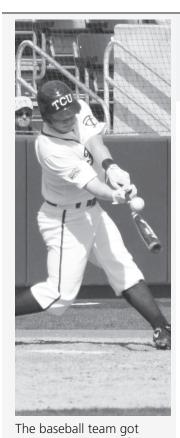
TCU EST. 1902 SKIFF

DAILYSKIFF.COM · TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009 · VOL. 106 ISSUE 87



Students raise money for an abused tiger rescued by the Humane Society of North Texas. Tomorrow in News



More than 1,000 students sign a petition to get more vegan and vegetarian dining options on campus. Tomorrow in News

HARRIS COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES Grant awarded for high graduation rates

By Alexis Mladenoff Staff Reporter

The Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been rewarded for its retention and graduation rates in 2008 with a state grant, according to a university official.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awarded the college a grant of more than \$280,000 for the school's improvement in graduation rate, Shawn Kornegay, associate director of communications, said.

Paulette Burns, dean of the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, said Texas has been concerned with the short-

and has been providing financial incentive to increase enrollment in nursing schools throughout the state.

Burns wrote in an e-mail that the Texas Legislature approved funding for the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program to kick-start the nursing school programs in Texas. According to the program, in 2007, 158 students graduated from the Harris College. In 2008 the graduation total increased to 196.

The nursing school was awarded the same grant in 2005, 2006 and 2008 Burns said. The only way for the nursing school to get more grant money would be to in-

she said.

Chris Fowler, senior program director of the The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said the grant can be used for hiring new faculty, hiring preceptors, who are working nurses that help teach at nursing schools, and giving salary supplements.

Burns said the nursing school is still deciding how to best use the grant.

In the past, the nursing school has used the grant to hire three additional faculty members and one retention specialist, or academic adviser, Burns said.

Because the nursing school can hire more faculty, a larger number of students can be

age of nurses in the work force since 1998, crease the number of graduates every year, admitted, Burns said. The school's retention program has also helped to graduate 90 percent of all admitted students, he said.

> Dennis Cheek, gerontological nursing professor, said the grants have helped enrollment in his pharmacology and pathophisiology classes explode. He said when he came to the university in 2003, he had about 30 students in class. He now has 71 students enrolled in his freshman pharmacology class.

Cheek said he works closely with other professors of first-year classes. He said the professors have become good at building each others' curriculum, which helps better prepare students for graduation.

CALIFORNIA Hurry up, graduate, college says

By Doug Hoagland McClatchy Newspapers

FRESNO, Calif. — It's not quite as humiliating as having a romantic relationship ended by e-mail, but Fresno City College in California is using the medium to tell longtime students it's time to move on. In other words, hurry up and finish your education — and then go pursue other opportunities.

The school last month e-mailed nearly 5,000 students who are close to meeting graduation requirements with an upbeat but direct message: "The key is completion. Graduate from college. Earn more money!"

College officials say clearing out perennial students would create more room for hundreds of new students flocking to City College

revenge against Wichita State over the weekend with a three-game sweep. Sports, page 8

TOP 10 MOVIES (millions of dollars)

1	Watchmen	56
2	Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail	9
3	Taken	8
4	Slumdog Millionaire	7
5	Paul Blart: Mall Cop	4
6	He's Just Not That Into You	4
7	Coraline	3
8	Confessions of a Shopaholic	3
9	Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience	3
10	Fired Up	3
	— Associated I	Press





Don't blame Barbie for unrealistic body images. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Darryl and Dan Culberson didn't have to wait for the latest recession to become frugal. The brothers have been saving money every year with a friendly game of one-upmanship when it comes to being cheap, exchanging the same birthday card since 1973.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER









KATIE RUPPEL / Staff Reporter

Quinn Garcia, a Brite Divinity student, left, and Austin Lindert, a sophomore criminal justice major, work together to do basic maintenance on one of the purple bikes outside of the Sociology/Anthropology/Criminal Justice trailer Monday afternoon. Garcia, the only volunteer last semester, is in the process of teaching Lindert, one of the 35 new volunteers, how to maintain and repair the 50 bikes the program uses.

Bike program gets more manpower, funds

By Katie Ruppel Staff Reporter

Fifty shiny, purple bikes. That means 100 tires, fenders and pedals, 50 chains, brake sets and seats, and only two grubby hands to fix their broken parts.

That used to be the undertaking of the Purple Bike Program's only student volunteer, Quinn Garcia. With the accumulation of 35 more volunteers this

semester, Garcia, a Brite Divinity School student and maintenance coordinator of the program, said he is happy to have a few more helping hands.

Keith Whitworth, a sociology professor and coordinator of the Purple Bike Program, said the rush of volunteers came after he sent an e-mail to students in his classes and after posting

SEE BIKES · PAGE 2

For more information about the Purple Bike Program, including volunteer opportunities, contact Keith Whitworth at (817) 257-5941 or email him at k.whitworth@tcu.edu.

For more information about carbon emissions and donating to the program, visit www.envirofootprint.org. for retraining or improving job skills during the economic crisis.

City College's enrollment this semester is up 12 percent over last year. "That's absolutely huge," said City College President Cynthia Azari. The increase from 2007 to 2008 was almost 7 percent.

However, the move-on message faces resistance. Reasons range from students getting too comfortable on campus to needing more time to master basic skills, officials said.

City College might be the first of the state's 110 community colleges to use an e-mail blast urging students to transfer to four-year schools or get jobs, officials said. The e-mails invited students to a drop-in event on campus where they could meet with counselors and other staff to plan for the future.

Only about 100 students came, but City College officials said it was a good start and that they'll probably do it again.

Community colleges by law can't turn away eligible students or force them to leave unless they violate rules. And there's no evidence that longtime students who have been on campus for three, four or more years are hogging classes that new students want, Azari said.

However, the mix of old and new students has swelled enrollment to more than 22,000 - and has created problems.

Students go on waiting lists for overcrowded classes, and sometimes never get in. Some can get classes only at times that conflict with jobs and family responsibilities. Some choose online courses because traditional ones are filled or offered at inconvenient times.

"We have made every effort to accommodate everyone," Azari said.

SEE FRESNO · PAGE 2

North Korea threatens war if U.S. shoots down satellite

By Tim Johnson McClatchy Newspapers

BEIJING - North Korea on Monday put its armed forces on standby, severed a military hot line with South Korea and warned that any attempt by the United States to shoot down a rocket launch would trigger an immediate war.

The escalation in tensions coincided with the onset of joint U.S.-South Korean war games, which brought a U.S. nuclearpowered aircraft carrier off the Korean Peninsula.

miles inside North Korea, where dozens of companies from South Korea have set up factories.

Pyongyang appeared to be moving ahead with plans to send what it claims is a communications satellite into orbit. U.S. and Japanese officials charge that the launch is a cover for a test of North Korea's latest-generation ballistic missile, potentially powerful enough to hit Alaska, and that their own antimissile batteries may try to shoot it down.

"Shooting our satellite for peaceful

at the Kaesong industrial complex several a statement in the name of Pyongyang's general staff of the military, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Pyongyang said it had put its armed forces on "full combat readiness," and it vowed immediate retaliation for any strike.

Apparently to clear the skies before the expected launch, North Korea said last week that it couldn't ensure the safety of commercial jetliners within its airspace.

The senior Obama administration envoy for the North Korean nuclear crisis, Stephen Bosworth, warned Pyongyang that firing a ballistic missile would violate a U.N. Se-Scores of South Koreans were stranded purposes will precisely mean a war," said curity Council resolution adopted after a

previous test of a Taepodong-2 missile in 2006. Later that year, North Korea tested a nuclear device.

"Whether they describe it as a satellite launch or something else makes no difference. This would be a violation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718," Bosworth said in Seoul, South Korea, where he was visiting, according to the semiofficial Yonhap news agency.

Neighboring China, which serves as host to longstanding disarmament talks that include the Koreas, the United States, Japan

NEWS

BIKES continued from page 1

a publication on TCU Announce

asking for help. With the \$8,000 donated from this semester and last, Whitworth said he will be purchasing 12 to 15 more bikes within the next two weeks and wants to have 250 bikes in the program one year from now.

nance for the bikes, from broken so many ideas for being sustainchains to flat tires, and said he hopes that with more volunteers the program can become more oron campus.

volunteers is the ability to manage time," Garcia said. "If we have 10 or 15 bikes that need mainteeven in a month. Having four or five other people really spreads that ability out."

Whitworth said volunteers have not only been assigned to helping with maintenance but also to handling logistics, advertising and fundraising.

Heather Santi, a junior religion major and advertising/public relations coordinator of the program, said the program is still organizing tasks and ideas but is trying to focus on spreading the word to the campus community as well as the Fort Worth community.

Tina Le, a physics graduate student and fundraising coordinator for the program, said her group of volunteers has several ideas brewing, including a fundraising competition among dorms, an environmental awareness event and a purple bike relay.

They are also trying to create a more manageable way to donate to the program, she said.

who want to give money, but we don't have an easy system set up for them to do it," Le said.

Todd Klepacki, a freshman sociology major and logistics coor- project of the TCU students."

dinator for the program, said he is working on making the bike check-out system more accessible as well.

Klepacki said he first started volunteering for the program as something he could get recognition for, but now realizes it is a way he can practice sustainability.

"The program is there to make it easier for people to follow through with being more environmentally Garcia said that last semester friendly," Klepacki said. "We have he had to handle all the mainte- lots of people nowadays that have able. Now you can do something as opposed to just talking about it."

Whitworth said the program ganized, accessible and prominent is focused on reducing carbon emissions around campus as well "The advantage of having more as encouraging students to ride a bicycle to and around campus rather than driving a car.

"We are not a bike culture in nance there's no way one person Texas, nor really a pedestrian can do them all in one week or culture," Whitworth said. "We are more in tune with gas-guzzling SUVs than thinking about biking or walking."

> Whitworth said he hopes the program will help change this attitude for students.

> Ann Sewell, the associate provost for academic planning and budgeting, said the Purple Bike Program received its first of two grants in 2006 from the Vision in Action fund. In the midst of many VIA-granted programs being shut down, the Purple Bike Program has persevered, she said.

> "The VIA grants provided seed money for the project," Sewell said. "Dr. Whitworth and the volunteers provided the time, effort and enthusiasm to allow the project to grow and be successful."

> Garcia said that while the program is expanding, he hopes it is not going to stop here.

"We really hope that in the future we can have an even stronger volunteer base so that way any-"There are people out there thing from maintenance to logistics to fundraising - you name it, we have student volunteers working on it," Garcia said. "It wouldn't just be a project of a professor but a

FRESNO

continued from page 1

Graduating from community college with a 60-unit associate's degree traditionally takes two years of full-time study. But many students stay longer.

'Colleges can't accommodate all the new students coming in," said Steven Bruckman, executive vice chancellor for operations and general counsel in the state community college system. With enrollment statewide approaching 3 million this school year, community colleges estimate the state shorted them money to teach and support about 100,000 of those students.

Because colleges can't hire more teachers, students have trouble getting classes, which delays graduation, Bruckman said.

Other factors contribute to students staying longer at City College, officials said.

More than half of the students

KOREA

continued from page 1

and Russia, has said that it's aware that North Korea plans a launch, but it has declined to characterize it as an act that would defy the U.N. resolution.

Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Ho-nyou said in Seoul that 621 South Koreans were at the Kaesong industrial complex or elsewhere in North Korea, and that 80 of them who were scheduled to return to South Korea on Monday were unable to do so, Yonhap said. The complex was built earlier in the decade when South Korea sought to defang North Korea through major investment schemes.

Some 25,000 U.S. military personnel and an undetermined number of South Korean troops are taking part in the war games, which have occurred annually and are scheduled to last through March 20 this time.

"It's purely a defensive ex- Korea's 67-year-old ruler.

ercise," said Dave Palmer, a spokesman in Seoul for U.S. Forces Korea.

classes, said John Cummings,

students with open

"We welcome all

arms, but they

Dennis Adkins

co-chairman

Fresno City College

includes City College.

need to set goals

for themselves and

move forward and

up with their lives."

commencement committee

vice president for admission and

records in the State Center Com-

munity College District, which

Other students become com-

Pyongyang charged that the war games were aimed at launching a "second Korean war."

Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, is widely thought to have suffered a stroke last August, and a possible succession drama in the Stalinist state has drawn international attention.

North Koreans went to the polls Sunday to vote on the country's parliament, and Kim won re-election to a seat with 100 percent support, North Korea's official news agency said.

Late Monday, North Korea released the names of all 687 lawmakers who had been elected to the body, and the names didn't include Kim's Swiss-educated youngest son, Kim Jong Un, 26, who some analysts said was a likely successor. Once again, signs are murky over who may be the heir apparent to North

who come from high schools in fortable in the "welcoming enthe region lack the English or vironment" of City College and math skills to do college-level feel apprehensive about leaving, work and must take remedial said Dennis Adkins, learning assistance coordinator and cochairman of the campus commencement committee.

> "We welcome all students with open arms, but they need to set goals for themselves and move forward and up with their lives," Adkins said.

> Older students and those going after specific careers such as nursing or auto mechanics generally are serious about their studies and focused on their future careers, said City College counselor Fred "Skydog" Emerling. "They don't tend to linger," he said.

> However, other students have "a sense of entitlement," so they don't study and then have to repeat courses, Emerling said.

"They should go work and find out how sucky it is with no skills," he added.

City College student Brenda Alvarez — who started at City College in the fall of 2004 — got the e-mail and attended the counseling meeting. Alvarez, 24, said she plans to graduate in May and attend California State University, Fresno.

"I was excited to get the email," she said, explaining that she needed more information about graduation.

Another student, 55-year-old John Munsinger of Fresno, also is scheduled to graduate in May after starting in 2004. Surgery and changing majors delayed his graduation.

Munsinger said he didn't feel that City College was pressuring him to leave. "I want to move on," he said, although he might return next fall to take additional classes that would look good on his resume.

Said Munsinger: "The more education I have, the better chance I'm going to have to get a higherpaying job."



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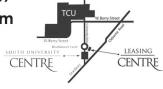
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The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, pro by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schieffer School of Journalism. It operates the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives for student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday the Fidure union fail and scripton comesters event fination weak and Publication

Circulation: 6,000 Subscriptions: Call 257-6274. Rates are \$30 per seme Location: Moudy Building South, Room 291, 2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109 On-campus distribution: Newspapers are available 1 campus. limit one per person. Additional copies are \$.54

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

Program's success shows promise

In the wake of the recession and the university having to cut back in various departments and Vision In Action programs, it is encouraging to see that the Purple Bike Program has garnered enough interest and support to not only persevere but to expand.

These days, there are so many green initiatives that it is easy to become jaded. Many don't get the chance to catch on before they fizzle. But the Purple Bike Program is proof that, with strong leadership and some support, a sustainable initiative can make meaningful change.

The program now has gained 35 volunteers this semester on top of last semester's, well, one. To add to the program's success, the program also has raised enough funds to add 12 to 15 more bikes.

Last October, Keith Whitworth, sociology professor and pioneer of the program, said: "This is about creating awareness among a large number of people and contributing to a solution. It is in essence a snow ball effect."

It seems that his hope is in fruition. Now with 35 more volunteers, the program will be able to run more smoothly and garner more support, speeding up the snow ball effect. Until now, just one volunteer was responsible for maintaining and fixing broken parts. The additional volunteers are now running fundraising and marketing initiatives.

Prompting a community to make a change in its lifestyle for a larger purpose is a daunting task. Whitworth is doing something right.

Managing editor Saerom Yoo for the editorial board. The Skiff View represents the collective opinion of the editorial board.

Area stimulus protest merits media attention

MARGARET FOLAND

Friday, Feb. 27 was a day like any other in North Texas — except for the tea party.

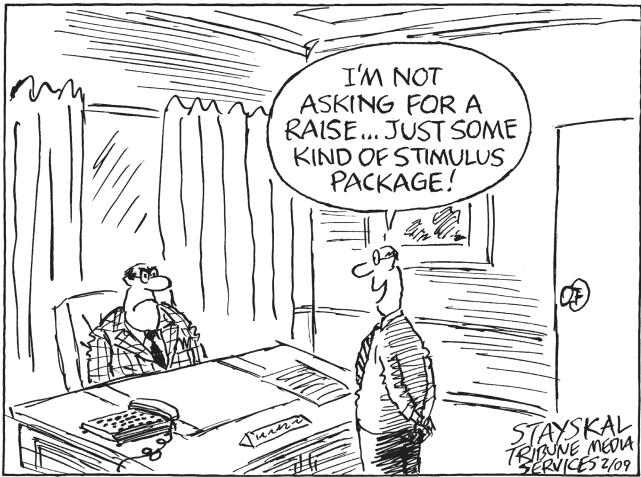
The tea party was held to protest the stimulus package signed into law by President Barack Obama. I went because my mom asked me to take her, but I ended up enjoying myself.

About 500 people participated in the peaceful demonstration, and many displayed funny homemade signs.

One sign held by a 10-year-old boy said, "Honk if you don't want to pay for the stimulus," which caused many people in nearby cars to honk in agreement, although a few people flipped the bird. about the proposals in Washington. This stimulus package will cost us

and our children trillions of dollars, and China is saying that it won't purchase any more U.S. bonds or give us any more loans. How can we be

This stimulus package will cost us and our children trillions of dollars, and China is saying that it won't



Wayne Stayskal is an editorial cartoonist for the Tampa Tribune

Poor body image not Barbie's fault



Barbie is about to turn 50 years old. But not in West Virginia if Rep. Jeff Eldridge has his way.

Eldridge introduced a bill to ban the sale of the iconic doll because it "promote[s] physical beauty to the detriment of girls' intellectual and emotional development," according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

This is ridiculous. While it will give late-night comedians something to joke about, it is not amusing that our legislators are wasting time when they should be focusing on the country's economic situation and other pressing issues.

It's as ridiculous as Congress' consid

Blaming Barbie for creating stereotypes is just as foolish as it is unfair. It's like blaming forks for the nation's obesity problem.

While the underlying cause is an important one, the fact is that materialism and obsession with physical beauty are hallmarks in this country. Children have to be able to find selfesteem from their family, not from a toy, and it is unfair to place the blame on a doll.

This bill seems more like a publicity stunt than a well thought out solution.

Congress spent so much time on the steroids issue because it was a safe way to be mentioned on TV without talking about key issues. This bill reeks of the same logic, and it fosters an environment that lacks in productivity.

Barbie has been around for a long time and has enjoyed enormous popularity, and lawmakers would do well to focus on serious issues and let ber



The event was not widely covered by the media, and I wondered why.

The only report I heard about the tea party was on a talk show Monday, March 2 on Talk Radio 570 KLIF. Then I found an article in the back of the Star-Telegram about it. I was surprised that, given the large turnout, it received such little attention.

It was not just Republicans at this protest, but hundreds of citizens who are mad

purchase any more U.S. bonds or give us any more loans.

expected to pay for this when there are no guarantees it will work?

Our country is in a recession, and no one wants to see the country fail, which is exactly why federal policies must be made responsibly by politicians in any political party.

> Margaret Foland is a junior theatre arts major from Arlington.

But the same study, released Wednesday

by the National Association of Colleges

and Employers, showed that employers

expected to hire 22 percent fewer gradu-

older workers clinging

Hiring freezes and

retirement savings

shrink make finding

exceptionally hard.

jobs after graduation

ates this year than they hired from the

said they expected to alter their hiring

plans for the class of 2009, and nearly a

quarter don't intend to hire any graduates.

best and brightest should be high on the

agenda as policy makers in Washington,

spending of stimulus funds and creation

state capitals and communities plan for the

This editorial appeared in the Kansas

City Star on Friday. It was distributed by

McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

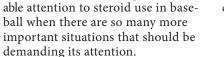
Creating opportunities for the nation's

Of the employers surveyed, 67 percent

to jobs as their

class of 2008.

of jobs.



celebrate her 50th birthday in peace.

Shane Rainey is sophomore chemistry major from Fort Worth.

SXC.HU

Iran overreacts to cultural references



So, Hollywood has brought shame to America. That's what Iran's leaders told us this week, when they landed on visiting Hollywood executives with a fury unbound.

Seems that "The Wrestler" with Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei, was so insulting, Iran averred, that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's office demanded a public apology. The problem? The wrestler in this movie went by "the Ayatollah." Even worse, at one point in the film the wrestler tried to choke Mickey Rourke with an Iranian flag. Can you imagine?!

Turns out the insults built into "The Wrestler" were just the latest examples of sleights and grievances stretching back decades. For example, the 1991 film "Not Without My Daughter" depicts Iran as an evil, dangerous place. "Total lies," Javad Shamghardi, a cultural adviser to the president, said in a statement.

But before we prostrate ourselves to display our shame, perhaps we might ask just a couple of questions. About that Iranian flag incident, for example. I wonder, is it possible that Iranians have ever burned an American flag?

And the wrestler's nickname, the Ayatollah, what a grievous insult to Shiite Islam. Imagine what would happen if, in some future film, an athlete chose the Bishop or the Rabbi as a nickname!

Hollywood executives might want



Mickey Rourke holds his Golden Globe in the press room at the 66th Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Los Angeles. He is one of the actors accused of bringing shame to America.

to ask Mr. Shamghardi about a contest in Iran's largest newspaper three years ago to find the most compelling anti-Semitic cartoon. A Moroccan cartoonist showed an Israeli crane lifting into place a section of the wall around the West Bank. Painted on the back is a panoramic view of a German concentration camp.

Mr. Shamghardi, quoted by the Iranian news agency, demanded an "unreserved apology" from Hollywood for "30 years of insults and slanders." I wonder if Mr. Shamghardi has ever seen American movies about the ancient Romans, the Spartans, Genghis Kahn or the United States in Vietnam.

A few days ago, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. now believes Iran has enough nuclear material to make a bomb. A recent U.N. report came to the same conclusion. Benjamin Netanyahu, likely Israel's next prime minister, has suggested that Israel might attack Iran if it put together a nuclear weapon. Is that a surprise? Just two months into his presidency Ahmadinejad said: "The regime occupying Jerusalem should be eliminated from the pages of history," planting him firmly in the annals of infamy.

The Obama administration is bargaining with Russia to persuade its leaders to turn against Iran. Compared to all of that, just how important is a movie — any movie? And surely in Farsi, there's a saying like ours: People in glass houses ...

Joel Brinkley is a former Pulitzer Prizewinning foreign correspondent for The New York Times and now a professor of journalism at Stanford University. This column was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

Stimulus funds should support youth employment

months of graduation.

As the stock market continues to tumble and layoffs persist, college students are facing bleak prospects.

Hiring freezes and older workers clinging to jobs as their retirement savings shrink make finding jobs after graduation exceptionally hard.

The nation, which always looks to young people for inspiration, is watching to see how college students will handle the challenges.

Fortunately, many remain optimistic. A recent study of 12,000 students reported that more than half are confident they'll be employed within three



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NEWS

Obama reverses Bush order that limited stem cell research

By Steven Thomma McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama announced Monday that he will allow federal financing of medical research using stem cells from discarded human embryos, the vanguard of a broader effort to end what he calls a Bush-era "war on science."

"This order is an important step in advancing the cause of science in America," Obama said in the East Room of the White House.

He said he would not only open the door to this medical research, but also would unleash all forms of science in areas such as the environment from what he believes were limits imposed by the Bush administration rooted in conservative ideology, politics and religion.

"Promoting science isn't just about providing resources," Obama said. "It is about letting scientists ... do their jobs, free from manipulation or coercion, and listening to what they tell us, even when it's inconvenient; especially when it's inconvenient. It is about ensuring that scientific data is never distorted or concealed to serve a political agenda, and that we make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology."

Obama's order lifted all of President George W. Bush's restrictions on research into stem cells, which can replicate indefinitely and differentiate into many cell types, and it allows "scientifically worthy human stem-cell research including human embryonic stem-cell research." He gave the National Institutes of Health 120 days to prepare guidelines on how the research will be financed and conducted.

In addition to signing an executive order allowing financing of stem cell research, Obama signed a memo ordering a "strategy for restoring scientific integrity to government decision making."

The reversal is the latest in a periodic struggle between science and religion or ideology.

Bush in 2001 banned federal financing of most research using the stem cells from embryos, which some scientists think could lead to cures for such diseases as Parkinson's and maladies such as spinal cord injuries. He allowed financing of

research using only 21 lines of stem cells already created at the time of his order.

The religious community was divided over the research, with the Catholic Church and some evangelical denominations opposing it as an immoral use of human life, while some mainstream Protestant denominations supported it.

Webster's dictionary says that "the human organism up to the third month after conception is called an embryo, thereafter a fetus." Catholic doctrine defines human life as beginning at conception.

"Promoting science isn't just about providing resources. It is about letting scientists ... do their jobs, free from manipulation or coercion, and listening to what they tell us, even when it's inconvenient."

Barack Obama president

Obama called it a "false choice between sound science and moral values" and said that both could coexist.

"As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for each other and work to ease human suffering," he said. "I believe we have been given the capacity and will to pursue this research, and the humanity and conscience to do so responsibly."

He said he would never allow cloning of human embryos for medical research.

Political figures also were divided. Republicans Nancy Reagan and John Mc-Cain supported the research. Republicans such as Reps. John Boehner of Ohio and Eric Cantor of Virginia opposed it.

Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., a physician, said Monday that research using stem cells from adults offered as much promise as those from embryos and that it was Obama, not his critics, who was being driven by the politics of appealing to his base.

Magnets might keep crocs at bay

By Curtis Morgan

McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — Veteran trapper Todd Hardwick, who has hauled hundreds of alligators and crocodiles out of neighborhoods over the years, tried something strange earlier this year.

To the puzzlement of onlookers, Hardwick pulled two colored magnets from his pocket and taped them atop the nubby noggin of an 11-foot croc he'd caught in Coral Gables.

"I was quite embarrassed the first time I did it," he said. "People were like, 'Todd, what are you doing? What is that?"

That was the start of a modest but fascinating experiment by state wildlife managers, aimed at short-circuiting the homing instincts that often lead captured reptiles right back to the spot that got them in trouble.

The hope is that magnets, removed just before an animal is freed in a faraway spot, might disrupt a primitive but powerful navigation system the lets crocs follow the earth's magnetic fields — almost like a Global Positioning System satellite guides drivers.

With only two crocs magnetized so far, it's far too early to say if it will work. But if it does, the technique could give captured animals a better shot at surviving in the wild and help reduce increasing conflicts between people and South Florida's small but spreading population of crocodiles.

"If there is a way we can break that homing cycle on some of these crocs, maybe there will actually be some validity to relocating them," said Lindsey Hord, a biologist with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Right now, relocating wandering North American crocodiles usually proves futile. Most transplants get killed in territorial fights, crushed by cars while crawling back home or recaptured soon after. They tend to return quickly, within weeks or even days, bee-lining back from 30 to 50 miles away.

"Anything that slows that down or prohibits it from happening is good," said Hardwick, owner of Pesky Critters and one of the state's best-known reptile wranglers.

Hord said he was inspired to try magnets by a recent journal article that detailed how biologists in Chiapas, Mexico,

PETER ANDREW Bosch / Miami Todd Hardwick of Pesky Critters transports an 11-foot salt water crocodile that was in South Miami in June 2006. The crocodile was the first that the state placed a magnet in to track it's movement. reported good success relocating 20 crocs. "If there is a way we

That wasn't exactly a rigorous test, however, using magnets yanked out of scrap truck horns and uncertain techniques to verify the crocs' identities.

say the idea has potential.

"It's not a loony suggestion," said Gordon Rodda, a zoologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado, who authored one early study on the magnetic sensitivity of juvenile gators.

Similar tests have had disorienting effects on ocean-ranging tuna and the homing pigeon, which earned its name for a reason, Rodda said. Though they don't look alike, birds are the most closely related relatives of crocs and gators and they share navigational ability.

The prevailing theory, Rodda said, is that sensors in crocs' brains detect small geomagnetic deviations to guide them across distances. The process is not fully understood and may rely on other guideposts as well, such as the sun or smells.

Rodda's 1984 research found homing power developed with age, turning from

can break that homing cycle on some of Still, scientists who study the reptiles these crocs, maybe there will actually be some validity to relocating them."

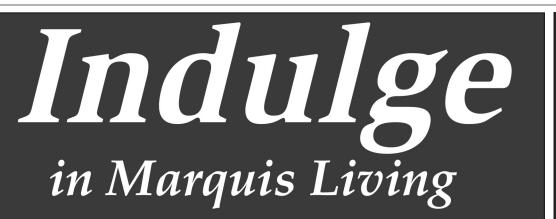
Lindsey Hord

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist

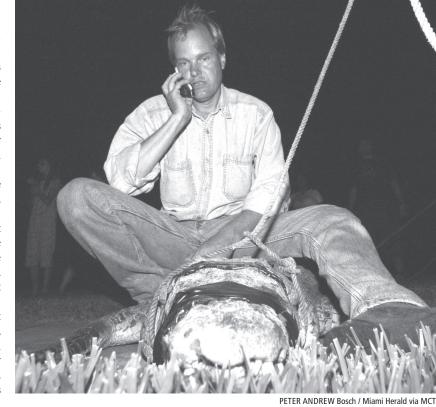
basic compass to magnetic map. Though undetected by humans, gators and crocs can follow the subtle forces almost like a GPS satellite.

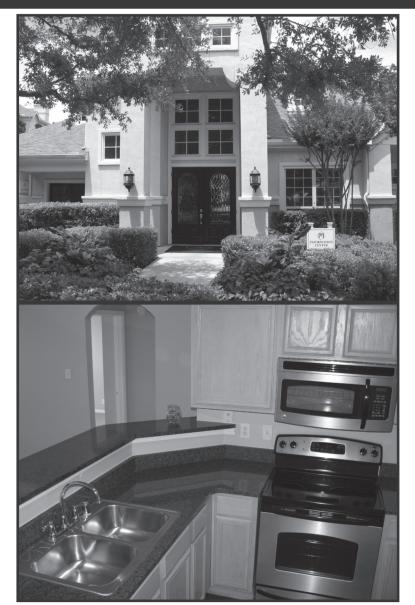
Rodda speculated that more sophisticated gear using high frequencies to "degauss" a croc's magnetic sensors — a process similar to erasing a music tape could be more effective, but said magnets also could do the job.

"It has worked in some animals, so I'd give it a shot," he said.









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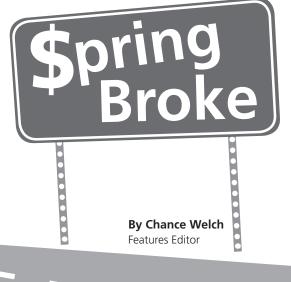
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FEATURES



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Enjoy the break without breaking the bank



Students looking at ski resorts or beaches south of the border might be overlooking some affordable attractions in our backyard.

This guide will provide a running tally on the costs for each attraction. Once you factor in gas prices at around \$1.73 a gallon, you can effectively plan out your recession road trip. Instead of going back up I-35 to return to Fort Worth, be sure to take the scenic route through Luckenbach, Fredericksburg and Dublin before arriving back at home base.

INTERSTATE

The map The route we will be using is I-35W. Check out the Czech Stop and the Little Czech Bakery for their famous fruit kolaches and other sweets such as cinnamon rolls, cookies and brownies. Pick up a dozen fruit kolaches for \$9.35 to tide yourself over on the trip to Austin.

Located at I-35 Exit 353.

Austin

You might want to get away from all the traffic in town for the SXSW festivals that start March 13, so that means staying away from the downtown area no matter how alluring it may be. When the lines for even the smallest of bars stretch around the corner, it's probably not worth the wait.

In the south part of Austin, Zilker Park provides a lot of fun including these four natural springs, the largest of which supplies the Barton Springs Pool, where you can take a swim or rest and relax under the shade provided by the lush trees surrounding the area. It costs \$3 for parking and \$3 for admission during the week and on the weekend.

San Marcos

Shoppers who have downsized their spending habits can find well-made merchandise without all that sticker shock at the Prime Outlet Mall and Tanger Factory Outlet Center. Prime Outlet Mall has outlets for glitzy stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue and Gucci while Tanger has stores for Calvin Klein and Kenneth Cole.

Discretion is key here when it comes to costs. While the prices are nice, don't go crazy. Leave some wiggle room in your budget for this. Both are located at I-35 at exit 200.

Gruene is a small town nestled between San Marcos and New Braunfels, home to the dance hall and saloon Gruene Hall. So far this year, bands like Los Lonely Boys and solo artist Delbert McClinton have played at the venue with styles ranging from folk, bluegrass to country and rock. Many times visitors can come in without having to pay a cover charge, but some upcoming concerts

require tickets so call ahead to confirm.

Possible Detour

The small town of Brenham is home to Blue Bell ice cream's "Little Creamery" which opened its doors in 1907. \$3 will get you in the door along with a sample of one of the company's 50 flavors.



ERIC ANDERSON / Staff Reporter

Gruene Hall is a dance hall and saloon built in the late 19th century. Once serving as the small town's social center, now it's home to music acts like country legend Willie Nelson passing through.

ERIC ANDERSON / Staff Reporter famous rises 425 feet above ground and is popular among backpackers, hikers and star gazers.

Fredericksburg

This state park hosts Enchanted Rock a huge granite dome that's popular with hardcore rock climbers as well as casual hikers. It costs \$6 a day for adults to get in. When it comes to backpacking, it costs \$12 for 4 people per night to set up camp.

Dublin

The small town is the namesake for the "Dublin Dr. Pepper," a famous variant of the soda that calls for pure cane sugar instead of high fructose corn syrup. It costs \$2.50 to tour the Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant and an 8-ounce bottle of the sugary sweet concoction costs a dollar.

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NEWS & SPORTS

Older soldiers find niche in new Army

By Carol Rosenberg McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI - As the South Florida real estate market disintegrated and the number of jobless rose, 40-year-old Jorge Gil Muela made a young man's decision.

The 5-foot-7, 235-pound property appraiser walked into a recruiting center in a Kendall strip mall in December to join the Army. He was told to shed 50 pounds. It's a small price, he said, for the job security and pay, family health insurance and new career as a cargo handler.

A 185-pound Muela will report for duty at Fort Sill, Okla., next month, leaving his wife, children and grandchildren behind in Miami.

"It's the only answer for me to secure our way of life right now," he said soberly, noting that the 21st-century GI bill means that he can pass college benefits along to his 18-year-old son.

Muela's tale shows how the financial crisis may be subtly aiding the Army, which struggled to meet its recruitment goals in 2004 and 2005.

Muela was able to become "GI Jorge" because Congress in 2006 raised the Army's age cap from 35 to 42.

Analysts anticipate that these hard times may help build a more mature, discerning Army less reliant on bonuses and waivers for would-be soldiers with health issues or criminal records.

"Since the economy has gone into the tanks, the recruiting environment has gotten a lot better," says Andrew F. Krepinevich Jr., president of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a Washington policy research group.

President Barack Obama even made a pitch of sorts for military service in his speech to Congress recently. He pledged pay raises and better veterans benefits and announced plans to grow



Jorge Gil Muela, 40, enlisted in the U.S. Army after being laid off as a property appraiser for Wells Fargo in Miami on Feb. 26.

the Army and Marines, which together make up about half of the 1.4-million-member active U.S. military.

Military life is not a viable mid-life career change for evervbody. But Staff Sgt. Javier Rabell, who recruited Muela, says he has handled three 40something Army enlistments in recent months. The two other men were moving from the Navy Reserve to the Army for the possibility of promotions that came with raises, health care and a GI bill that lets them pass college tuition along to their children.

Last year, according to the Army, 393 men and women 40 or older enlisted. In the real-estate boom, Mu-

ela said, property appraisers like him on contract to Wells Fargo could earn \$80,000 a year.

"This year, I'm lucky if I make \$20,000," he said.

January was so bad that he made \$1,213. The \$13 was a commission.

By April, his first full month as Pfc. Muela, he'll make \$3,900, including cost of living, housing and food allowances because he leaves his family behind.

Rabell, 41, began to recruit in class – E-3 – but hopes to fast-South Florida nearly four years ago, after a yearlong stint as a prison-camp guard at Guantanamo Bay.

Rabell said the military was 'getting more strict" on whom to let in — which means less of a maze of bureaucracy to check a would-be recruit's criminal record to see if he or she may qualify.

Enter the Brooklyn-born Muela, who did a 1987-91 stint in the Marine Corps and later worked in South Florida in juvenile justice and then as a property appraiser.

The Marines turned him down as too old. The Navy offered him a lower rank, even with credit for time served to bridge his age.

The Army took him, provided

PATRICK FARRELL / Miami Herald via MCI

he keeps weight off. "I feel this is a solid place for me to be," he said. "It's not like I'm going to be laid off."

He starts as a private first track to specialist, or E-4, which means a raise, an additional \$350 or so a month, and no seamstress costs this time. His digital Army Combat Uniform uses Velcro. A month at Sill will remind him to walk and talk like a sol-

dier, tweak his Marine skill set, and prepare him for training at Fort Eustis, Va. The last time he served in the

military, his specialty was radio operator, meaning that he would have called in gunfire on enemy targets had his unit been deployed from the USS Okinawa in the 1991 Gulf War.

This time, with a career in mind, he chose cargo specialist, considered a critical need in the military — and a skill set he could use at, say, the seaport on his return to Miami.

BASKETBALL continued from page 8

rebounds while playing in foul trouble.

This win put the team at the 20-win plateau for the eighth time in the last nine seasons.

'That says you had a solid year," Mittie said. "In basketball

that is kind of the benchmark number. We have been fortunate here to have good players that have played well."

The Lady Frogs will play the winner of today's matchup between Brigham Young University and University of Nevada, Las Vegas. That game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"I think we have a pretty well-

Hammond said the team needs

'We're a very good team but

balanced schedule," Tuohimaa

to have a more focused mental

we have to do everything right

to be a great team," Hammond

said. "We really feel confident

and strong based on the fact we've

Hammond said the team has

approach be consistent.

played a tough schedule."

said.

TENNIS

continued from page 8

"Michigan put a lot of balls in when we were up 3-2," Hammond said.

In doubles action, the No. 21ranked duo of seniors Macall Harkins and Anna Sydorska defeated Michigan's No. 38-ranked pairing of Chisako Sugiyama and Tania Mahtani 8-1. TCU claimed one of the remaining two doubles matches to clinch the first point of the afternoon.

Sophomore Katariina Tuohimaa gave the Frogs a 3-2 advantage when she defeated Michigan's Whitney Taney 6-0, 6-3. Tuohimaa's record improved to 6-5 for the season after picking up her second-consecutive victory.

Tuohimaa said the team has worked together to get better as season has progressed and that the schedule has also helped the team grow as a unit.

BASEBALL continued from page 1

some playing time, something he said he had been wanting to do all season.

'We have a veteran team and all of those veteran guys are playing well, which means it's hard to get younger players in the game," Schlossnagle said. "I would love to get them some more playing time, but this ain't basketball and we don't have free substitutions so we have to look for opportunitake advantage of them when we Gophers.

to have better body language on the court and poise when it loses

leads. He also said the team needs to stay loose as it prepares for its upcoming away matches. The team was once again with-

out a top contributor in junior Nina Munch-Soegaard, who is still nursing a shoulder injury.

Fresno State is up next for the Horned Frogs. The team will travel to California to take on the Bulldogs on Thursday before heading to Malibu to face Pepperdine University on Saturday.

get them."

Freshman outfielder Zac Jordan took advantage of the opportunity by hitting an RBI single to center field scoring Carruthers for the game's final run in the seventh inning.

Junior pitcher Paul Gerrish earned the win in relief by pitching 2 2/3 scoreless innings.

The Horned Frogs will be in action again Tuesday when they hit the road to face Texas State, a team they beat 8-2 at home Feb. 25. The Horned Frogs will be home again Friday for a three-game seties to play them and they have to ries against the Minnesota Golden

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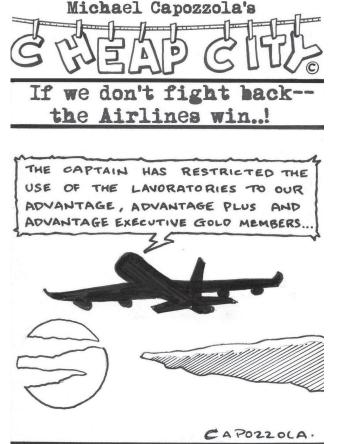
Today in History

On this day in 1959, Tibetans surround the summer palace of the Dalai Lama in defiance of Chinese occupation forces. — History Channel

Joke of the Day

- Q: Where do you find giant snails?
- A: On the ends of giants' fingers.

Biss by Harry Bilss.



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PAGE 8 · TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

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SPORTS



How are the Frogs looking in spring practice? Tomorrow

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LIGHTS OUT



Senior center Micaela Younger attempts a shot over Utah's guard Halie Sawyer. Younger, the team's lone senior, finished her final home game with four rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Lady Frogs head to Vegas

By Billy Wessels Staff Writer

The Lady Frogs will have a first-round bye when the Mountain West Conference Women's Basketball Championships kick off today in Las impose our will a little bit in Vegas. And judging from their performance against the University of Utah on Saturday, were able to play a little more they've earned it.

The team earned its 20th to the free-throw line." vin of the season by knock- The second half featured ing off the Mountain West ties and nine lead changes. Conference-leading Utah Utes on Saturday in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. Despite trailing by as many as 13 points early in the game, the team bounced back to win us stay in the game because we 53-47.

lead into the locker room at halftime thanks to a layup made on the last shot of the half, but the Lady Frogs began the second half on an 8-2 run to take

the lead for the first time. "I thought we were able to the second half," head basketball coach Jeff Mittie said. "We physical, get to the rim and get



KATIE RUPPEL / Staff Reporter

the only reason we are standing here with a win. We could not afford to turn it over today."

Sophomore Helena Sverrisdottir led all scorers with 20 points and also pulled down 10 rebounds.

The victory was also the last



Senior shortstop Ben Carruthers connects with the ball during the game against Wichita State on Sunday.

Team discharges Shockers

By Billy Wessels Staff Writer

The Horned Frogs continued their blistering start to the season with a three-game sweep of the Wichita State Shockers at home over the weekend.

The team's offense, a main factor in TCU's (9-2) great start, was on full display again Sunday when it completed its sweep of the Shockers with a 12-3 victory.

weekend and they kind of have had our number the last couple years now," said senior first baseman Matt Vern. "We were looking forward to this one and were ready to go."

The Horned Frogs scored 27 runs during the three-game series.

"We felt like we had a good offensive team coming in," head coach Jim Schlossnagle said. "Our execution on offense was outstanding."

After giving up a run in the top of the first in Sunday's contest, the Horned Frogs responded with five in the bottom half of the inning.

In that inning, Vern hit his third home run of the series to right-center field that gave the Frog seeing the ball well right Horned Frogs a 5-1 lead.

pitches to hit and when I get the opportunity, to drive the run in," Vern said. "I was just trying to be selective and they were throwing me strikes so I just picked out my pitch."

Schlossnagle said Vern is an outstanding hitter and he had a great series.

"We have been hitting pretty well "Wichita State came in this for most of the year ... Everybody on the team is swinging it good right now and we are having good approaches."

Matt Vern senior first baseman

"That tells you, you got a pretty good offensive team when that guy is hitting seventh in your order," Schlossnagle said. "He is certainly playing like a great upperclassman right now."

Vern isn't the only Horned now as the team is averaging 7.9 For a slideshow of the basketball game, visit DailySkiff.com

2

is swinging it good right now and we are having good approaches."

After the Shockers scored two runs in the top of the third, the Horned Frogs responded immediately with a pair of runs themselves.

Vern hit a one-out double to right-center field and then stole third. Junior catcher Bryan Holaday brought him home with a single through the left side of a drawn-in infield.

Senior center fielder Corey Steglich executed a perfect hit and run to right field to put runners on the corners again.

Senior second baseman Ben Carruthers then hit a sacrifice fly to center field to score Holaday and get the Horned Frogs' four-run lead back.

The team doubled its lead in the fifth inning with a four-run outburst punctuated by a home run to left-center field by senior outfielder Chris Ellington.

After the sixth inning, Schlossnagle took the opportu-

Despite being outrebounded 51-38, Mittie said there was one aspect of the game that kept his team in the match up.

"Only seven turnovers helps got pounded on the glass again," The Utes took a three-point Mittie said. "Seven turnovers is

home game for senior center Micaela Younger.

"Micki Younger was huge for us today," Mittie said. "She gave us energy."

Younger finished out her career at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum with one point and four

SEE BASKETBALL · PAGE 6

Vern would end the series going 5-9 with three home runs, six runs and eight RBIs.

Horned Frogs falter in

regular season finale

The loss gave the team a final

record of 5-11 in Mountain West

Conference play and an overall

record of 14-16 on the season.

Leading the way for the

Horned Frogs was freshman

guard Ronnie Moss, who scored

14 points and pulled in four re-

bounds. Senior forward Kevin

Langford had 12 points in his

final regular season game as a

Utah senior forward Shaun

Green came in off the bench to

lead all scorers with 20 points

in 29 minutes of action. The

Utes wrapped up a share of the

the Utes.

Horned Frog.

"I'm just trying to get good said. "Everybody on the team

runs per game this season. "We have been hitting pretty

well for most of the year," Vern

nity with an eight-run lead to get some of the younger guys

SEE BASEBALL · PAGE 6

QUICK SPORTS

conference records.

The Horned Frogs will have The men's basketball team fell another shot at the Utes Thursto Utah by a score of 68-49 on day in Las Vegas in the first round of play in the Mountain Saturday in Salt Lake City, marking the second time this season West Conference Championships. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 the Horned Frogs have fallen to p.m. CDT.

Flyin' Frogs relay team qualifies for indoor championships

The track quartet of freshman Hayley Shade, seniors Kishelle Paul and Jessica Clarke and junior Jessica Young completed the women's 4x400 relay at the Iowa State NCAA Qualifier on Saturday with a time of 3:34.63.

The time was good enough for first place in the event and it also set a new school record. It was the second-fastest time in the NCAA this year.

conference title with the win. With the impressive time, the Utah, New Mexico and BYU four women qualified for the all ended the season with 12-4 2009 NCAA Indoor Champi-

onships next week in College Station.

On the men's side, the 4x400 relay team crossed the line with a time of 3:07.50, good for sixth place in the event and the 11th-fastest time in the NCAA. The men's squad will not find out if they qualified for the NCAA Championships until next week.

Equestrian team outrides **Oklahoma State**

The No. 7-ranked Horned Frog equestrian team pulled out a 10-9 victory over a No. 6-ranked OSU team Sunday in Mansfield.

The win put the team's record at 9-5 on the year and the match was the last of the regular season.

The team is 6-2 in spring contests as it heads into April's national championships in Waco.

— Sports editor Michael Carroll

TENNIS Teams have busy weekend ahead

By Luke Urban Staff Reporter

Men sweep weekend matches

The No. 43-ranked men's tennis team pulled through with two wins this weekend at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center.

The team won 6-1 Friday against No. 63 University of San Diego and 4-3 Saturday against the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The wins moved the team's record to 5-7 in the spring and pushed its consecutive-win streak to three.

Head coach Dave Borelli said the team had more energy against San Diego than it did Sunday against UTSA.

The team lost the doubles point when sophomores Zach Nichols and Jack Seider fell to UTSA's duo of Jorge Delgado and Daniel Moreiras.

Senior Kriegler Brink and freshman Slah Mbarek managed to top Pedro Zanotelli and Max Stratmann of UTSA, but TCU sophomore Emanuel Brighiu and junior Adrian Simon lost to UTSA's pairing of Rodrigo Morgado and Andre Moreira.

"I think in doubles UTSA played better than we thought they would," Borelli said.

In singles play, Mbarek defeated Morgado 6-4, 3-6, 6-0.

Mbarek said the key to keeping the team on its winning ways is to maintain its energy.

The team works well together because they have all have the same goals, Mbarek said after the match.

Even though things went well during the weekend, Mbarek said he still needs to work on his focus during matches.

Borelli said the main thing his team needs to improve on heading into the second half of the six-match home stretch is its intensity and focus.

"We don't have the intensity day in and day in out," Borelli said.

The team also needs to be more mature, Borelli said.

Borelli said the chance to play at home is great because you don't have to drive or fly anywhere and the fans are on your side.

These matches will be a good stepping stone for the team as it prepares for conference play beginning April 4, sophomore Casey Powerssaid.

The team will face Virginia Tech at home Friday at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center. It will wrap up its home stretch with a match against Columbia University next Tuesday, March 17.

Women's team falls to Michigan

The No. 26-ranked women's tennis team dropped a heartbreaker to the University of



Horned Frogs fall to Duke

The team was right back in action Monday with an afternoon match against Duke, the No. 38-ranked team in the country. The Horned Frogs' success from the weekend didn't carry over, however, as they fell to the Blue Devils, 4-3.

The team gained the doubles point once again, but dropped four out of six singles matches. The match was decided when TCU sophomore Zach Nichols fell to Duke's Dylan Arnould 6-3, 6-7, 6-4. The point put Duke up 4-2 with only one match remaining.

— Sports editor Michael Carroll

Michigan on Sunday, 4-3. The loss dropped the team to 5-6 on the season while Michigan

improved its record to 6-4. TCU head coach Jefferson Hammond said Michigan played

smart tennis by not overplaying balls too much.

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