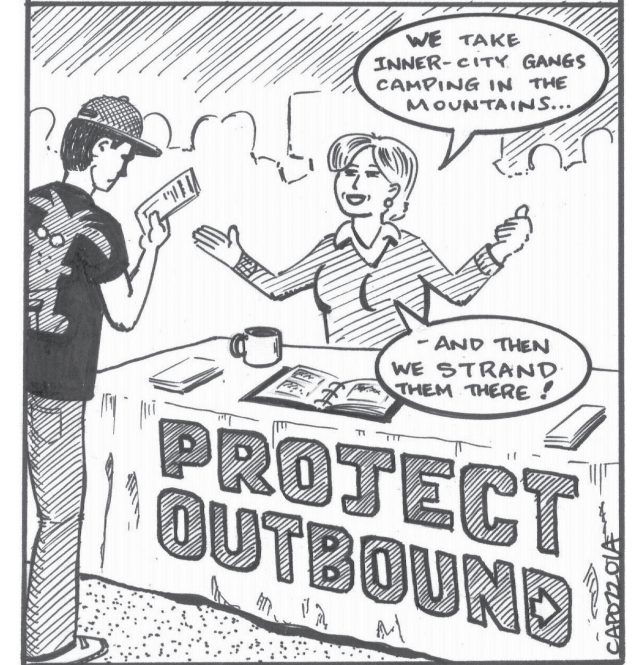
by Harry Bliss



"This is nice. Just you, me, Buster and a landscape by Andrew Wyeth."



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

GET TIPS AND MORE SOLUTIONS AT WWW.SUDOKU.COM

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

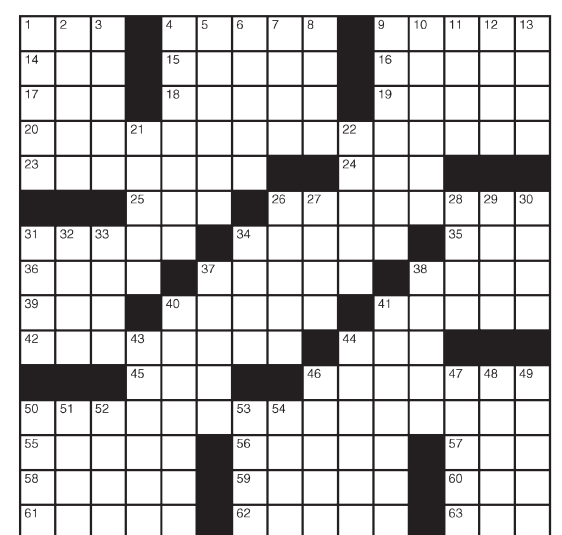
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ACROSS

- Org. of Toms and Tiger
- Weapon of mass destruction
- Plus feature
- Rower's requirement
- Stan's slapstick partner
- Keep an eye on
- Adam's partner
- Animal dens
- Honolulu greeting
- Start of a quip
- Postures
- Commotion
- John ___ Passos
- Incited
- Freshen up
- Was mistaken
- Gibbon, e.g.
- Frosted
- Part 2 of quip
- Rotation line
- Bikini piece
- Hay units
- Alternative to treat?
- Diana Ross's group
- Zodiac lion
- Psychic power
- Least illuminated
- End of quip
- Madame Curie
- Italian poet
- Corporate VIP
- Public square
- "Lou Grant" star
- Of the ear
- More rational
- Decade segments
- Highest level



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

3/5/09

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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3/5/09

- Porgy's girlfriend
- Bestowed upon
- Oater bar
- Pack away, as cargo
- Rebounding yodel
- Comparison conjunction
- Brought to a close
- "___ People Play"
- Lets loose
- Minerals in the raw
- Judd Hirsch sitcom
- Legendary
- Escritoire
- Barbecue fare
- Light tan
- Type of tide
- Contemporary of Agatha
- Florida bay
- Bakery emanation
- Rub over
- Moderates
- Change dimensions
- Loading device
- Summer or Shalala
- Disney World attraction
- Take care of
- Move as a throng
- Little pranksters
- Samoaan currency
- Persia, now 6/6/44
- Alleviate

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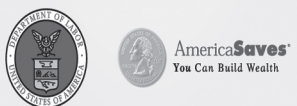
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SPORTS



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BASEBALL • BAYLOR 2, TCU 1

CLOSE CALL



Senior Matt Carpenter slides into second base in during the second inning of the game against Baylor on Wednesday night.

JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Bid for seventh straight win falls short

By Joe Zigtema
Staff Writer

A top-25, I-35 showdown ended in heartbreak for the Horned Frogs on Wednesday night as they dropped a 2-1 squeaker to Baylor University in a game that came down to the last strike.

Senior pinch-hitter Hunt Woodruff had a chance to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth with a man on second and two out, but he found left fielder Adam

Hornung's glove in shallow left field to end a pitcher's duel with the wind blowing toward home plate at Lupton Stadium.

A high Taylor Featherston throw that brought first baseman Matt Vern off the bag in the second inning proved to be the difference in the game, which saw just 11 hits between the two teams.

"We've played some really good teams to this point, and that was the best pitching we've seen

across the board," head coach Jim Schlossnagle said. "On a typical Lupton Stadium night with the wind howling in, we had a couple balls that on a different day in a different park might have gone out of the ballpark."

A Horned Frog offense that has averaged close to 10 runs per game this season was silenced until Matt Carpenter scored on a Trent Blank balk in the bottom of the eighth to set up a tense ninth. Two balks were called in the game, drawing

an irate Schlossnagle out of the dugout twice during the game.

Baylor starter Aaron Miller was excellent for the Bears, giving up just three hits and striking out three in five innings of shutout baseball.

TCU starter Steven Maxwell went 4 and 1/3 innings, giving up one earned run on a Hornung bloop triple to right field with two outs in the first that escaped Chris

SEE BASEBALL • PAGE 4

NFL

Warner, Cardinals see eye-to-eye on new deal

By Scott Bordow
East Valley Tribune (Mesa, Ariz.)

Kurt Warner is still fighting. He will not be pressured into making what he thinks is a bad deal.

"I'm holding out," Warner said. No, Warner's two-year, \$23 million deal with the Arizona Cardinals didn't collapse at the last moment Wednesday. He signed the contract, and then said it probably will be the last of his NFL career.

It's the puppy. You remember. Warner told his family that if the Cardinals won the Super Bowl, they'd get a puppy. Well, the loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers squelched the deal, but it didn't stop the pleas. Warner's seven kids have been begging and begging and even got Kurt to look at a few dogs recently.

But there still isn't a puppy in the Warner home.

See, that's the thing about Warner: He's got, pardon the pun, a bit of a bulldog in him. He is one of the nicest, most genuine athletes you'll ever meet, but alongside his Christian faith stands a tough guy, willing to fight for what he believes is right.

Warner could have taken the Cardinals' initial two-year, \$20 million offer. But he thought his performance last season — and his value to the organization — was worth more than that. So he flew to San Francisco, open, he said, to the idea of signing with the 49ers.

But, just 45 minutes into that visit, while coach San Francisco coach Mike Singletary was outlining his vision for the franchise, Warner said he knew he wanted to remain a Cardinal.

(Given Warner spent nine hours in San Francisco, Singletary will love reading that.)

He got on a plane, called his agent and, by Tuesday night, the deal was all but complete.

"I love what this team is doing, and I love what we're building," Warner said.

It's amazing the hyperventilating that went on both locally and nationally when negotiations between Warner and the Cardinals didn't produce an immediate agreement.

The Cardinals were branded as cheap and shortsighted. How could

"All I know is that I've worked hard to get to the point where I'm at. It just so happens for what I do, that's the market."

Kurt Warner

Arizona Cardinals quarterback

they let Warner visit the 49ers? As for Warner, some questioned his Christian faith, asking how he could be so greedy to want more than \$20 million when so many people are struggling just to pay their mortgage and put food on the table.

The criticism of the Cardinals was unwarranted. Were they supposed to bid against themselves when no other team had made Warner an offer? That's not cheap. That's good business.

The darts at Warner were equally absurd. Did Warner use the 49ers as leverage to get a better deal from Arizona? If he did — and he insists that's not the case — so what. That's the way it works in pro sports. Warner can be

SEE WARNER • PAGE 4

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