

Bryan Holaday and the Horned Frog baseball team prepare for a weekend series against Minnesota. **Sports, page 8**



New policy requirements for obtaining a VISA are making it harder for students and recent graduates to procure them. **After Spring Break in News**



What steps is the Mountain West Conference taking to get a berth in a BCS game? **After Spring Break in News**

STUDY ABROAD

Low enrollment leads to fewer programs

By Elle Cahalan
 Staff Reporter

A summer study abroad program in London has been cancelled, the latest in a string of eight terminated programs scheduled for this summer, a university official said.

"The History of the Industrial Revolution in London," a summer study abroad course, is one of the programs that has recently been cancelled due to low enrollment, said Jane Kucko, director for the Center for International Studies. This was the first time the program was offered through the university.

Kucko said that in previous years, three to

four summer programs were cancelled due to low enrollment, and that the economy could be a contributing factor in this year's increase in the number of cancelled programs.

Tracy Williams, associate director of the Center for International Studies, said she is not certain that the economy was the driving factor for the decrease in enrollment. It could be that not enough students knew about the course, she said. The economy could be affecting enrollment, although the dollar-pound exchange rate is at one of the lowest it has ever been, making it relatively inexpensive to travel this summer, she said.

Williams said she has heard feedback

from students that students are planning to go abroad for a semester rather than a summer. Students can use their financial aid and scholarship money to study abroad, Williams said. Because of this, it costs about the same amount to study abroad for a semester as it does to stay on campus for a semester, she said.

Kucko said that even though eight programs have been cancelled, 13 are set to go this summer, with healthy levels of enrollment. These courses are typically the ones that have a long history, she said. The slight drop in enrollment rates is not unique to the university, and many of Kucko's colleagues

from other universities across the country have expressed that they have also had to cancel more programs than usual, she said.

Williams said only one person had enrolled in "The History of the Industrial Revolution in London," which was designed to investigate the world's transition from a pre-industrial to an industrial economy, focusing specifically on developments in England.

Harrison Smith, a junior economics major, who was the only student to enroll in the course, said he was disappointed when the program was cancelled, because he had been

SEE STUDY ABROAD · PAGE 2

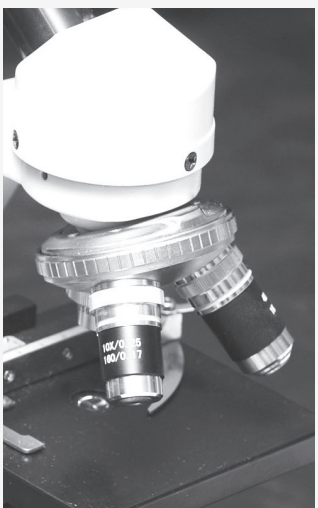


Find out more about the first winner of a writing award offered by a best-selling author. **Features, page 6**

TOP DVD SALES

- 1 Wall-E
- 2 The Dark Knight
- 3 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 4 Mamma Mia!
- 5 Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who!
- 6 Kung Fu Panda
- 7 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
- 8 Body of Lies
- 9 Sex And The City: The Movie
- 10 Changeling

— Billboard



Expansion of stem cell research an ethical dilemma. **Opinion, page 3**

PECULIAR FACT

SLIDELL, La. — Police said a woman made two false calls to 911 from an out-of-service cell phone — and told investigators she did it because she was bored. They booked a 20-year-old woman on Monday with false report of a fire and false report of a crime.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER

39 36
 HIGH LOW
 Chance of rain

Tomorrow: Slight chance of rain 53 / 41
 Sunday: Partly sunny 67 / 51



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

TIGER TROUBLES



ROSE BACA / News Editor

Hamilton, the Bengal tiger rescued last month from Hamilton County, was moved from the Humane Society of North Texas in Fort Worth on Wednesday morning for a permanent home at the Wild Animal Sanctuary located outside Denver.

Students raise funds for furry friends

By Naheil Qudah
 Staff Reporter

Students in a communication studies class are working to raise money to donate to a local shelter for the upkeep of abandoned animals.

Diane Stamper, an adjunct faculty member in the department of communication studies, said that as a part of her class, six students formed a group named Prestige Worldwide and began formulating ideas to finance the upkeep of a Bengal tiger named Hamilton. Stamper said the tiger was abandoned by a private owner in Hamilton County.

Charles Thompson, facilities man-

ager for the Humane Society of North Texas, said the tiger was rescued in early February.

Thompson said the tiger weighed 250 pounds when he arrived and was in a severely malnourished state.

The tiger should have been around 300 pounds heavier, Thompson said.

Suzanne Berk, fundraising coordinator at the Humane Society of North Texas, said Hamilton was kept at the Humane Society until Wednesday morning, when a long-term arrangement was made with a sanctuary in Denver.

"It's a success," Berk said. "Now he is going to a really great sanctuary where

For video of Hamilton the tiger, visit DailySkiff.com

he can be himself. He'll be on about 10 acres."

Julie Leland, member of Prestige Worldwide, said the group was working on raising funds to cover expenses related to Hamilton's food, medication and transportation to a new home, but the tiger was relocated before any ideas could be implemented.

But the student group hasn't given up on their mission.

SEE TIGER · PAGE 2

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Admissions program targets Hispanics

By Jordan Smith
 Staff Reporter

The Office of Admissions invited prospective Hispanic students to campus this week as it began a new program called the Hispanic Senior Experience.

The two-day program was open to all high school students who identified themselves as Hispanic on their applications.

The program is similar to the Black Senior Weekend program the university has offered to prospective black students for the past year, said admissions counselor Aaron Marez. Both programs focus on providing minority students with a more intimate look at the university than the traditional Mondays at TCU.

The visitor's schedule included listening to speeches from Provost Nowell Donovan and Hispanic alumni, spending a night in the dorms with current Hispanic students, and watching the baseball team top Wichita State University 12-3 on Sunday.

On Monday they met with financial aid advisers and had question and answer sessions for parents and students.

Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said he understands that offering special programs only to specific ethnicities on campus may be seen to some students as racism. He also said that's the reason his office hasn't offered racially specific programs until now.

"It's offensive to some and it's absolutely appealing to others," Brown said. "That's a fine line we walked for many years. This is the first year we've had the Hispanic group, we started last year with the black student program, and I've wrestled with this for so long."

Brown said he isn't worried by those who are offended by the program.

"There are certain groups of people, particularly blacks and Hispanics, who don't want to be identified by their race or ethnicity, and so they wouldn't be attracted to a program like this," Brown said. "But doggone it amazes me, I've had 14 messages already in the past two days from parents and kids saying what a

SEE EXPERIENCE · PAGE 2

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Simulated court gives students a chance to hone legal skills

By Eric Anderson
 Staff Reporter

Aspiring law students and Constitution aficionados can try out to compete in a mock Supreme Court with the university's new moot court.

Donald Jackson, professor of political science and coach of the moot court team wrote in an e-mail that applicants will be given a practice case and asked to construct an effective five-minute argument.

Jackson said the simulated Supreme Court case will have two important aspects.

The last competition presented students with a case involving two constitutional issues: freedom of speech and due process, he said.

Moot Court tryouts

When: 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m. March 23, 30
 Where: Smith Hall room 214

Senior finance major Hayly Mickles said team members must come prepared to argue either side of the case, which is decided by a coin flip.

The program is not limited to prospective law students.

"The moot court team is a good preparatory program for aspiring law students, but it is open to all degrees and students who have an interest in the law," senior political science major Matt

SEE MOOT COURT · PAGE 2

CRIME

Former Frog running back heading to prison after cocaine conviction

By Naheil Qudah
 Staff Reporter

Lonta Hobbs, a former Horned Frog running back from the class of 2006, was sentenced Monday to 10 years in prison for delivery of cocaine.

Red River County District Attorney Val Varley said Hobbs was recorded on camera making a drug deal with a confidential police informant and was arrested in March 2008. The deal was made near Clarksville High School, which Hobbs attended and where and was employed as a coach and teaching assistant.

"He was coaching football as well as baseball at the time," Varley said. "I think he was actually in his coaching uniform at the time [of the drug deal]."

Varley said Hobbs was sentenced March 9 and has 10 days to take care of personal business before turning himself in to the county jail.

After that, Varley said he believes Hobbs will be moved to the Huntsville Unit prison.

"It surprised me because I knew him as a child," Varley said.

The drugs were brought back to the police department after the deal was made, but Varley said he could not believe it until he saw the video tape.

"I had used him as a role model for my kids," Varley said. "I used to coach Pee Wee football and I used him as a role model for the team, too. It broke my heart."

During his three seasons at TCU, Hobbs rushed for 1,383 yards and scored 17 touchdowns.

NEWS

Consistency lacking in food safety

By David Shaffer
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Ask any food safety expert how to prevent food-borne illnesses, and the answer almost always includes a method invented in Minnesota to keep astronauts from getting sick in space.

The idea: Food makers must identify the riskiest steps in processing each kind of food and systematically attack the pathogens at those critical junctures.

Food scientists say the deadly salmonella outbreak linked to the Peanut Corp. of America (PCA) shows why such preventive measures should be mandatory across the food industry.

Under the government's fragmented regulation of food safety, some industries, such as meat and seafood, are required to have science-based programs to keep harmful germs out. For most other food processors, such programs are voluntary.

Makers of fresh juice and canned vegetables have to follow preventive control efforts, but not those that package fresh lettuce and spinach. Almond processors must comply with salmonella-prevention requirements imposed in 2007. The peanut industry doesn't.

The PCA processing plant in Blakely, Ga., linked to the salmonella outbreak wasn't required to have a hazard-control program "and to our knowledge, did not have one," Arty Schronce, spokesman for the Georgia Department of Agriculture, said in an e-mail.

It's not known how many plants don't bother with food-safety pro-



Coastal Seafoods general manager Tim Lauer cuts sea bass in a refrigerated workroom on Feb. 25 in Minneapolis. Coastal Seafoods has an advanced system, required under an FDA "HACCP" plan, that monitors temperature of many operations minute by minute.

ocols developed nearly 50 years ago at Pillsbury. Large food makers have widely embraced the practice, said Francisco Diez, an associate professor of food safety microbiology at the University of Minnesota.

For others, "the government has relied on self-policing by the industry, but the case of PCA shows that self-policing is not sufficient," Diez said.

Even food industry groups say that Congress should require every manufacturer to have a food

safety plan.

"What we want is to make sure that, first of all, a company is required to actually look at what they are doing, identify where the hazards are and propose doing something about it," said Robert Brackett, chief science and regulatory officer for the Grocery Manufacturers of America, one of 10 industry groups that wrote to Congress in January urging changes in federal law.

That might happen in the wake of the latest salmonella outbreak,

which sickened 677 people, nine of whom died. More than 3,200 products containing peanuts have been recalled, and Peanut Corp. of America has closed plants, filed for bankruptcy and faces a criminal investigation.

A bipartisan bill in the U.S. Senate that was introduced last week would require all food processors to have prevention plans to address food-borne hazards. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., one of the bill's sponsors, said it stands a good chance of passing.

Joy comes to Baghdad as soccer teams take to field

By Matthew Schofield
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — A series of quick, short passes suddenly left Haitham Kadhim with an opening about 25 yards from the goal. His left foot lashed the ball into the far corner of the net. The thousands of Jawiya supporters packed into Shaab Stadium erupted.

"Say prayers to the Prophet Muhammad. Say prayers to the Prophet Muhammad," they chanted.

Across the thick iron fences that separated opposing fans, the Shurta team's fans applauded politely. They were acknowledging the quality of the goal and the sheer joy that after years of fighting, of games canceled because of invasion, car bombs, sniper attacks or sectarian strife, soccer is back in Baghdad.

"This is the first time since 2003 I've felt safe enough to come back to the stadium," said Mohammed Salih, 28, with the smile of a man whose team was winning. "There's so much news about bad politics and poor security. Football is the only thing that brings relief to my soul."

For many here, life is soccer. Young boys wear European team shirts until they're threadbare; Barcelona is popular, but there are more

than a few shirts celebrating David Beckham's superstardom in Los Angeles. Soccer logos have replaced war graffiti on blast walls. Adults chant and dance by the thousands

"I consider football my first hobby and my second job. With football, I forget the troubles."

Ahmed Nouri
fan of the Shurta club

again, in pure celebration, while watching matches.

In some ways, soccer defines this war-ravaged country. Want to understand Iraq over the last couple decades? Study the league standings.

The best teams have always come from Baghdad. Of the 28 teams in the leading league, which dates to 1974, eight are based in the capital. The air force sponsors Jawiya and the Baghdad police sponsor Shurta. The Ministry of Transportation sponsors Zawraa, the country's proudest club. The Ministry of Higher Education sponsors Talaba,

the students' team. Together, they make up the big four, with a combined 21 championships. Only two teams from outside Baghdad had won the league before the U.S.-led invasion.

The invasion killed two seasons — and changed everything.

When it sputtered back to life in autumn 2004, the Dawri al-Mumtaz wasn't much of a league. Teams couldn't travel to games. The best players and coaches had fled.

The worse the violence was in an area, the worse its soccer teams were.

Ramadi, in insurgent- and al-Qaida in Iraq-infested Anbar province — and always a fan favorite — was knocked out of the league.

Basra, where Shiite militiamen battled British troops, struggled to schedule games.

Najaf, where U.S. troops tried to pin down Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, was patchy at best.

In Samarra, where the bombing of the Golden Dome mosque ignited Shiite-Sunni Muslim sectarian war, the team crashed to the bottom of the league.

In the tightly controlled Kurdish north, however, the teams were finding success for the first time. Irbil won its first title ever, then captured its second the fol-

lowing year.

It was the fall of Baghdad teams, however, that raised the most eyebrows. It wasn't as simple as games lost.

Husham al-Salman, a soccer writer for the newspaper Azzaman, can't remember all the players who were killed, especially after the sectarian violence escalated in 2006. He counted: three in a car bomb attack; one, while practicing, by mortar fire; another executed in his home; a stray bullet found another one.

Of course, there also were the kidnappings and the shrapnel injuries.

"Just now, it feels like a league again," Salman said. "With all the stars gone, how is the quality of play? It is much better than sectarian violence."

Which is why this past weekend, twice, Shaab, Iraq's national stadium and home to the big four, attracted thousands of spectators.

Ahmed Nouri, a 42-year-old fan of the Shurta club and the owner of a travel agency, sees the game as a way to forget everything else that's happened.

"I'm a big fan, for more than 30 years," he explained. "I consider football my first hobby and my second job. With football, I forget the troubles."



HOWARD WITT / Chicago Tribune via MCT

The Texas town of Tenaha is making money by pulling over black motorists and seizing their cash and property without charging them with any crime. A state law grants them power to seize property used in a crime, even if nothing illegal is found.

Police seize valuables from black motorists

By Howard Witt
Chicago Tribune

TENAHA, Texas — You can drive into this dusty fleck of a town near the Texas-Louisiana border if you're African-American, but you might not be able to drive out of it — at least not with your car, your cash, your jewelry or other valuables.

That's because the police here allegedly have found a way to strip motorists, many of them black, of their property without ever charging them with a crime. Instead they offer out-of-towners a grim choice: voluntarily sign over your belongings to the town, or face felony charges of money laundering or other serious crimes.

More than 140 people reluctantly accepted that deal from June 2006 to June 2008, according to court records. Among them were a black grandmother from Akron, who surrendered \$4,000 in cash after Tenaha police pulled her over, and an interracial couple from Houston, who gave up more than \$6,000 after police threat-

ened to seize their children, the court documents show. Neither the grandmother nor the couple were charged with or convicted of any crime.

Officials in Tenaha, situated along a state highway connecting Houston with several popular gambling destinations in Louisiana, say they are engaged in a battle against drug trafficking, and they call the search-and-seizure practice a legitimate use of the state's asset-forfeiture law.

Civil rights attorneys have filed a federal class-action lawsuit to stop what they contend is an unconstitutional perversion of the law's intent, aimed primarily at African-Americans who have done nothing wrong.

Tenaha officials "have developed an illegal 'stop and seize' practice of targeting, stopping, detaining, searching and often seizing property from apparently non-white citizens and those traveling with non-white citizens," asserts the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas.

STUDY ABROAD

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looking forward to studying in another country and having the time to travel overseas.

"Since I am a junior, I am afraid my study abroad opportunities are disappearing quickly," he said.

When programs are cancelled,

Kucko said, the center contacts each student and offers to redirect him or her to another program. About 50 percent of the students choose to redirect to another program, while others had their hearts set on the particular course or set not fulfill the same core or major requirements by entering another program, she said.

TIGER

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Leland said she has been in contact with HSNT about raising funds to help pay for the feed and care of 169 horses and 69 cattle that were seized by the shelter on March 5.

Ryan Myers, another member of the group, said collecting donations at baseball games is a possible

way to raise funds for the upkeep of the horses and cattle.

Berk wrote in an e-mail that the horses and cattle were obtained in the largest cattle seizure in Texas history. She estimated that cost to feed and care for the livestock will be around \$1,000 per day. She said she could not legally disclose the location from where the horses and cattle were seized until the custody paperwork is completed Friday.

Movie Tavern advertisement featuring new movies like 'The Last House on the Left' and 'Race to Witch Mountain' with showtimes and prices.

EXPERIENCE

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wonderful experience this was for them."

Proportionally, the university enrolls far fewer black and Hispanic students than make up the population of Texas. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 36 percent of the Texas population was of Hispanic or Latin descent in 2007. That year, 12 percent were black. Currently about 9.5 percent of undergraduates at the university are Hispanic, while about 5.5 percent are black, Marez said.

Freshman mechanical engineering major Rodolfo Ramirez, one of the students who put his room up for lodging, said he thinks the program is a good way for many high school students, not just Hispanic ones, to evaluate the university and see if it's a place they would be comfortable.

"The main difference is when you're on a regular tour they just tell you the scholastic side of the school," Ramirez said. "They tell you about some of the events but they really don't show you where

you're going to hang out, where everybody else hangs out, what actually is going on around campus."

About 15 prospective students and their families attended the first Hispanic Senior Experience, which is a significantly smaller number than typically attend Black Senior Weekend, Marez said. Because this was the first year such a program was offered, communication to admitted students wasn't as thorough as it could have been, he said. Some family's travel plans were also limited because of the current economic climate, he said.

Brown said he thought the program's first weekend was a success.

"It's one of those things that I think probably will grow in subsequent years," Brown said. "Some cultures are more oral than others, and the Hispanic culture is one that is. So I think they will be more oral in their discussion and in their encouragement."

Marez said the program will be offered at least once next year as well.

MOOT COURT

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Buongiorno said.

Jackson said the moot court class will be offered next semester as POSC 30403, section 60, Supreme Court Simulation. The class will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Mondays, and is limited to 18 students, he said. All members of the class will engage in moot court arguments, but only the top eight will qualify for the Texas Undergraduate Moot Court Association.

In its first year on campus, the

university sent a two-student team to the national tournament at Chapman University School of Law in Orange, Calif.

The team members, Buongiorno and Mickles, finished 10th at the Southwestern Regional Moot Court Competition in November, paving their way to the national tournament in California.

"I was especially proud because we competed against many students who attend their respective schools on moot court scholarships, but for Matt and me it is an extracurricular activity," Mickles said.

Today's Sudoku and Crossword Solutions

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 format.

Crossword puzzle grid with letters A-Z in a 13x13 format.

OPINION

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The Skiff View

Study abroad alternatives also valuable experiences

Even as the study abroad program is committing to expanding students' options to new destinations like Singapore, some programs are being shut down. A history course, The Industrial Revolution in London, is the latest to fall victim to low enrollment.

The programs' demise could be attributed to a lack of awareness, but even if the programs' profiles can be raised, the financial cost will still weigh heavily in making the decision to study overseas. The program recently refined its requirements for merit-based scholarships used in study abroad, but that will only serve to help the search for candidates in the future.

Scholarships and financial aid can definitely help soften the effect on students' checkbooks, but some are losing interest in the program altogether. While it's reasonable that students would want to prioritize their budgets in these trying economic times, it's discouraging to think that this could foster a lingering decline even in the future when the financial climate will be a little less cloudy.

Students who skip studying abroad are missing out on a unique opportunity to experience hands-on learning outside the classroom in their field of study.

After a student is told that the program they are hoping to participate in has been cancelled, they are referred to other study abroad programs. Hopefully this gives them some time to consider another trip. Even if they decide to stay stateside for the summer, there are still plenty of opportunities to immerse oneself in a different culture.

Spring Break, for example, offers such an opportunity for students to explore new cultures even if they never leave U.S. soil.

Features editor Chance Welch for the editorial board.

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



Elizabeth Rector is a freshman graphic design major from Katy.

Dance show full of D-list highlights



VLORA BOJKU

ABC has moved on from the recently concluded hit reality show "The Bachelor," and gracefully began the eighth season of "Dancing with the Stars" with a familiar face in the crowd of celebrity dancers.

"Dancing with the Stars" is a reality-based show in which celebrities are paired with ballroom dancers and compete for a disco ball trophy and the bragging rights. One couple is eliminated each week until the final three pairs compete for the title. One of the three is knocked out and the remaining two compete in a final freestyle dance routine.

Usually, the celebrities who join the show are D- to C-list celebrities who have found the show as a way to boost

their time in the spotlight, and it has worked rather effectively. Joey Fatone was able to get a TV show afterward, Mario Lopez is the host of MTV's America's Best Dance Crew, and how else would we have known about Hélio Castroneves, when all the media reported was his tax evasion issues?

The show is popular every season, but this season it is garnering more attention than any previous one.

The eighth season has been riddled with drama and speculation. Two dancers, Jewel and Nancy O'Dell, were stricken with knee injuries and forced to withdraw. This led to ABC's dramatic game of "who will fill in for the two injured starlets?"

In a smooth move, the producers chose star of the E! channel's, "The Girls Next Door," and ex-girlfriend of Hugh Hefner, Holly Madison as well as jilted Bachelor contestant, Melissa Rycroft, who both have captured the nation's attention in recent months.

Hopefully, this ABC reality show will turn out better for Rycroft, who was flooded with jokes about her ex-fiancé. If you were able to catch the

Usually, the celebrities who join the show are D- to C-list celebrities who have found the show as a way to boost their time in the spotlight, and it has worked rather effectively.

show you saw one of the judges stating he did not know who the Bachelor guy was, but he was definitely a loser. Have to agree with you on that one, Bruno.

This season also contains real life couple Julianne Hough and Chuck Wicks, Olympic gold medalist Shawn Johnson and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak.

Stay tuned, vote and hope your contestant comes out on top!

Vlora Bojku is a junior business major from Colleyville.

Obama's stem cell choice doesn't square with values



LIZ RECTOR

Stem cell research is chock full of opinionated dynamite, and adding politics to the mix creates an explosive debate.

Science has progressed in leaps and bounds in recent years and President Barack Obama wishes to continue the momentum by allowing stem cell research to move forward.

In most cases, unused, previously fertilized zygotes in fertility clinics are utilized for therapeutic stem cell research. The zygotes are then allowed to continue their division until they reach the blastocyst stage and are then destroyed for the use of their undesignated cells. The problem with disrupting the cell division and growth is that it prevents a new human life from growing.

Most people hear how stem cells, which have the ability to morph into almost any cell, are capable of saving lives, but at what cost?

Obama's approval will put into motion new embryonic stem cell lines. These changes have the two sides of the debate up in arms. But unchanging truth can be heard echoing from the past administration's voice when Bush said "we can't destroy life in order to save it."

Although that microscopic blastocyst contains nothing that gives it the appearance of a human, it does contain the ability to become one. So people get out their imaginary lines and place them and their ideas on where they think life itself begins.

Many scientists seem elated at Obama's lift. Obama recently said to the Associated Press, "Our government has forced what I believe is a false choice between sound science and moral values," but isn't he making a choice as well?

There is always an agenda. It is interesting that he has chosen this time, at the beginning of his presidency, in the midst of a crushing recession to put this issue above other necessary orders of business.

The public should be questioning Obama's motives. I fail to see how approving the death of thousands of potential infants is a victory.

Liz Rector is a freshman graphic design major from Katy.

Police safety e-mail condescending to students



JOHN ANDREW WILLIS

After reading some of the numerous e-mails TCU blasts to the student body daily, I sometimes wonder if we are a university or an elementary school, because the tone suggests an audience of children.

In anticipation of Spring Break, Detective Vicki Lawson of the TCU Police Department sent a safety advisory with some important information regarding travel to Mexico and general safety tips, which were relevant and useful for the

most part. The e-mail lost my attention and its credibility when I read, under the large red 'Alcohol' heading, "If you are not of legal age, DO NOT drink alcohol."

Wow, how insightful. If an administrator announced that at my high school, the room would burst out in laughter. TCU is a university – an institution of higher learning. Treating students like young children is both insulting and counterproductive. If you tell young, rebellious intellectuals not to do something, they're probably going to do it.

They may as well have sent an e-mail saying, "We know you've heard this a thousand times and won't pay attention to a word of this, but we need to absolve ourselves of liability by informing you once again."

Do administrators think students are going to sip on "mocktails" and play "cola-pong" by the pool because we've

If you tell young rebellious intellectuals not to do something, they're probably going to do it.

been awakened to the fact that there are consequences to consuming excessive amounts of alcohol?

I don't mean to negate the university's effort to promote student safety because I appreciate my school's being proactive in my personal safety. But that being said, instead of infantilizing and offending their constituency, the university should send information at a level of sophistication that matches the students reading it.

John Andrew Willis is a sophomore environmental science major from Dallas.

Campus Voices

Should the legal drinking age be lowered from 21 to 18?



At the age of 18, you're still living at home. Your parents can teach responsibility through drinking and it's less of a taboo subject.

Sara Hauck
 freshman graphic design major from Eden Prairie, Minn.



No, instead of hiding drinking, people would go crazy and be very irresponsible. Now that I'm 21, I don't think it should be lowered.

Erica Fladung
 junior economics major from Houston



No, because at 18, I don't think that people are mature enough. Along with the milestones of turning 18, graduating high school and going to college, it's not the perfect time to add drinking.

Callie Palmer
 sophomore special education major from Fort Worth



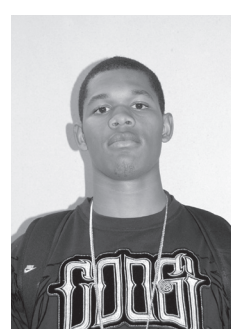
If it's legal, maybe it won't get as out of control as it already is.

Laramie Jameson
 sophomore neuroscience major from Southlake



Absolutely not. People are already irresponsible. It shows a bit more maturity at 21 when you are given that privilege. You'll have more life experience.

Bennett Parsons
 sophomore music education major from Arlington



No, because I think that whatever age, there will be complaints. I think 21 is a good number to stay with.

Jason T. Teague
 junior communications major from Carthage

NEWS



AVRIL BENOIT / Doctors Without Borders via MCT
Mothers wait to have their children vaccinated at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders-Holland in Muhajariya, in the Darfur region of Sudan. The clinic has been closed due to the expulsions in March 2009 of 13 international relief groups from Darfur.

Aid workers fear for ill in Darfur

By Shashank Bengali
McClatchy Newspapers

NAIROBI, Kenya — On her last day in the war-torn Darfur region of western Sudan, Gemma Davies, a 29-year-old British staffer with Doctors Without Borders, helped arrange for a gunshot victim to be transferred from the charity group's remote mountain clinic to a far-away state hospital. She watched as doctors discharged a young mother a day after a difficult delivery.

Then she and about a dozen colleagues lifted off in a helicopter, leaving behind a small local staff, a few weeks' worth of supplies and a promise to make radio contact twice a day. Their departure, three days before the International Criminal Court was due to issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in connection with atrocities in Darfur, was a security precaution, and Davies figured she'd return to the clinic in a couple of weeks.

Now, however, Davies and her team, part of the Dutch arm of Doctors Without Borders, are banned from Darfur after Sudan expelled 13 international humanitarian agencies and three domestic groups last week who were working in the troubled region. Soon after the warrant was announced, Bashir accused the foreign agencies of collaborating with the court — which they deny — and Sudanese authorities began freezing their bank accounts and confiscating computers, telephones and radios.

The future of the clinic where Davies worked — and that of

scores of programs throughout Darfur that provided clean drinking water, sturdy latrines, prenatal care, vaccinations, schooling and emergency food for malnourished children — is in doubt. The clinic and many other sites are cut off from communication and supply lines, reduced to islands in a harsh, sprawling scrubland the size of Texas.

Relief groups are scrambling to shutter their offices, pay off local staff members and vacate the country, with no idea how — or whether — their programs will continue. The United Nations estimates that the expulsions will affect 1.1 million people.

"We're very concerned that we've left patients behind," Davies said in an interview in Nairobi, in neighboring Kenya, where many expelled aid workers are beginning to arrive.

A day before flying home to London, Davies sat in a plush banquet hall at a sleek new Nairobi coffee shop, 1,500 miles and a universe removed from the craggy Jebel Mara mountains in southern Darfur, where she'd worked for the previous six months in a village called Feina. She had three months remaining on her contract.

The free clinic in Feina, established two years ago, is the only health facility serving some 90,000 people who have been displaced by fighting and are scattered throughout the mountains. The nearest decent hospital, is an eight-hour drive away if rains haven't washed out the road. In an average month the clinic saw about 3,000 patients.

"The population is scattered all over and access is a huge problem," Davies said. "With us gone, they have no one."

Among the simple farmers and

"The population is scattered all over and access is a huge problem. With us gone, they have no one."

Gemma Davies
Doctors Without Borders staffer

livestock herders in the area, rates of hunger and maternal mortality are high even by Darfur's grim health standards, Davies said. On March 1, the day her team left, seven children younger than 5 were being treated in the clinic's emergency feeding center.

The clinic has enough formula for several weeks, Davies said, as long as there's a steady water supply. When the team left, a diesel truck was pumping water. If the pump breaks down, residents will have to bring potable water up the mountainside on the backs of donkeys.

The agency also was forced to end services in Kalma, a camp that houses 90,000 displaced people, and in the town of Muhajariya, where it helped to operate the only hospital in an area, which has 70,000 residents.

Darfur has been a killing field

since 2003, when rebel groups launched an uprising and the Sudanese government responded with a brutal scorched-earth campaign. Perhaps the only bright spot has been the response by humanitarian agencies, which braved the tough terrain and byzantine government bureaucracy to build from scratch the world's most complex relief operation, dramatically curbing deaths from malaria, cholera and other treatable illnesses.

Aid groups long have complained about the strictures of operating in Darfur, including lengthy delays to obtain travel permits and authorizations for deliveries. Once, Davies' team's monthly shipment of food to Feina was delayed for several days because authorities objected to one item: canned peaches.

"You face barriers to what you're doing," Davies said. "You can have all the will and capacity, but you still need permission to get food, logistical support, medical supplies."

In the end, the team in Feina never numbered more than 12 foreigners. That was the maximum that could be carried out by helicopter in an evacuation.

More than 50 local staff members remain, but on the other end of the radio — where Davies and her team were supposed to check in twice daily — there's only silence.

"I would think they would keep running as long as they could," Davies said. "But we have no way of knowing. To know you have more than 50 staff there, totally unsupported, their level of knowledge not great — it's very difficult to imagine what will happen."

Speechwriter has long history with president

By Mike Dorning
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — The new president's first address to Congress loomed and Barack Obama had convened a few trusted advisers in the Oval Office.

Seated in a chair beside the fireplace, Obama turned his attention to a 27-year-old with close-cropped hair among the aides perched on the office couch. His instructions were familiar.

"You and I always tell a story pretty well. I still want to make sure we do that here," Obama said, according to one participant.

Behind a president defined more by his oratory than any political figure in a generation is chief speechwriter Jon Favreau, whose work with Obama began almost as soon as the Illinoisan arrived in Washington four years ago and who knows the president's ideas, stories and rhythms so well that Obama has called him a mind-reader.

Throughout the grueling, nearly two-year-long presidential

campaign, Favreau lived a life of constant deadlines and caffeine-fueled late nights, carrying as a ready reference Obama's 1995 autobiography, "Dreams from My Father," and committing to memory the 2004 Democratic convention speech that introduced Obama to the country. He now works one floor below the

"I've never worked for a politician who values words as much as the president does."

David Axelrod
senior adviser to President Barack Obama

president, in a basement office in the West Wing.

Favreau, or "Favs" to his friends and co-workers, is the second-youngest person ever to work as chief White House speechwriter. Only James Fallows was younger when he started as Jimmy Carter's

top speechwriter, by a mere two months.

Though Favreau mostly works out of the limelight, he had an unwelcome brush with celebrity in December after a Facebook photo surfaced of him at a party gripping a cardboard cut-out of Hillary Clinton — a bit of clowning for which he quickly apologized to Obama's former rival. More recently, Internet gossip sites reported he is dating a former Maxim magazine model who works as an assistant in the White House.

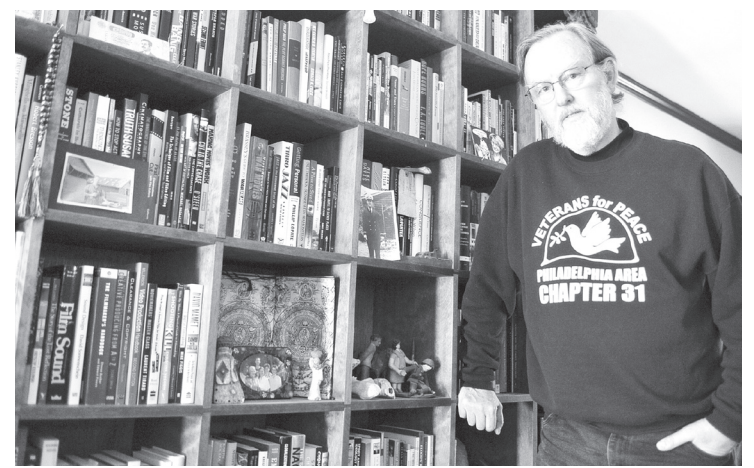
He has played a role in such pivotal moments as Obama's speech on race, a New Hampshire primary concession speech that transformed a jarring defeat into a rallying point for the campaign, the spectacular stadium-rally acceptance speech at the Democratic convention in Denver and the soaring affirmation of American possibility that Obama delivered in his election-night victory speech in Chicago's Grant Park.

After four drafts circulated back and forth, each one returned to Favreau covered with

handwritten editing from the president, Obama's recent address to the joint session of Congress again achieved their aspirations. In a speech that is the equivalent of the State of the Union address for a new president, they avoided the mish-mash of ideas typical of the annual ritual.

Instead, what emerged was a story about how the country had fallen into economic crisis and how the new president envisioned climbing out of it, a narrative that made the case for an ambitious political agenda by connecting it to the struggles and anxieties of ordinary Americans. The impact was immediate, boosting the president in opinion polls and bolstering support for his program.

The White House denied a request for an interview with Favreau. But aides said Obama's speeches often begin with the president dictating his thoughts to Favreau and the speechwriter shaping them into a draft that is then passed back and forth between the two men.



SHARON GEKOSKI-KIMMEL / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT
John Grant, president of the Philadelphia chapter of Veterans for Peace, appears in his home in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., on March 5.

Canada no longer haven for deserters

By Michael Matza
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Fleeing Fort Carson, Colo., in an old Camaro, Army deserter Joshua Key had a secret destination: Philadelphia.

After serving seven months in Iraq as a combat engineer, he went on the run during a home leave in 2003 rather than return to a war he had concluded was immoral.

"At the very beginning, I asked a military lawyer, 'What are my choices?' " he recalled recently. "He said, 'You have two: Get back on the plane and go to Iraq, or you're going to jail.'"

Key, then 25, gave himself a third choice, to disappear "into the crowd of a big city," he said. He grew his hair, sprouted a beard, and tried to act as though his time in the Army "never happened." For 14 months, he, his wife and their four children lived in the Philadelphia area, moving "in total paranoia" between highway rest stops and cheap motels. They survived on her waitressing tips and his day jobs as a welder.

In March 2005, his panic rising, he fled with his family to Canada. He soon discovered it was not the resister's mecca it had been during the Vietnam War, when at least 50,000 draft dodgers fled to "a refuge from militarism," as then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau declared his nation.

It is not so today for an estimated 250 deserters who since the start of the Iraq war followed the well-worn route, only to be condemned as "bogus" refugees by Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and targeted for expulsion.

While most live unobtrusively as illegal immigrants, about 50, like Key, are before Canada's immigration board seeking refugee status in uphill battles.

Crossing the border as an American visitor proved easy for Key. But his bid for sanctuary as a refugee has been much more challenging.

It is rooted in his argument that his duties in Iraq — including traffic stops in which innocent Iraqis were killed, and house raids in which every male taller than 5 feet was taken for interrogation — violated Geneva Conventions.

If forced to return to the Army, he maintains, he'll be punished for deserting over acts he deems illegal. That would constitute persecution, not prosecution, he contends.

To many soldiers who served in Iraq, and families that lost loved ones, deserters are treasonous cowards who reneged on a commitment made voluntarily. They weren't drafted. They enlisted or joined reserve units for patriotism, employment or GI benefits, then betrayed their sacred oaths.

Vietnam veteran John Grant, a 61-year-old filmmaker and anti-war activist in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., doesn't see it that way. A member of Veterans for Peace, a national nonprofit Although the Army issues arrest warrants for deserters, it does not hunt them. Most hide in plain sight in America, eventually resurfacing to face disciplinary action ranging from letters of reprimand to imprisonment.

"The number of soldiers who desert is less than 1 percent," the Army said in a statement, and most desert because of "personal, family, or financial problems ... not for

political or conscientious objector purposes."

The first expulsion from Canada of an Iraq war deserter was in July. Robin Long, of Boise, Idaho, was court-martialed and sentenced to 15 months in prison. Clifford Cornell, of Mountain Home, Ark., returned voluntarily and was charged with desertion last month. A dozen others have exhausted their appeals; they face imminent expulsion, barring last-ditch filings on "humanitarian and compassionate" grounds.

Although Canada has troops in Afghanistan, it has not contributed its forces to the Iraq war.

By some measures, the Canadian people have been consistently supportive of U.S. draft dodgers and deserters in their midst.

Canadians "have not changed," said Lee Zaslofsky, a Vietnam-era deserter and spokesman for the War Resisters Support Campaign, a Toronto group that aids deserters. He cited a poll last year in which 64 percent of Canadians said they would give U.S. soldiers "the opportunity to remain in Canada."

However, the conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper is determined to expel them as part of its policy to strengthen immigration controls.

"People say, 'You took the easy way out,'" said Key, speaking by phone last week from his home in Winnipeg. "They don't really know what they are saying."

In Philadelphia, he said, he and wife Brandi made friends, but were

"People say, 'You took the easy way out.' They don't really know what they are saying."

Joshua Key
Army deserter

tense because "we had to lie to everyone."

When Brandi gave birth to their fourth child, Key feared they would be revealed. So they fled again, approaching Canada's border near Niagara Falls on a March night.

Canadian officials asked only perfunctory questions, then waved him in, saying, "Have a good time."

The War Resisters Support Campaign arranged initial housing for the family in Toronto's Chinatown. Three days later, Key applied for refugee status.

Over the next three years, the stresses mounted. His mother in Oklahoma was gravely ill, yet he couldn't visit her. His in-laws were impatient to see their grandchildren, now all elementary age. His marriage failed, and six months ago, Brandi took the children back to the United States.

J.E. McNeil, executive director of the Center on Conscience and War in Washington, said she discouraged deserters from fleeing to Canada because "there are better options," such as trying for conscientious objector status or various types of honorable discharge, including separation for post-traumatic stress.

Canada, she tells them, "is a forever choice. ... You won't be able to come back for your parents' funerals, daughter's wedding, grandkids' graduations."

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HOLADAY

continued from page 8

thing in the world to me."

The "accidental" catcher

Coming out of high school, Holaday admits he wasn't a highly sought after recruit, though he earned all-state honors two years in a row as a pitcher and shortstop at W.T. White High School in Dallas.

Holaday accepted an offer to North Central Texas College, a school that has produced several pro prospects, most notably Houston Astros catcher J.R. Towles. After an injury left the team without a catcher, Holaday, a shortstop at the time, volunteered to fill the position for the season, despite never having played catcher before. With the help of coach Scott Harp at North Central Texas, Holaday became a Division I-caliber catcher.

"He made it fun for me; he made it competitive and he made me real-

ly want to do it," Holaday said about his coach. "Working hard at it was the only way I could pick it up."

Holaday hit .348 with three home runs and 24 RBIs to earn all-conference honors for the Lions that season. Injuries at the catcher position at TCU gave Holaday an opportunity to come in and play right away — with just one season of junior college experience behind the plate.

"It's a pretty hard adjustment coming in from (junior college) because the level of play is so much better," he said. "But the guys here just make you work hard and that's how you do better."

Holaday's stats for last season don't reflect those of a rookie Division I catcher. He committed just three errors in 62 games for the Horned Frogs last season, his .311 batting average and 41 RBIs ranked fourth on the team and he caught 21 batters stealing, best in the conference.

Schlossnagle was impressed.

"He just did really well, espe-

cially for a guy that's converted," Schlossnagle said. "He's as good as a defensive catch-and-throw guy that I've coached, at least at the college level."

Holaday's biggest challenge behind the plate came from former Horned Frog closer Andrew Cashner. The pitcher sported a blistering fastball that reached the upper 90s on the radar gun and a knee-splitting slider that earned him a first-round MLB draft choice by the Chicago Cubs in 2008.

The worst part? Cashner often decided to change pitches mid-windup.

"He'd cross me up a few times, and seriously, it gets scary when you think a slider is coming and he throws a 97 mile per hour fastball at you," he says with a chuckle.

The crafty veteran

Now, in year two behind the plate, Holaday is counted on as a veteran leader in the clubhouse and as a manager of a young pitching staff that has featured eight under-

classmen in action this season. But Holaday is the right man for the job, Schlossnagle said.

"He's done such a good job of keeping the pace of play going," Schlossnagle said. "You see how quickly he gets the ball back to the pitcher and gets where he's supposed to be, he gets the signs ... and when you have that kind of on-field leadership behind home plate, it helps everybody."

Frank Holaday, Bryan's father, watches every game his son plays, talking baseball with students in the stands with a hint of Texas drawl in his voice. It's been a dream come true for the former certified public accountant who resides in Dallas.

"I can't tell you how much fun that my wife and I have had over the years, traveling to different cities and tournaments all over the United States," he said. "The TCU experience for us has been unbelievable. The players, the coaching staff, the people we've met sitting in the stands — if it gets any better than this I couldn't imagine."

FANTASY BASEBALL

Rodriguez's injury lets other third basemen rise



BILLY WESSELS

ESPN fantasy leagues.

If you really want Rodriguez and feel like settling for a lesser player at the hot corner for a month, go for it. Here are some third basemen you can look at for the first month of the year that should be available in the later rounds:

Ryan Zimmerman (Washington 3B)- I drafted him last year because I was starting to believe in the hype, then an early season injury hurt his productivity. You can expect around 19 home runs, 80 RBIs, 75 runs from Zimmerman in the full season.

Mark DeRosa (Indians 2B, 3B, OF)- DeRosa is the ultimate utility man. By qualifying at three different positions, he has value throughout the season even after the first month. Plus he is representing team USA well in the WBC. Expect him to hit 21 home runs, knock in 90 runs, score 85 runs and have a .280 average.

Third base is generally a shallow position, but this year I see about 15 players that can start in your fantasy league.

The Skiff fantasy baseball league is drafting this weekend, so after Spring Break I will let you know who had the best draft and give you some sleepers that went late.

Everyone have a safe Spring Break and join me in saying "Go USA!" in the Classic.

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

NHL

GMs recommend changes to fighting rules in hockey

By Chip Alexander

McClatchy Newspapers

RALEIGH, N.C. — It was early in the game and the Carolina Hurricanes were sluggish when Tim Conboy decided enough was enough.

Before a faceoff, the Canes' forward looked over at Chris Stewart of the Colorado Avalanche and invited him to face off and fight.

"I asked him and he said, 'Sure, I'll go with you,'" Conboy said.

Conboy landed a few punches and took a few, ending with five-minute major penalty for fighting and a black eye. The Canes, energized, went on to win. As for the fight, the RBC Center crowd loved it.

"Let's face it," Canes defenseman Tim Gleason said. "Fans like to see a little blood."

But should fighting be a part of hockey? That's one of the issues being debated this week as the league's general managers meet in Naples, Fla.

One recommendation made by the GMs on Tuesday was that players in such "staged" fights at faceoffs receive a 10-minute misconduct penalty as well as a five-minute major penalty. The proposal will go to the NHL competition committee, and, if passed, to the board of governors for final approval.

The general managers also proposed that referees more

closely enforce the instigator penalty, especially against players who wear visors and instigate fights. None sought to ban fighting completely, however.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said before the meetings he did not sense "an appetite to have a complete abolition of fighting from any of our constituent groups: players, coaches, general managers, fans." He said the focus would be on "rules of engagement."

"How fights start, helmets, do you stop a fight when helmets come off, do you prohibit yanking helmets off, takedowns?" Bettman said.

When Conboy and Stewart went at it in the Feb. 22 game, Conboy's helmet flew off, but the

"If someone gets in a fight and gets beat up, he's less likely to do it again."

Tim Conboy

Canes forward

fight did not become malicious.

But there are fights that have a nasty edge to them. Those often are necessary, players say, and should remain in the game as a deterrent.

"The game polices itself," former Hurricanes and current Boston Bruins defenseman Aar-

on Ward said. "Are you going to take bean-balling out of baseball? That's something that has been in the game for a long time, and it's a way of policing the game."

"Purists understand fighting has its place and it's a necessary evil to our game."

Conboy said fighting enables players to take care of "dirty hits, stickwork, stuff like that."

"If someone gets in a fight and gets beat up, he's less likely to do it again," he said.

But getting "beat up" can be dangerous or even lethal. In early January, Don Sanderson died from injuries sustained during a fight in an Ontario Hockey Association game.

Sanderson, 21, was playing for a senior league club team in a Dec. 12 game. He banged his head against the ice during the fight and lapsed into a coma.

Hurricanes prospect Trevor Gillies of the Albany River Rats has been out because of a concussion since Dec. 20, when his head struck the ice during a fight in an American Hockey League game.

Two recent conferences in Canada ended with recommendations to take fighting out of the game. The Hockey Concussion Summit in January in London, Ontario, examined the concussions with long-term complications, or "needless death" caused by fighting.

The "Violence in Hockey Symposium" — also in London, On-

tario — ended last month with more proposals for curbing the violent nature of the sport. One speaker said the only way to curb fighting would be to change the "role model" — the NHL.

The Ontario Hockey League, a major junior league, forbids players from removing their helmets before fights. In NCAA hockey, fighters are disqualified from the game and can be suspended from other games. Fighting is not allowed in Olympic hockey and in European pro leagues.

Will the NHL change?

"In a game, things get heated and tempers flare," Hurricanes general manager Jim Rutherford said. "If it's just a hockey fight, I think that's OK. If they can't do that, some players will use their sticks to protect themselves and it could be a worse situation."

"As time goes on, it will probably be phased out."

QUICK SPORTS

Lady Frogs fall short in Las Vegas

The third-seeded women's basketball team lost to the seventh-seeded UNLV Lady Rebels 84-75 Wednesday night in the second round of play in the Mountain West Conference Championships.

The team had secured a first-round bye after finishing the regular season with a 12-4 conference record, but the loss in the second round ended the team's

hopes of winning the conference tournament title.

Junior guard TK LaFleur led the way for the Lady Frogs with 19 points while sophomore guard Helena Sverrisdottir chipped in with 16 points and 13 rebounds for her ninth double-double of the season.

UNLV led by 20 points at half-time and the Lady Frogs were able to shrink the lead to single digits with only minutes to play.

The Lady Rebels shot 52.7 per-

cent from the floor while holding the Lady Frogs to just 41.4 percent.

The team had bested the UNLV twice already this season, with a 66-61 victory on the road in January and a 75-46 walloping on Feb. 10.

The team won't find out if it will receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament until Monday evening.

— Sports editor Michael Carroll

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FEATURES



Enter to win "Miss March" gear. Answer this question correctly: This controversial comedian was Hugh Hefner's first guest on his first TV show, "Playboy's Penthouse." E-mail the answer to features@dailyskiff.com.

First Person Perspective

Student writes her way to award

By **Katie Ruppel**
Staff Reporter

For most, the airport is a place for departures, arrivals, goodbyes, reunions, hugs, kisses and sometimes tears, but for sophomore writing major Kelli Trapnell, it is her favorite place for inspiration.

As businessmen with suitcases mindlessly rush to their gates and parents wearily send their son on his first trip alone, Trapnell simply watches and imagines, creating backgrounds, personalities and relationships for these people.

"People really wear their emotions on their sleeves because it's stressful," Trapnell said. "The airport is kind of like the location where everybody is either going to face relationships with people or are escaping relationships with people."

The airport is only one of the many places Trapnell finds inspirations — anywhere with people will suffice. She said she mostly enjoys working with emotions, effects and repercussions of relationships between people, whether it's a story she heard in passing or it is completely in her head. Perhaps it is because of her ability to find inspiration in any given person that Trapnell became the first recipient of the Sandra Brown Excellence in Literary Fiction Award on March 3.

The endowed scholarship, established by Michael Brown in honor of his wife, author Sandra Brown, provides two years of full tuition to the recipient.

In order to be eligible for the award, contestants had to have at least 54 credit hours, major in writing or English, and most importantly, turn in 50 pages of fiction written outside of class.

Dan Williams, English department chair, said he and the four other judges evaluated the writers on their sense of craft, originality and creativity.

He said although the top three contestants were close, Trapnell had the best portfolio overall based

on the criteria.

Sandra Brown also had a chance to look at Trapnell's work and was nothing short of impressed.

"She just proved herself to be a talented writer," she said. "What impressed me the most by her writing was the wide range and the variety in every single instance and character."

In Trapnell's portfolio were stories from several different viewpoints; light-hearted, humorous stories such as a man who has a fear of haircuts and a little girl from a health-oriented family who wants nothing more than a birthday cake for breakfast, and also more serious, psychological stories such as a girl who gets taken advantage of sexually and a man investigating a series of police officers killing police officers.

Ranging from friends, family, music, art, current events, favorite authors to even strangers at the airport, Trapnell's inspirations are endless, she said.

"I will always write because it's an emotional need that I have," Trapnell said. "I like making stories to share with people and whether or not that leads to publication or whether it's just the writing at my desk, calling my friends saying, 'Hey, listen to this story!' I will always write."

From "The Experiment" by Kelli Trapnell

Cassie Marlowe had graduated from Tufts University in '86, at the top of her class. She had gotten her degree in psychology, but her minor was in criminal justice. That was her dad's idea — he had been a cop for his entire life, and he couldn't imagine a better job for Cassie. All through college, Cassie had hated her criminal justice classes. They were challenging and unrewarding, and it felt like all of her teachers were professional interrogators, always accusing her of academic misdemeanors like neglect of studying or

something like that. Had she had the nerve, Cassie would have dropped the minor after freshman year, but when she thought about the disappointed look on her dad's face, she always chickened out. So, instead, she sweated out three more grueling years of scholastic torture, only to hear that her father wouldn't be attending her graduation. He had been killed in the line of duty the night before, sergeant had told her over the phone. Shot in back of the head by his partner.

“That was her dad's idea — he had been a cop for his entire life, and he couldn't imagine a better job for Cassie.”



Check out the article on dailyskiff.com to see more of Kelli Trapnell's short story.

Best-selling author, former Frog gives back

By **Katie Ruppel**
Staff Reporter

Sandra Brown is a world-renowned author of more than 70 novels, 56 of which have appeared on The New York Times best seller list. Since her first book was published in 1981, she has sold more than 70 million books that have been translated into 33 languages. She has won a plethora of writing awards during her career and was most recently inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame. Not to mention she attended TCU.

Brown said she remembers having an 8 a.m. composition class while attending the university that not everyone was a fan of.

Among the moaning and groaning of her other classmates, Brown not only did not think the class was difficult, but really enjoyed it.

"To me writing was never something I dreaded that much," Brown said. "That was my first indication that I might have some ability and that that's what I wanted to do."

Husband Michael Brown said when he and his wife met at TCU Sandra Brown had a scholarship from a non-affiliated organization that required she stay single. However, after meeting and marrying him, Sandra Brown lost the scholarship.

"I just always regretted that she had to give up her scholarship because she mar-

ried me," Michael Brown said. "That's the underlying motivation for the award."

In addition to that, he said he also wanted to honor his wife in her career by simultaneously providing financial assistance to deserving writers following in her footsteps.

Sandra Brown's advice for potential authors: write, write, write.

"A lot of people get caught up with the study of writing or the association of writing, and that's good," Sandra Brown said. "But at the end of the day people are busy doing all that and are not actually writing. You have to actually put words on the paper."

“I just always regretted that she had to give up her scholarship because she married me; that's the underlying motivation for the award.”

Michael Brown
Husband of Sandra Brown



KATIE RUPPEL / Staff Reporter
Sophomore writing major Kelli Trapnell became the first recipient of the Sandra Brown Excellence in Literary Fiction Award on March 3. The best-selling author and namesake of the award is a former TCU student and popular writer of thriller and romance novels.

New films offer male bonding over the break

By **Chance Welch**
Features Editor

Miss March

Eugene, played by Zach Cregger, awakens from a four-year coma to find that his high school sweetheart whom he took to prom on the night of an accident has become a Playboy Playmate. Helped in his quest by horn-dog friend Tucker, played by Trevor Moore, the two set out for the Playboy Mansion so Eugene can get the night with "Miss March" that he missed out on.

That's the premise to the feature film debut from Trevor Moore and Zach Cregger, two members of the sketch comedy group "Whitest Kids U'Know." Moore and Cregger have produced, written and co-directed the film, which also includes roles from "The Office" actor Craig Robinson and Playboy's founder Hugh Hefner.

The underground sketch comedy group has a rabid cult following with their TV

show on IFC which constantly pushes the boundaries of good taste. Some examples of sketches include a violent pimp who's a fan of puns, a re-imagining of Abraham Lincoln's assassination as payback for being profane and unruly, and the first rap song about getting high with dinosaurs.

One has to wonder if the style of comedy might be diluted as the two make the transition from the small screen to a massive audience. Like most R-rated comedies like the recent "Pineapple Express" and "Sex Drive," there's probably going to be an unrated cut on DVD in the works that might be closer to Moore and Cregger's less mainstream type of humor.

"Miss March" is rated R and opens today.

I Love You, Man

Paul Rudd stars as Peter, a man who has found the woman he wants to marry. Now he just has to find a man, a best man specifically. Peter, who hasn't had a lot of male friends

since meeting his fiancée, sets off on a series of awkward "man-dates" until he meets Sydney, played by Jason Segel. Sydney shares Peter's passion for the band Rush and the two try their attempts at male bonding.

Rudd has got a lot of mileage out of playing uptight characters in comedies like last year's "Role Models," which also had a theme of male camaraderie. So has Segel with his starring turns in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and TV show "How I Met Your Mother."

The six degrees of Judd Apatow is at play too. Rudd and Segel have shared screen time before in Apatow productions ranging from "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," to "Knocked Up."

With a strong supporting cast that includes Saturday Night Live cast member Andy Samberg, "My Name is Earl" actress Jaime Pressly and even SNL veteran Jane Curtin, it's reassuring to know that the laughs won't only be coming from the two stars.

"I Love You, Man" is rated R and opens March 20.



DREAMWORKS
Paul Rudd, right, plays Peter, whose search for a best man leads him on a series of man-dates until he meets the unpredictable Sydney, played by Jason Segel.

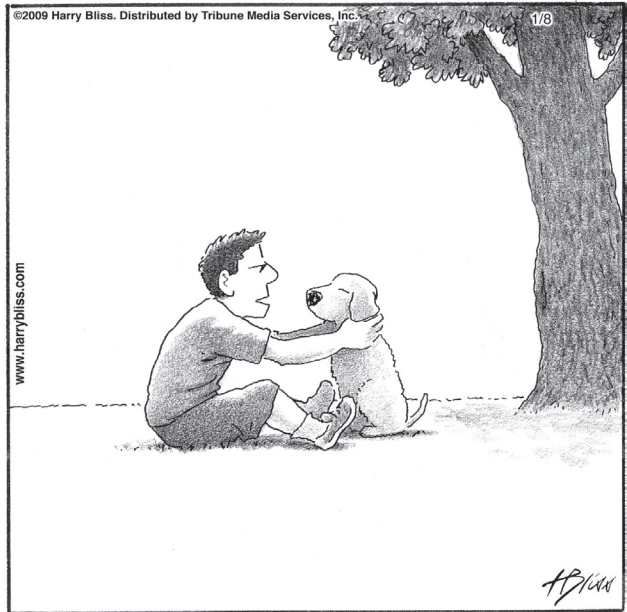
ETC.



Today in History
Astronomer William Herschel discovers Uranus, the seventh planet from the sun.

Joke of the Day
Q: What do potatoes wear to bed?
A: Their yammies.

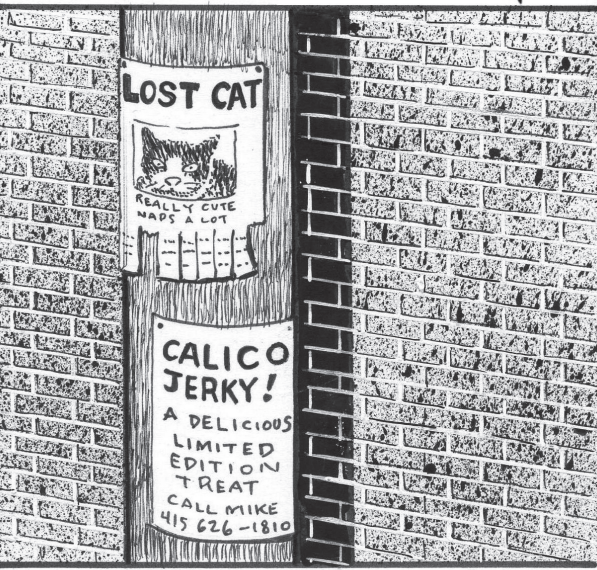
Bliss by Harry Bliss



"I figure if I was still employed, I wouldn't get to spend all this time with you!"

Michael Capozzola's CHEAP CITY
"Saving you money... one bad idea at a time!"

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Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

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

Thursday's Solutions

Solutions for the Sudoku puzzle grid.

See page 2 for sudoku and crossword solutions.

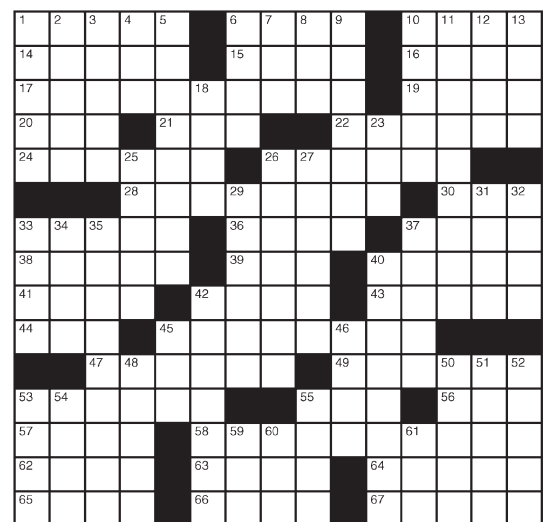
TODAY'S CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- List of crossword clues including 'All confused', 'Exchange', 'Collection of actors', etc.



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

3/13/09

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

Solved crossword puzzle grid with words like 'TASTE', 'PEEP', 'TUNIS', etc.

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Trinity Episcopal Church welcomes TCU students. Sunday services are 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Holy Eucharist with Choir 11:30 Eucharist with contemporary music.

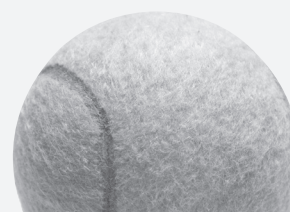
Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical
Holy Family Catholic Church Pastor: Rev. Joseph Pemberton Mass Times: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 7:45 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 12:00 Noon 6:15 PM. Disciples of Christ (DOC) Rec Dottie Cook Minister.

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SPORTS



See a spring break sports wrap-up after the break.

BASEBALL

ON HOLIDAY



Junior catcher Bryan Holaday catches a strike during the game against Wichita State on Sunday.

PAIGE McARDLE / Design Editor

Catcher's passion for sport shines bright

By Joe Zigtema
Staff Writer

The game-winning home run — it's the baseball player's dream.

Except Horned Frog catcher Bryan Holaday's; he'd rather catch a shutout from one of his friends on the mound.

"Catching a shutout, it's not just me doing all the things — it's everyone on my team that's working toward the goal," Holaday said. "That to me is a lot better than having one hit and winning a game that way."

For Holaday, a junior business major in his second year as the Horned Frog starting

catcher, just playing the game is all the motivation he needs. It's that passion that keeps him on the field, head coach Jim Schlossnagle said.

"His best tool is how he plays," Schlossnagle said. "He's very respected by his teammates because he plays so hard, and he's a pretty funny kid so he keeps the mood light."

Holaday admits he's a joker in the clubhouse, leading the team's secret pregame rituals. He claims dancing is the calmest thing he does before games — all in the spirit of baseball.

"I like the guys in the clubhouse to have a lot of fun because we're blessed to come out

TCU vs. Minnesota

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Monday (Friday game postponed due to weather)
Where: Lupton Stadium

here every day," he said. "I want everyone to make the best of it because it's the most fun

SEE HOLIDAY · PAGE 5

MEN'S TENNIS



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Sophomore Zach Nichols returns the ball during a singles match against the University of San Diego's Nicola Bubnic on Friday. Nichols won the match 6-4, 6-4.

Horned Frogs to finish home stand over break

By Jordan Smith
Staff Reporter

TCU vs. Virginia Tech

When: 2 p.m. today
Where: Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center

On the heels of a tough loss to then-No. 38 Duke, the Horned Frogs will try to improve their 5-8 spring record when they play host to No. 25 Virginia Tech today. They will also play Columbia University at home Tuesday before taking time off for Spring Break.

The two matches before Spring Break will be the Horned Frogs' last opponents before conference play begins.

The team will also have to decide how to use its younger players in the second half of the season.

Head Coach Dave Borelli said inexperience is mostly to blame for his team's mixed results. Although the doubles team of sophomore Emanu-

el Brighiu and junior Adrian Simon is now ranked No. 14 in the country, the Horned Frogs have been unable to consistently win close matches because of questions at the five and six spots, he said.

Kriegler Brink, the team's lone senior, said the team has to stop leaning on its top performers.

"We kind of just rely on the doubles point and on the top three guys who have to win," Brink said. "And luckily they have won. But ... it puts

SEE TENNIS · PAGE 5

Spring Break '09

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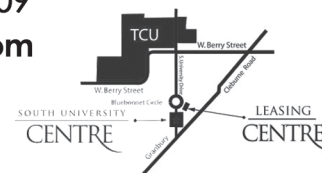
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