



See how all the Horned Frog sports teams performed during Spring Break. **Sports, page 8**



Casinos in Texas are a good idea financially and an advancement of personal freedom. **Tomorrow in Opinion**



Why are experts predicting a decrease in the number of college applications within the next few years? **Tomorrow in News**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Mountain West proposes BCS changes

By Justin White
Staff Reporter

Many college football fans across the country screamed for change during the bowl season. The Mountain West Conference answered and will direct the battle against the current Bowl Championship Series system.

The conference presented an eight-team playoff proposal to the BCS, said Javan Hedlund, associate commissioner for communications of the Mountain West Conference. The nine university presidents known as the Mountain West Conference Board of Directors prompted the decision, Hedlund said.

The current system weighs the BCS rankings of teams in each league. According to the playoff proposal, a conference would

qualify for an automatic bid if its teams' winning percentage were at least .400 in games against the current automatic qualifying leagues over a two-year period.

The proposal eliminated BCS rankings and created a 12-member committee to choose the teams that receive at-large bids. The committee would also seed the eight teams chosen for the playoff.

The proposal also states that the four first-round playoff games would be played at the current BCS bowl games. The BCS bowls would also be given the opportunity to host the semifinals a week later. The championship game would be played a week later.

The final part of the proposed system asked that each conference and Notre Dame have equal representation on the BCS com-

mittee and for revenues to be given equally among all leagues.

The Mountain West has received positive feedback for the proposal from other conferences, Hedlund said.

Athletics director Danny Morrison said that the proposal created a necessary dialogue to address the need for change in the BCS as well as a playoff system.

The key element for the Mountain West is the success it has had in recent years, Morrison said. Since the conference had three teams finish in the top 25 with two teams in the top 10, the timing was perfect, Morrison said.

Morrison said the proposal was not because of poor performance by some BCS conferences but because of the success of Mountain West teams.

"The Mountain West Conference had a superb year this year, and we want to continue to have these kind of years as we move forward," he said.

The Horned Frogs' competition will continue to get tougher as the Mountain West becomes a greater challenger to the BCS conferences, Morrison said.

"I would say we've got a really challenging nonconference schedule," Morrison said. "At the same time, the conference continues to get better and better as it gets deeper with all the teams improving."

The Frogs are scheduled to play Texas State University and Southern Methodist University in Fort Worth next season and will travel to Virginia and South Carolina to take on the University of Virginia and Clemson University, respectively.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

News: Course on pirates popular in Chicago, page 7
Opinion: U.S. troops deserve more fairness, page 3
Sports: Baseball plays hard during break, Page 10

TOP 10 MOVIES

(millions of dollars)

1	Knowing	24.8
2	I Love You, Man	18
3	Duplicity	14.4
4	Race To Witch Mountain	13
5	Watchmen	6.7
6	The Last House on the Left	5.9
7	Taken	4.1
8	Slumdog Millionaire	2.7
9	Tyler Perry's Madea Goes To Jail	2.5
10	Coraline	2.1

— Media by Numbers



AIG bonuses shouldn't come as a surprise. **Opinion, page 3**

PECULIAR FACT

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — A world record in the length of a queue to a toilet was set Sunday when 756 people lined up to a latrine in central Brussels to raise awareness for the need for clean water on World Water Day.
— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

73 47
HIGH LOW
Scattered T-storms

Tomorrow: Chance T-storms 66 / 53
Thursday: Mostly Sunny 79 / 58



FUTURE FROGS



Freshman marketing major Peter Severson talks to prospective students about Sid Richardson and Winton Scott halls as part of the campus admissions tours Monday afternoon. As of Monday, the university has accepted about 51 percent, or 6,120, of the 12,000 incoming freshmen for the fall semester. Last year, the university accepted 6,157 freshman out of 12,212 applicants according to the 2008 Factbook.
COURTNEY JAY / Staff Reporter

ADMISSIONS

Hispanic enrollment continues to increase

By Maricruz Salinas
Staff Reporter

Ruth Lopez, sophomore radio-TV-film major, is a first-generation college student. Her parents never made it past high school.

That is the case for the majority of the growing Hispanic population enrolled in universities, said Ray Brown, dean of admissions.

In a state where Hispanics make up 36 percent of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the university's Hispanic enrollment is less than 10 percent. However, over the last 11 years, the number of incoming Hispanic freshmen students has increased 67 percent, going from 92 Hispanic freshmen in 1998 to 154 in last year's freshman class, Brown said. Those numbers need to keep improving, he said.

"If we don't enroll more and more Hispanic students, we're going to look so different," he said. "I don't pretend to think we need to be absolutely reflective of every demographic that this state has — not today, but it might be nice to work toward that sometime."

The university has several programs aimed at increasing the number of Hispanics on campus, part of an effort to give more students the opportunity Lopez said she had.

"My parents never went to college and came to America for a better future," Lopez said. "My mother wanted me to go to college and get a better job rather than resort to some job that anyone can do."

One of the programs the university recently debuted is the Hispanic Senior Experience. The event, which began earlier this month, brought together current and prospective Hispanic students and introduced prospective students to advisers.

Aaron Marez, an admissions counselor, said the addition of more Hispanic students will strengthen the university's mission of educating ethical citizens in a community that reflects diverse demographics.

Brown said the university has recruitment programs aimed at minority students on the local, statewide and nationwide level.

Community Scholars, a program for students in inner-city high schools within

SEE HISPANIC · PAGE 2

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Student's death raises privacy debate

By Mara Rose Williams
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Before University of Kansas student Jason Wren died, reportedly after a night of binge drinking, records describing his violations of dormitory alcohol policies were off-limits to his parents.

After the 19-year-old's death, KU turned over the records.

Jay Wren says before his son's death he begged for a description of his behavior in the dormitory, and was told those records were protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, which shields student grades, health and behavior information.

The federal law and the way universities interpret it often pit students' right to privacy against what some parents deem as their right to know.

How schools interpret the law differs. For example, Kansas State University tells parents about underage drinking. KU does not.

"There is no national evidence that parental notification makes a difference," said Marlesha Roney, vice provost for student suc-

cess at KU.

Some students say they want to take responsibility for their lives and learn from their mistakes. Others want their parents to know what's going on.

College Parents of America recently began pushing schools to share more about their underage students with parents.

"The law does leave a great deal of interpretation to colleges and universities," said Jim Boyle, the group's president. "I believe they should use their interpretation to better inform parents about their son or daughter, and not use FERPA as an excuse to withhold information."

Wren, who knew that his son drank alcohol even in high school, said he would have pulled Jason out of KU if he'd known about the repeated alcohol and behavior infractions that led to his son being kicked out of Oliver Hall and barred from even visiting it.

He said that according to the records he recently received, his son was caught with alcohol at least twice in Oliver, put on probation and warned that his residence hall contract was in danger of being terminated. His son also was reprimanded for delays in

taking an online alcohol education course and going to a one-on-one counseling session — a mandatory penalty for violating campus alcohol policies.

"They need to let parents know," said Wren, who lives in Littleton, Colo. "If they had let us know all of this, we could have sat down with him. I would have pulled him out to get him back here where we could keep an eye on him. We would have made him live at home."

Jason, a prebusiness major, died March 8 in a KU fraternity house nearly two weeks after being kicked out of his dormitory. He was found dead on his bed at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house off campus after a night of drinking margaritas, beer and whiskey. Lawrence police have not received autopsy results.

Wren said his son told him he was kicked out of the dormitory after a few cans of beer were found in his room. Jason said he was holding the beer for a friend, his father said.

He said he didn't learn the severity of the violations until he visited KU for his

SEE PRIVACY · PAGE 2

Percentage of Hispanic students in freshman class and number of Hispanic freshmen

1998	3.79, 92 students
1999	5.26, 75 students
2000	6.2, 92 students
2001	5.94, 90 students
2002	5.65, 82 students
2003	6.3, 100 students
2004	5.7, 91 students
2005	7.14, 115 students
2006	9.08, 150 students
2007	9.0, 148 students
2008	9.45, 154 students

NEWS

Used clothes in vogue in rough times

By Rachel Sutherland
McClatchy Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Julia Roberts does it. So does Penelope Cruz.

And so does just about everybody else these days. They're wearing and buying pre-owned or used clothes.

As the recession slogs on, shoppers are getting more savvy about finding deals. They're trading preconceived notions about who buys used for brag-worthy deals on Diane Von Furstenberg dresses and Christian Lacroix heels.

A recent survey done by Harris Interactive for eBay reveals that 75 percent of adults are purchasing pre-owned goods to save money. Nine in 10 adults surveyed see buying used merchandise as a form of recycling.

"It is the height of chic," says Constance White, eBay style director. "A lot of stylish people are wearing ... used clothes now."

Gone are the days of negative associations with second-hand clothing, White says. These days, it's about saving money without sacrificing style.

When Roberts won an Academy Award in 2001, she took the stage in a classic vintage Valentino. Cruz accepted her Oscar this year dressed in a 60-year-old Balmain gown.

"(Pre-owned) is ultra stylish," White says. "It's nice to say Penelope Cruz was wearing vintage, but

she was wearing a used dress. That's what it is."

That same survey found that 70 percent of adults say buying used is more socially acceptable now than five or 10 years ago, and 43 percent say it's easier to buy popular items if purchased used rather than new.

New-to-you deals abound on Internet giant eBay, and a little closer to home, as well. Shopping

"I tell my customers, if you can get the quality and the name brand at consignment, you should never pay retail."

Faye Wilson
owner of Penny Pincher Consignment

options include thrift stores such as Value Village, Salvation Army and Goodwill, as well as hip vintage shops and more boutique-type consignment shops.

"I tell my customers, if you can get the quality and the name brand at consignment, you should never pay retail," says Faye Wilson, owner of Penny Pincher Consignment. Wilson's store has been on the Charlotte, N.C., retail scene for 25 years.

Buying pre-owned items doesn't

necessarily mean you're buying used, eBay's White points out. Often, shoppers can find items that were given to sellers as gifts, or were impulse buys that never made it out of the package.

"You can get special things that will really personalize your wardrobe," she says. Among her favorite used purchases is an oversized clutch that really "makes an outfit," she says. "I do not think I would have found it new."

Savings can be as varied as the shopping experience. At thrift stores, prices are generally lower, but items are minimally pre-screened, which can be a boon if you love the thrill of the hunt. Finding a Chanel or Michael Kors jacket for \$5 is the exception, not the rule.

At consignment and vintage shops, the inventory has been screened on a variety of variables including brand name and physical condition. Shoppers will pay a premium for the sifting service: Expect prices to be at least half off the retail price.

Business is up across the board, shop owners say, with a marked increase in shoppers and also a boost in the number of people looking to consign.

Consign by Design owner Beverly Sokol estimates she has more than 500 consignors who bring designer clothing and accessories to her store in Charlotte. Her shop, which carries labels such as

Giuseppe Zanotti, Kate Spade and Rock & Republic, has been bustling, especially since she leased part of the space to Womb, a maternity consignment shop opened by Stephanie Clark in August 2008.

"The past couple of weeks, we've really started to see an increase on both ends," Sokol says. "New consignors and new shoppers."

The Junior League WearHouse in Charlotte sells consigned items from members and local businesses. Among the designer names that move through the store: Armani, Burberry, Escada, Lilly Pulitzer and St. John.

"There is no division on who wants to save money," says WearHouse's store manager Michele Britt. "What better way to get top-quality, high-end designer clothing at a fraction of the retail price?"

How to shop second-hand

Give yourself time. Don't rush. Shop with an open mind. Looking for a specific item can limit success.

For clothing, shop in a three-size range: Go up and down a size to accommodate for alterations and stretching from previous wear.

Try everything on before you leave the store. Most have a no-returns policy.

Launder or clean every pre-owned item before first use.

When considering designer labels, watch out for fakes, especially handbags.

HISPANIC

continued from page 1

the Dallas-Fort Worth area who would otherwise be unable to pay for college is one such program, Brown said.

Victoria Herrera, regional director of admissions in Houston, said the university also hosts Camp

College, a statewide program that brings minority high school students to campus and exposes them to the college experience.

Mike Marshall, assistant director of admissions, said the total number of Hispanics enrolled in the university in 2003 was 432. The Hispanic undergraduate population has experienced a dramatic

increase since then, Marshall said. The student population has grown to 625 undergraduates as of last year, he said.

Marshall said the university works closely with the National Hispanic Institute in the Collegiate World Series program for high school juniors and educates them about the college world.

Herrera said enrolling more minority students is a building process, but that exposure is what has really improved the direction of the university.

"We have lots of work to do, but the momentum is there and I feel like it's going to continue," Herrera said. "We've made great strides so far."

PRIVACY

continued from page 1

son's memorial service. The dormitory violations were a clear sign that his son had an alcohol problem, he said.

Wren said he had talked to a lawyer to help him sort out the events leading up to his son's death. He has pleaded with the fraternity's local leaders to dry out the fraternity house, which is private and not subject to university policy.

Brandon E. Weghorst, national Sigma Alpha Epsilon spokesman, said Wren's plea "is being seriously considered."

National statistics indicate alcohol will kill thousands of underage drinkers this year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly 5,000 underage deaths each year are caused by excessive alcohol use.

And the most severe drinking problems begin during the teenage years. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that Americans who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until age 21, and that the onset of alcohol dependence peaks by age 18.

FERPA applies to any educational agency or institution that receives funds administered by the U.S. Education Department, including all public K-12 school districts and nearly all higher education institutions, public or private.

The law does allow institutions to disclose student information to parents in emergencies.

A year after a mentally troubled student shot and killed 32 people and himself at Virginia Tech in April 2007, FERPA changed the definition of an emergency situation from an "extreme situation" to a "significant threat to the health or safety of the student or other individuals."

The law gives universities permission to inform parents, but it doesn't require information be disclosed to anyone except the student, Roney said.

KU chooses not to inform parents unless the student asks the school to do so. Students can sign waivers authorizing the university to release information to their parents.

"Jason had not signed this authorization," Roney said.

KU thinks its policy promotes student independence and responsibility.

K-State has taken a different approach.

Last year, K-State changed its policy on student privacy to notify parents of students younger than 21 after a second alcohol or controlled-substance violation.

Eric Swink, registrar at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said it and the three other Universities of Missouri campuses would contact parents if a school determined students were a danger to themselves or others, or in medical emergencies. What constitutes danger or an emergency is determined by campus officials.

"FERPA allows us to make contact with the parents as we deem appropriate," Swink said.

In the case of underage drinking, UMKC — a dry campus like KU, K-State and Missouri State University — has an on-campus judicial process that is followed with a mandatory online education program and counseling. The cost and length of the program escalates for the student after the first offense.

"My frustration is the expectation that coming to college will cure all ills related to alcohol," Swink said. "I don't know that we are unique, but our students are not coming to campus and for the first time picking up alcohol. Sometimes mom and dad had been their suppliers."

Ask UMKC students whether a student's records should be disclosed to parents, and the answers are mixed. Some say their information should not be revealed to parents under any circumstances. Others say parents should have access to all student information. Some want parents to know some things but not everything.

"Student privacy is really important," said John Osredker, 20, a psychology major from Leawood, Kan.

"I think the FERPA law adds a little autonomy to student life. It lets students feel like they are on their own. It lets them get used to living in the real world."

Tony VanTrece, a 24-year-old political science major from Kansas City, said: "Parents should be allowed to know what their student is doing in college, especially if they are paying for it. I don't think it is an invasion of privacy if it's a parent."

But several students said the issue was complicated.

Richard Thompson, 23, of Overland Park, Kan., suggested that if parents wanted to know about students they should ask their children.

"It is not the school's responsibility to report bad behavior to parents," said Katelyn Sohl, a 20-year-old theater major from Overland Park.


But what if the student is in danger?

"I think the university has a right to hide some things like grades, but health, alcohol and drug problems — parents have the right to know," said Haley Wulf, 19, of Farmington, Mo., a biology major who said she signed a waiver allowing the university to release information to her parents.

Nicole Adkins, 19, of Raymore, Mo., signed the waiver, too.

"It's my life and my time to make mistakes," she said, "but a lot of students do look to their parents to keep them safe even if they are away from home."

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

Small government serves Texas well

In a recent study conducted by Virginia's George Mason University, known as the index of personal and economic freedom, Texas ranked as the fifth most free state in the nation. The index took into account a wide variety of laws and ordinances that range from prohibiting alcohol sales on Sundays to the strength of a state government's asset forfeiture laws.

While some might point fingers at conservative small government being the cause of many of America's ills and that it espouses individual achievement at the expense of the common good, an Environmental Protection Agency study has recognized Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth as having some of the most energy-efficient buildings in America.

Houston ranks third and Dallas-Fort Worth is fifth on the list.

Texas has just as many cities in the top 10 as does California, with Los Angeles and San Francisco occupying the top two positions. The Golden State ranked 47th in George Mason's freedom index, with stringent gun laws, motor vehicle and smoking ordinances cited as strikes against personal freedom.

These results should be seen as an indicator that there is no one truly right political philosophy. Conservatism and liberalism have yielded positive results in the green movement in two different states. What's good for the goose isn't always good for the gander.

Maybe the conservatives made energy efficient buildings for the economic incentive, which USA Today reports use 35 percent less energy, thus saving money. Maybe the liberals made energy efficient buildings to cut down on greenhouse gases and save the planet.

Regardless of the means, desirable ends have been met on both states on opposite ends of the spectrum. Whether motivated by personal gain or the good of our fellow man, America's political ideologies frequently lead to positive results.

Associate editor David Hall for the editorial board.

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

New leader should stay centered in El Salvador

Nearly 30 years after it was born as a leftist insurgent movement, El Salvador's FMLN has won through the ballot box what it failed to capture by force of arms — political power. At one time, an FMLN victory would have signaled a sharp turn to the left, but if President-elect Mauricio Funes sticks to his promises, he will govern from the center and avoid the rhetoric and hard-left agenda that has kept the FMLN on the margins of power since the end of the civil war in 1992.

Funes is a former TV journalist who ran as a moderate with a centrist agenda. That's how he persuaded El Salvador's voters, who over the years had repeatedly rejected FMLN presidential hopefuls, to give his party a chance.

On Monday, Funes stuck to the script. He rejected score-settling, property confiscations and policies that repel foreign investors. This is a good start, but he will soon come under pressure from FMLN militants to make common cause with Venezuela's Hugo Chavez in an attempt to remake the political map of Latin America.

That would be a mistake, obliging Funes to turn his back on voters who took him at his word when he said he was a moderate. More important, it would represent a political step backward for an organization that has evolved from a collection of Marxist rebels to a political party that understands the value of coalitions and compromise.

El Salvador holds a special place in Cold

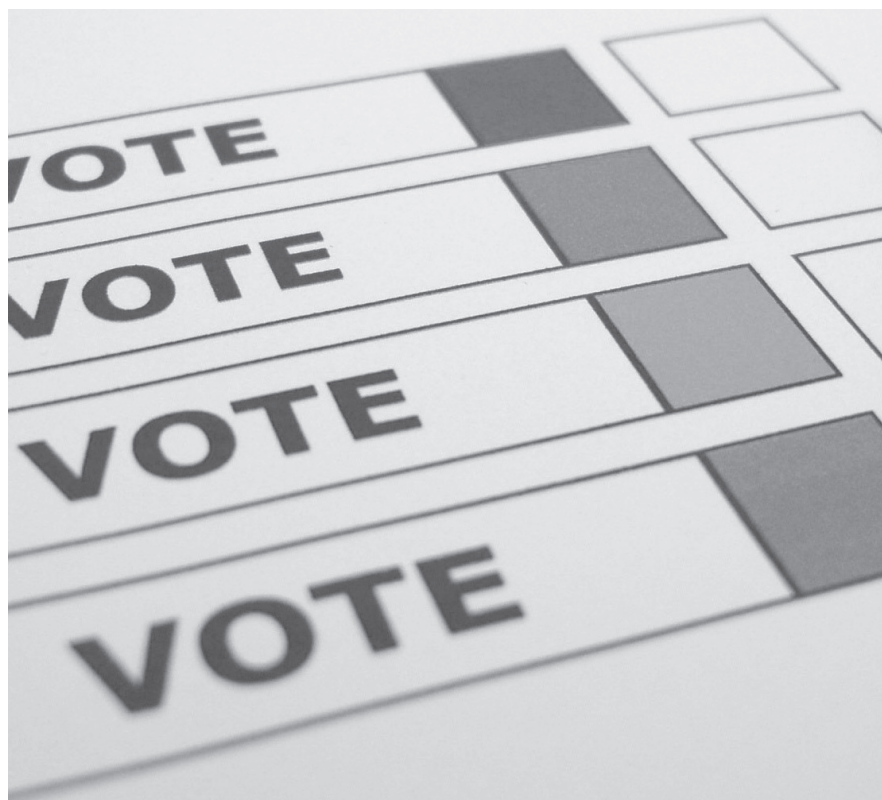
War history. It was here that the Reagan administration decided to make a stand against Cuban-backed insurgencies in the 1980s by giving military and financial aid to the government and its right-wing supporters. The war claimed 75,000 lives before it was ended by a U.N.-brokered treaty.

The meaning of Sunday's election is that, in a genuine democracy, voters will eventually make other choices. The center-right party, ARENA, emerged as the strongest political force after the war and has held the presidency ever since, but El Salvador's voters demanded change, a theme Funes successfully used.

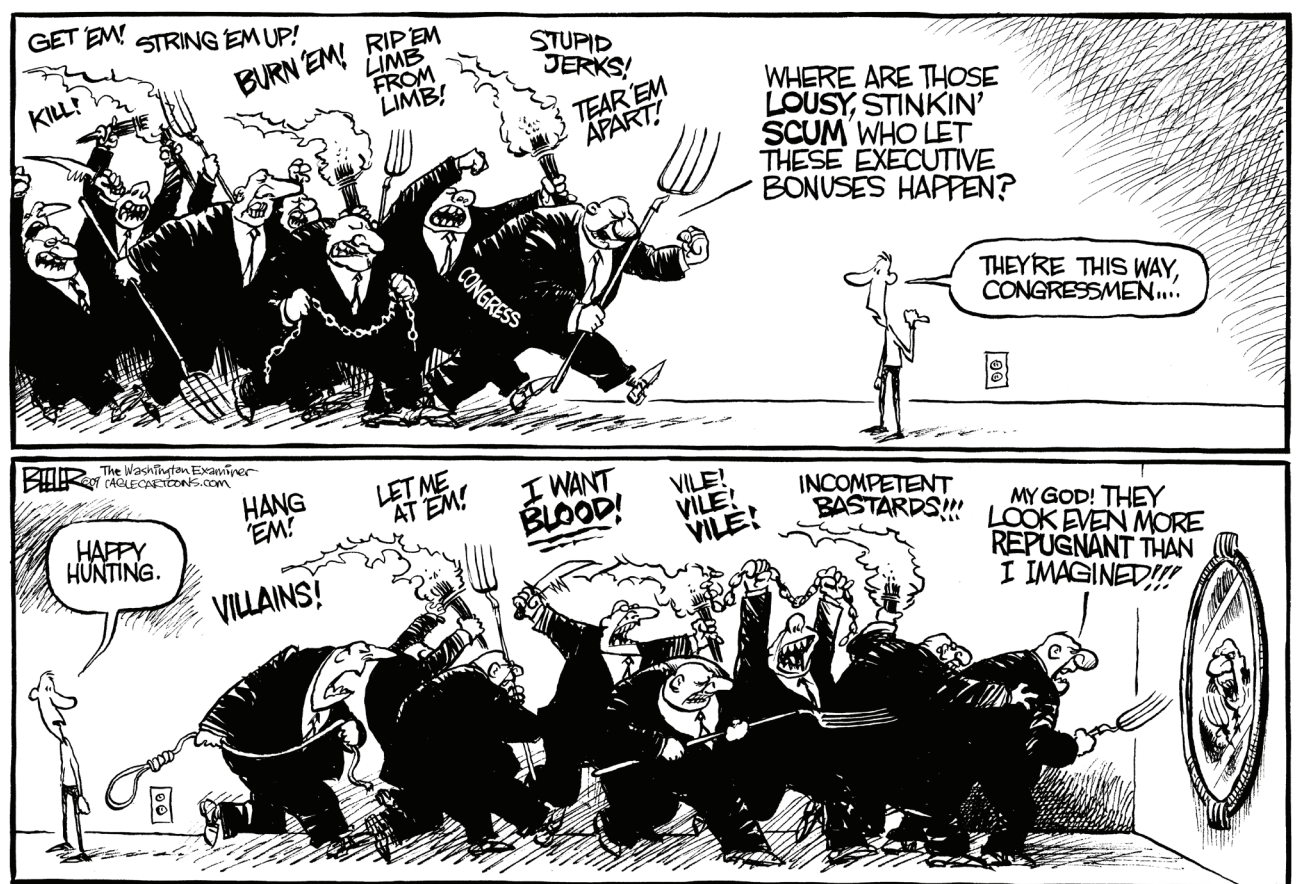
El Salvador is plagued by significant social and economic problems that Funes has vowed to tackle. These include poverty, joblessness and a lack of social justice, along with a raging crime wave — an agenda mistakenly downplayed by ARENA. Funes' challenge will be to create dramatic change without going overboard in an effort to emulate Chavez and other "revolutionary" leaders like Bolivia's Evo Morales.

He needs national unity to be successful, and Chavez represents the opposite — political and social turmoil. Funes will find willing partners in Washington and elsewhere if he sticks to a democratic agenda, but he must not let the ghosts of El Salvador's past suffocate its future.

The following editorial appeared in the Miami Herald on Wednesday.



SXC.HU



Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

U.S. troops deserve more respect

The Defense Department isn't known for its family-friendly policies, though the "modern" Army understands better today that families play an important role in a soldier's overall performance. One of the Pentagon's most unpopular policies implemented after 9/11 has had a devastating effect on military families. It's called stop-loss.

When placed under stop-loss, tens of thousands of reserves and active-duty soldiers were prevented from leaving the military when they planned if they were to be deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq. The reason for stop-loss was simple enough: The military would have been stretched too thin, especially after the Iraq invasion, if it didn't delay plans by thousands of soldiers to muster out.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said this policy breaks faith with military families, and last week announced that he would work to significantly reduce, if not eliminate, the practice over the next two years. What changed is the Obama administration's plans to reduce U.S. troop levels in Iraq faster than they are increased in Afghanistan — plus the ex-

pansion of the active-duty Army roster to more than 547,000 troops.

This surely was welcome news to soldiers and their families. Right now

This is only fair. These soldiers — their plans on hold, their risks extended — deserve no less.

more than 13,000 soldiers are unable to leave the military because they are under stop-loss orders. The policy undercuts families' plans and causes extra hardship. For that reason, and to restore the broken faith he spoke of, Gates also said the Pentagon would provide an extra \$500 per month to troops under stop-loss, retroactive to last October. This is only fair. These soldiers — their plans on hold, their risks extended — deserve no less.

In another family-friendly gesture, Gates said that the Defense Department from now on will provide transport to

Dover Air Force Base for families to be on hand for the arrival of caskets bearing loved ones killed in Afghanistan or Iraq. This comes just after the Pentagon lifted an 18-year ban on media coverage of casket arrivals. Now it will be up to the families to decide if they want the media on hand to photograph service members' sad return. These policies treat military families with the respect and fairness they deserve.

In another move, the White House quickly backed off a proposal to file claims with the private health insurers of veterans for treatment of injuries received in Afghanistan and Iraq. This rightly brought cries of outrage from veterans' groups. The Veterans Administration is responsible for caring for these soldiers, and this would have been an abrogation of its duties. We realize budgets are tight at the VA, but this plan was desperate and poorly conceived.

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

AIG bonuses simply more of the same

a group of persons guilty of some crime and punishing them without benefit of a trial, which is specifically unconstitutional.

The only legitimate reason AIG shouldn't be paying bonuses to its financial products unit is because it shouldn't have a financial products unit. This division is almost entirely responsible for the company's financial implosion, and as long as the government has a majority stake in the company, AIG should be restricted to safer means of profit, such as its insurance business.

The fact that President Barack Obama, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and Congress all claim they learned of these bonuses only within the last week shouldn't exempt them from blame. Anyone paying even the slightest attention to this would have seen it coming.

AIG is not the only party at fault here. The government was asleep at the wheel and needs to wake up and try to proactively fix the problem, not retroactively fix their mistakes.

Tyler Zodrow is a freshman finance major from McKinney.

TYLER ZODROW

American International Group, the massive failing insurance firm which is now 80 percent owned by the U.S. government, recently announced \$218 million in bonuses to top executives working in the financial products unit of the company, the division that drove the company into financial ruin only a short time ago.

Public outcry against this apparently egregious act erupted immediately after the news broke and Washington was quick to point fingers at Wall Street and join in on the protest.

Why the sudden outrage?

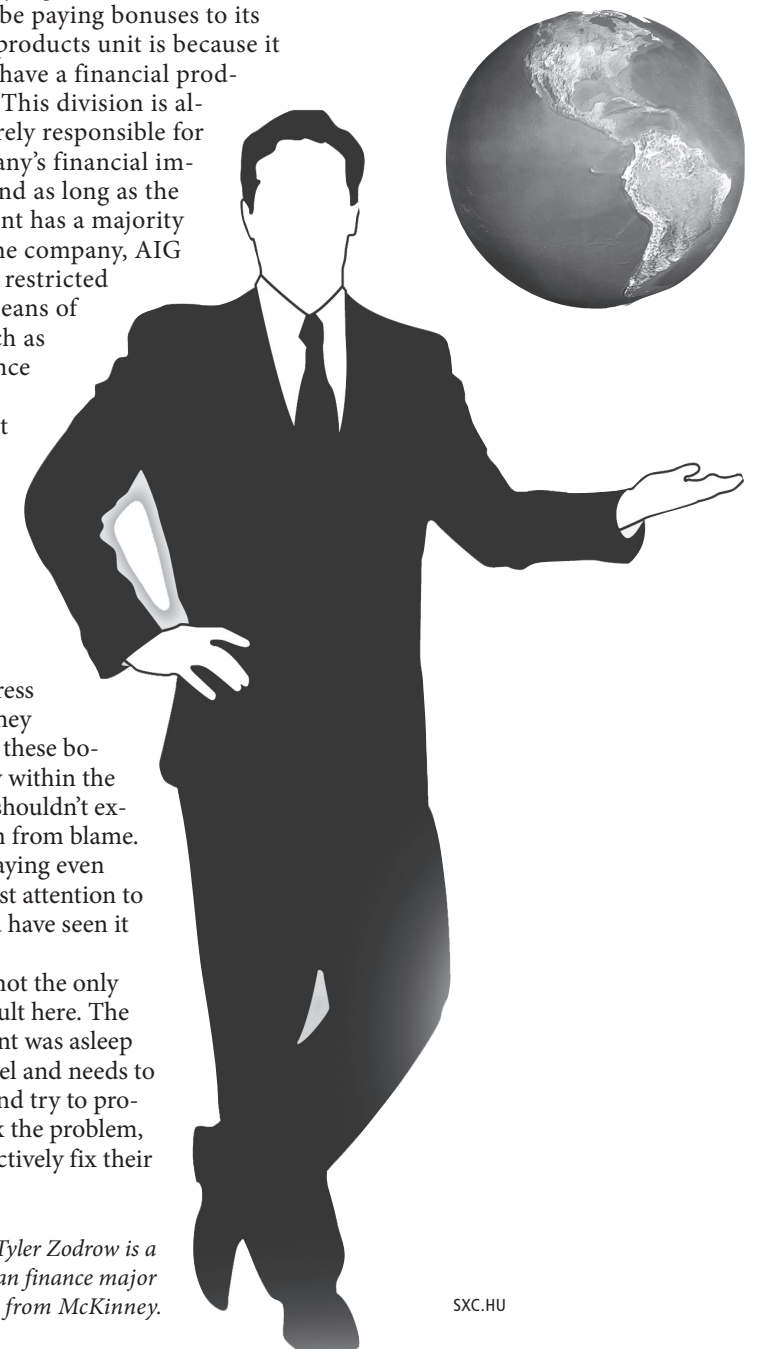
Last December, Merrill Lynch shelled out \$3.6 billion in bonuses to its executives, and there wasn't half the public outcry there is now.

These bonuses shouldn't have come as a surprise. AIG publicized the plan to pay out year-end bonuses to company executives last fall and also in a November U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing. The Wall Street Journal reports that it was also included in a filing made last May.

The House hurried to pass a bill that would tax all bonuses this year at 90 percent in order to retrieve some of the taxpayers' money.

But it's not that simple; these bonuses are a way that large companies pay and retain their employees and are written into binding legal contracts that can't simply be revoked at Washington's call.

Some top White House advisers said the House tax constitutes a bill of attainder, legislation declaring



SXC.HU

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

Prof. may be punished for advice on torture

By Matt Krupnick
Contra Costa Times

BERKELEY, Calif. — The John Yoo firestorm is about to get hotter.

With a federal investigation into Yoo's legal advice to the Bush administration apparently winding down, University of California Berkeley leaders are preparing for a difficult decision — whether to punish a professor for his off-campus work.

The dilemma is rare. At risk are the tenets of academic freedom that have long allowed college faculty members to speak their minds in the name of scholarship.

Yoo's case revolves around his advice on dealing with accused terrorists, including a notorious memo that provides legal justification for torture. The UC Berkeley law professor, who is temporarily teaching at Orange County's Chapman University, has long attracted protests on his home campus, but some surprising allies have come to his defense.

"I think this is simply a left-wing version of McCarthyism," said Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard Law School professor who disagrees strongly with Yoo's views on torture. "He should be judged solely on the merits of his academics."

But Berkeley administrators and faculty leaders said they would be concerned about Yoo teaching law students if he were found to have violated ethical or legal standards. Critics have called Yoo a "yes man" for President George W. Bush, essentially telling him what he wanted to hear.

Yoo, who has been at Berkeley since 1993 and was tenured in 1999, did not return messages this week.

The code of conduct for UC Berkeley faculty states that criminal convictions could result in discipline, but it is less explicit about other transgressions. But some, including Berkeley law Dean Christopher Edley and a top faculty leader, have said they could punish Yoo regardless of whether he is tried and convicted in

a court.

"A criminal conviction is not necessary," said Christopher Kutz, a law professor and vice chairman of the UC Berkeley Academic Senate. But discipline based on anything less is "new territory, and it's dangerous territory," Kutz said.

Edley, who was on President Barack Obama's transition team and who has held positions in two Democratic administrations, said he

"All of us need to work through the tension of the principles that preserve the excellence and independence of the university versus the principles that govern society."

Christopher Edley
Berkeley law dean

and others on campus are conflicted about how to handle Yoo.

"I think that almost everybody is concerned" about how the debate will end, he said. "All of us need to work through the tension of the principles that preserve the excellence and independence of the university versus the principles that govern society."

Yoo's presence has polarized academics, including many who say they're staunch supporters of academic freedom. At Chapman, hundreds have signed petitions and joined online groups criticizing Yoo's opinions.

Much of the debate over his fitness as a law professor has centered on whether he used bad faith in condoning torture. If he simply told the president what he wanted to hear, Yoo's work did not pass scholarly muster, critics said.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Friendly duo gives compliments for all

By Jodi S. Cohen
Chicago Tribune

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Along a central walkway on Purdue University's campus, two students are on a crusade to make people happy.

To a passing guy dressed in Purdue sweats they say, "Love your school spirit."

To the woman carrying the trendy black bag: "Very nice purse." "It's very large."

And for the student who ran past them in knee-high leather boots: "I like your hustle." "I like your boots, too."

Tired of people being so down in the dumps amid the worst economy in decades, sophomores Cameron Brown and Brett Westcott — better known as "The Compliment Guys" — have taken it upon themselves to cheer up the campus.

From 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday, they stand outside the chemistry building in the shadow of the university's Bell Tower with their "Free Compliments" sign. They're there in the rain. In the snow. And last week when the windchill made it feel like 10 degrees.

They come across as fashion commentators, stand-up comedians and guys you'd invite to your keg party.

"People ask us if we are part of a frat or if it's a psychology experiment," Brown said. "We are here for no other reason than we like to give compliments."

At a time when students are struggling to afford tuition, graduating seniors can't get jobs, and organic chemistry exams are as unpleasant as ever, it seems almost unbelievable that Brown and Westcott could be genuinely upbeat. They've been asked, skeptically, over and over, why they're doing it.

One professor thinks they're there to get dates. They insist that they're not, and that they both have girlfriends. "She has the most beautiful curly hair I have ever seen,"



Purdue University undergrads Brett Westcott, left, and Cam Brown set up camp near the center of campus offering free compliments to passersby March 11 in West Lafayette, Ind.

Brown said about his girlfriend. "Seriously. I love her curly hair."

Westcott, who was voted "Most Outgoing" in his high school senior class, had the idea in September and gave out compliments on his own for a week. He then asked Brown to join him. Brown has no history of congeniality awards but says he's influenced by his gregarious mother.

"I honestly can't tell you what drove me to give people free compliments," said Westcott, 19, a civil engineering student from southwest suburban Plainfield, Ill. "Just overall, making people's day is really satisfying. ... Not enough people do nice things anymore."

The duo fire off the compliments so quickly that an attempt to count a minute's worth was unsuccessful. They liked headphones. Bikes. Gloves, earmuffs and scarves. A floral backpack. And even a lanyard.

If a tour group walks by, they try to comment on everyone in the crowd. On Wednesday, they told a professor to enjoy his coffee, thanked the groundskeepers for their hard work and prodded someone eating an apple to "stay nutritious."

They personalize the comments as much as possible. Instead of say-

ing someone has a nice coat, for example, they'll point out the color or the way it matches with pants.

"I like your red coat," Westcott said to a woman listening to her iPod. She turned and laughed, which only gave the guys more fodder. "Very nice smile," said Brown, who's from Toledo, Ohio.

Three women leaving biology lab purposely took a path past the guys. "I like your curly hair. Great smile. I like your glasses," the guys said, pointing to each of the women.

"These guys are great. Everybody knows them," said freshman Maureen Champion, who has the curly hair. "People talk about them all the time. It's like, 'Have you met the compliment guys?'"

"It's the highlight of my Wednesday," said Emma Marr, the student with the nice smile. "Last week, they told me I looked very businesslike," said Meghan Costello, who this week got props for her glasses.

Freshman Josiah Maas got two compliments — on his work boots and a straggly goatee that Brown commented was "coming in nicely."

"I'm working on it," Maas shouted back.

"I wanted to come by here today

because I wasn't wearing anything I thought was so cool. I was wondering what they would come up with," Maas said.

Provost Randy Woodson, on his way from one meeting to another, got a thumbs-up on his blue and gold tie.

"It's always 'your jacket looks good,' 'your tie looks good,' 'nice smile,'" Woodson said. "I don't think they know who I am when they compliment me." (They didn't.)

In return for their remarks, the guys get waves, thumbs-ups, high-fives, thank-yous and nice comments about their hoodies. They've also gotten the finger and nasty looks.

"Are you twins?" an older woman asked Wednesday. They laughed and shouted back that they weren't. "Well, you're sure nice looking," she said.

Toward the end of the two hours, a copy center employee brought the students hot chocolate with marshmallows.

"They are doing a great job of lifting people's spirits," said Kendra Grace.

The guys, of course, responded with a compliment. "This is the best hot cocoa I have ever had."

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Cheap condoms threaten U.S. jobs

By Mike McGraw
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Call it a condom conundrum.

At a time when the federal government is spending billions of stimulus dollars to stem the tide of U.S. layoffs, should that same government put even more Americans out of work by buying cheaper foreign products?

In this case, Chinese condoms.

That's the dilemma for the folks at the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has distributed an estimated 10 billion U.S.-made AIDS-preventing condoms in poor countries around the world.

But not anymore.

In a move expected to cost 300 American jobs, the government is switching to cheaper off-shore condoms, including some made in China.

The switch comes despite implied assurances over the years that the agency would continue to buy American whenever possible.

"Of course, we considered how many U.S. jobs would be affected by this move," said a USAID official who spoke on the condition that he would not be named. But he said the reasons for the change included lower prices (2 cents versus more than 5 cents for U.S.-made condoms) and the fact that Congress dropped "buy American language" in a recent appropriations bill.

Besides, he said, the sole U.S. supplier — an Alabama company called Alatech — had previous delivery problems under the program.

It's clear that Alatech's problems over the years, which apparently have been resolved, may have driven U.S. officials to seek much less expensive foreign-made condoms in the first place.

But that's cold comfort to Fannie Thomas, who has been making condoms in southeastern Alabama for nearly 40 years in the small town of Eufaula.

"We pay taxes down here, too,

and with all this stimulus money going to save jobs, it seems to me like they (the U.S. government) should share this contract so they can save jobs here in America," Thomas said.

Thomas and others at the Alatech plant said there aren't many alternatives for them if it closes down, which is a likely result of the contracting switch.

In fact, the government is close to accepting condoms from two offshore companies: Unidus Corp., which makes condoms in South Korea, and Qingdao Double Butterfly Group, which makes them in China.

Condoms from those companies will likely carry the USAID logo — two hands shaking over red and white bunting.

Alatech formally protested the federal contract going to its foreign competitors. But on March 9, the Government Accountability Office rejected the complaint, noting that it lacked jurisdiction in the case.

Instead of dealing directly with condom makers, as it had done in the past, the government hired a Massachusetts company to act as a middleman. That in turn protected the government from a successful bid protest, because USAID was no longer the "prime contractor."

Larry Povlacs, Alatech's president, said he thinks that was a deliberate move by USAID to follow through with what he says it wanted to do all along — cut Alatech out of the bidding. USAID officials deny that, saying the middleman was hired for other reasons.

The agency also said 12 countries had declined free Alatech condoms under the program. But Povlacs said the reason for that was design, which was dictated by the government, not quality. Povlacs said Alatech never was told directly that some countries wanted a thinner condom, more like those sold commercially.

Despite the fact that thinner condoms reportedly are more prone to breakage, Alatech has offered to convert to them, Povlacs

said. But he said that USAID "has ignored this fact and still claims that we have field problems."

In fact, Povlacs said, Alatech spent millions upgrading its manufacturing process and improving its ability to deliver under the contracts, based in part on implied assurances from the agency that it would continue to seek American manufacturers.

Now the company is turning to other methods, including pleading its case in Washington, and possibly a lawsuit that would attempt to enforce buy-American provisions and past promises.

Even Chinese condom makers

"I've made condoms here for 20 years, and I understand why they bid the contract overseas, but they should buy American first, and I feel they are going back on their word."

Cindy Robinson
Alatech employee

acknowledge that some of their customers did not care for their products. Chinese buyers have complained their country's condoms were "too thick, low quality and don't feel comfortable."

Attempts to reach Chinese condom manufacturers for comment were unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, Alatech officials say their fight for condom supremacy is far from over. Workers aren't giving up, either.

"I've made condoms here for 20 years," said Cindy Robinson, a \$9.50-an-hour employee at Alatech. "I understand why they bid the contract overseas, but they should buy American first, and I feel they are going back on their word."

New airport security rules to seek more personal info

By Jon Hilkevitch
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — You may have been patted down at airports or suffered the indignity of having your dirty laundry from a vacation searched at screening checkpoints. Now prepare yourself for security to get a little more personal.

Passengers making airline reservations soon will be required to provide their birth date and sex in addition to their names as part of aviation security enhancements the Sept. 11 Commission recommended. The information provided at the time seats are booked must exactly match the data on each traveler's ID.

The new program, called Secure Flight, shifts responsibility for checking passenger names against "watch lists" from the airlines to the Transportation Security Administration. Only passengers who are cleared to fly by the TSA will be given boarding passes.

Personal data on most passengers will be retained for no more than seven days, agency officials said.

But privacy advocates say the changes amount to a system of government control over travel. U.S. airlines carry about 2 million passengers per day. Opponents also have protested that combing through personal information won't result in better security.

"The right to travel is being compromised by this fallacy that somehow there is a list of all the bad guys and that we can keep them off the plane," said Richard Sobel, a researcher with the Cyber Privacy Project, which focuses on government intrusions of privacy rights.

The airlines, meanwhile, will incur an estimated \$630 million in costs to reprogram reservation systems and collect the passenger

data, according to the TSA. The airline industry has pledged support for the new procedures so long as they streamline security and create fewer hassles for customers.

Requiring the airlines to collect more personal information will improve the quality of the watch lists that contain names of possible terrorism and criminal suspects, federal authorities said.

It's also being done to reduce the misidentification of innocent travelers who are mistakenly placed on "no-fly" lists because their names are similar to those found on watch lists — a situation the TSA calls "a frustratingly common occurrence."

The extra steps of recording a passenger's birth date and sex are set to begin early this year on domestic flights and in late 2009 on international routes, according to the TSA. No dates have been provided.

Thousands of incidents have been reported in which passengers have been barred from boarding flights because their names resembled the names of suspected terrorists.

Perhaps the most high-profile case involved U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., who was blocked from flying numerous times because his name was similar to an alias used by a terror suspect. Men with the name David Nelson have also been falsely tagged by no-fly lists or "selectee" lists, which require selected passengers to undergo extra screening at the airport, including physical pat-downs and hand searches of their carry-on items.

Secure Flight represents an overhaul of the government's attempt to use intelligence-gathering to pre-screen airline passengers before they show up at airports. To date, about \$322 million has been spent preparing to launch

the program.

Experts say the battle to keep bombs and dangerous individuals off commercial flights is lost if the government relies solely on airport screeners to nab suspects based on nervous behavior at security checkpoints. Likewise, it's equally risky to depend on minimally trained screeners as the primary means to identify cleverly disguised explosives passing through X-ray machines.

Secure Flight attempts to strike a delicate balance between stopping the next terrorist attack in the U.S., which experts and government officials say is inevitable, and protecting the privacy of individuals against unreasonable background searches, officials said.

However, some experts concerned about invasion of privacy contend that Secure Flight works from the misguided premise that Americans do not have the right to travel and, to receive permission to travel, they must be checked out by the government. They say one danger is the airline security rules could be expanded to Amtrak, intercity buses like the Greyhound Lines and other common carriers.

Sobel, of the Cyber Privacy Project, argued that "a first-time bad guy or bad woman is not going to be on the list. The better, more cost-effective approach is good police work, good intelligence work, not tarring everybody with the same bad intentions."

The Secure Flight program being rolled out this year reflects a compromise. The original passenger pre-screening protocols were to delve more deeply into personal histories, including past travel habits and personal financial records obtained through commercial databases. Privacy-rights advocates and other groups persuaded Congress to limit the background checks.

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Out from behind the Iron Curtain



Courtesy of KIRIL TOCHKOV

Since leaving Communist-ruled Bulgaria in 1989, economics professor Kiril Tochkov has explored his interest in Asian economics by traveling to countries like India.

Communist homeland, other destinations influence prof

By **Julieta Chiquillo**
Web Editor

The Present

Sitting in the back of the room of his fifth-grade physics class, 12-year-old Kiril Tochkov was just another number at his school in Sofia, Bulgaria. Literally.

The teacher would ask a question and call on No. 17 for the answer. Or maybe it was No. 22's turn.

One of the teachers liked to play games. "What day is today?" the teacher would ask. "Today is the 29th, minus four, plus three, divided by two. That number will be answering the question."

Panicking, the class of about 30 students did the calculations. Whose turn would it be this time?

Assigning numbers was a typical Communist practice. It certainly wasn't any different at School 133 Alexander S. Pushkin.

There was no room for dissent in the classroom, where portraits of Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin and Bulgarian Communist leader Georgi Dimitrov hung above the blackboard. There was only one correct interpretation of Russian novels and Bulgarian translations of works by Shakespeare and Moliere. Those who disagreed were sent to the principal's office, suspended or expelled. The People's Republic of Bulgaria was nearing its demise by the late 1980s, but the system still had enough strength to bully its children into silence.

"You either keep quiet and survive, or you play the hero and they smash you," Tochkov said. "And I wanted to go on to university, so I needed good grades."

Almost 25 years later and more than 6,000 miles away, Tochkov sits in the back of a classroom again, not for a physics lesson but to listen to one of his students deliver a 40-minute presentation on the colonial impact on India's economy. Now a professor of Asian economics at Texas Christian University, he instructs his class to take notes for their test.

"Wake up!" he teasingly admonishes his group of about 30 students, jolting them into consciousness.

Many of the classroom privileges Tochkov's students take for granted are things that were denied to him as a student in Bulgaria. Tochkov, whose philosophy is the Confucian principle of teaching by example, knows from experience exactly what kind of professor he doesn't want to be.

The Past

Tochkov cultivated a fascination with Asia that began after his parents returned

from a business trip from Japan in the mid 1980s. His interest in Asia followed him to Germany, where he finished high school after the Bulgarian Communist regime collapsed in 1989.

After finishing high school, he enrolled at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, where he earned a master's degree in economics and Chinese studies. At the time, the bachelor's degree did not exist under the higher education system in Germany and other European countries.

"You either keep quiet and survive, or you play the hero and they smash you."

Kiril Tochkov
professor of Asian economics

Unlike the small, intimate Chinese studies classes Tochkov was enrolled in, the economics lectures he sat in with hundreds of other students were dry and impersonal, with some professors reading their lecture like a script.

Professors are considered "academic gods" because the process to become one in Germany is extremely rigorous, Tochkov said.

"Once you get tenure, you have gray hair; you have a long career behind you; you have published many books and articles; you have achieved notoriety in your field," Tochkov said.

For some professors, their status was married to an air of pretentiousness.

"It was very difficult in Germany to get a hold of professors," Tochkov said. "He would be rarely there. You had to schedule an appointment with his secretary. He is very important. His door is closed."

Not Tochkov's.

Josiah Bender, a 2007 TCU graduate and technical representative for Houston-based investment company Invesco Aim, said he visited Tochkov's office plenty of times for help with his assignments.

"It was at times chaotic because there were a lot of people there from different courses," Bender said. "He definitely did take the time to make sure all his students were taken care of, despite him being extremely busy."

Market Values

Unlike the German higher education system, the American system is muddled with market economics in mind, Tochkov said.

"We view students here as customers,"

Tochkov said. "They come here; they pay a lot of money to get an education, so we want to attract as many students as possible. We want to attract the best students as possible."

Tochkov joined the economics faculty at TCU in 2005 after earning a doctorate in economics at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

John Harvey, professor of economics and former department chair, said Tochkov was a perfect fit because of his international experience.

"He is a Bulgarian who went to college in Germany and the United States who is an expert on China," Harvey said.

Tochkov — who speaks Bulgarian, Russian, English, German and Chinese — has traveled to China, Mongolia, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore, not to mention several countries in Europe.

After teaching at Binghamton, where he had to stand before 300 students for an introductory course, Tochkov likes what a small university has to offer.

"I was able to work more closely with students, learn their names, grade homework," Tochkov said, his desk piled with assignments.

Peyton Bryant, who took introductory macroeconomics with Tochkov in spring 2008, remembers when he ran into Tochkov on east campus last fall, months after the class had ended. Bryant said the two recognized each other on sight, and Tochkov, instead of nodding in acknowledgement and walking past, actually stopped and said, "I'm sorry, I don't remember your name." Bryant, who is currently taking Asian economics with Tochkov, said the professor has not forgotten his name since.

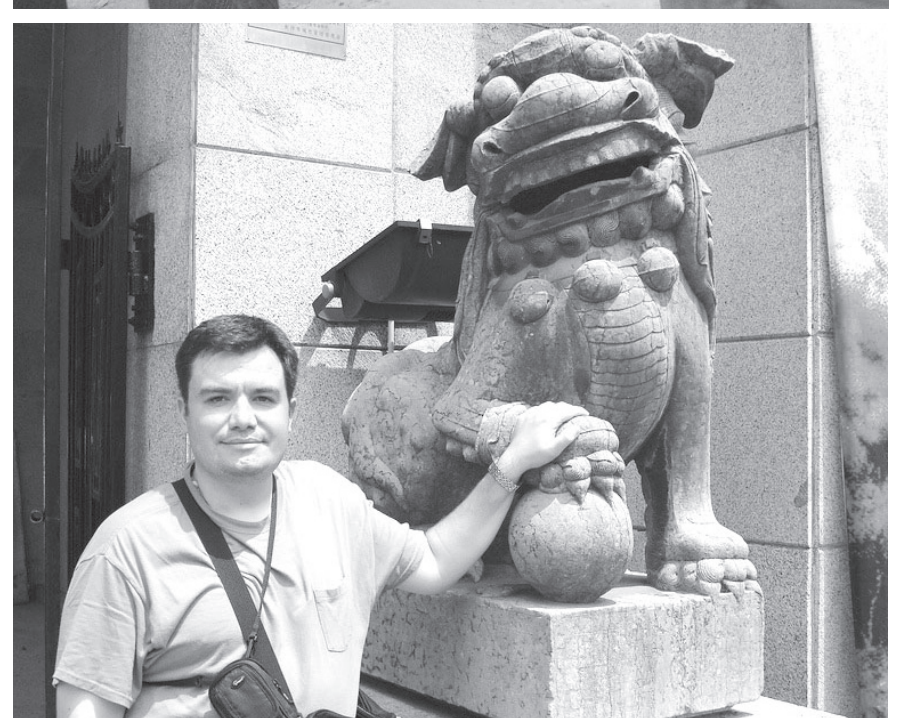
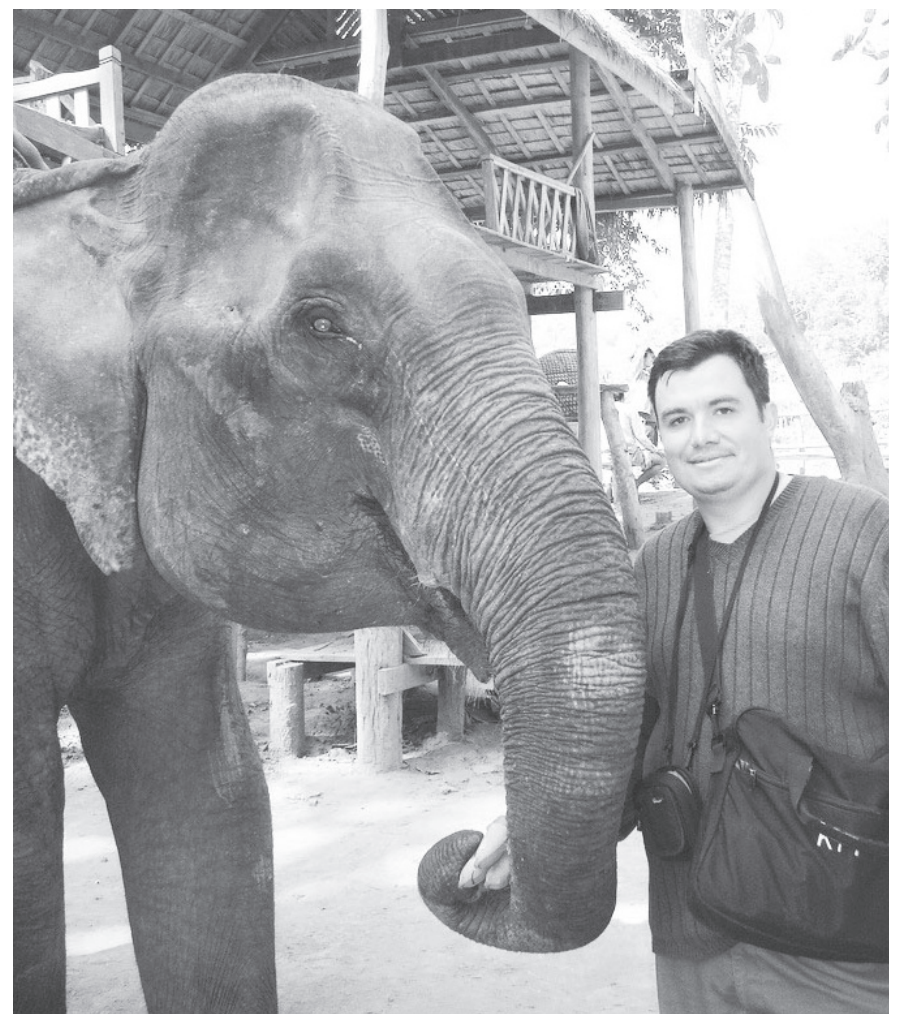
"I like having that connection with a professor," Bryant said.

Students in Tochkov's class speak up and ask challenging questions, as he was not allowed to do growing up in Bulgaria.

"So the model is basically worthless?" a student argues with him in class, questioning the practicality of the Solow economic growth model. Tochkov admits that the model's impracticality is one of its flaws, but he explains that it helps illustrate the relationship between capital and labor.

"You're so critical of the model; I haven't even started teaching and you're already disappointed in it," Tochkov jokes. "Maybe you should go to an advanced economics class and leave me alone with my super model."

The classroom rings with laughter. "Now that I'm depressed, I have to continue," Tochkov says in a mock sad tone,



Courtesy of KIRIL TOCHKOV

Tochkov's passion for Asian economics was inspired from a trip his parents took to Japan in the 1980s and has taken him to destinations like Laos, top, and China, bottom.

prompting a second round of laughter. he is from another planet. Summoning to memory his classroom experiences in Bulgaria, Tochkov confessed that the contrast between the two systems sometimes makes him feel like he belongs.

COLLEGE DEBATE



DAVID EULITT / Kansas City Star via MCT
Alex Bonnet, a freshman at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, right, cross-examines Keegan Tomik, of The University of Oklahoma, during a college debate tournament Feb. 27 at UMKC's Royal Hall.

Debaters argue for civility

By Mara Rose Williams
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Last year Kansas college debate coach Bill Shanahan was a YouTube hit. Thousands watched him yell, cuss and drop his pants at a competition.

His rant not only earned him national attention, it also cost the Fort Hays State University professor his job.

The school's president, Ed Hammond, ended the debate program after Shanahan's antics. He vowed that Fort Hays, once a championship team, would not compete again until college debate associations set mandatory behavior standards for students, coaches and judges.

Hammond wasn't the only one to say that conduct rules for debate were needed.

"We do need, in the interest of public perception, some guidelines to make people comfortable, especially when there are public institutions using public funds," said John Rief, a debate coach at the University of Pittsburgh.

National debate leaders agreed, and this week the Cross Examination Debate Association is ready to put to the test new standards for how participants should behave at competitions.

The rules prohibit "offensive" or "belittling" language or actions and include the potential for violators to be punished. But penalties such as suspensions or firings of university coaches would be left to the school that employs the coach or judge.

Any sanctions from the association, an offshoot of the National Debate Tournament program established in 1947, would be determined by a three-person review panel.

"This new procedure further professionalizes what we do," said Gordon Stable, an association vice president and the debate coach at the University of Southern California.

Stable said the new standards come just in time for this year's national Cross Examination Debate Association tournament that runs Friday through March 24 at Idaho State University.

It was in a quarter-final round at the national tournament last year in Wichita when Shanahan and Pittsburgh coach Shanara Reid-Brinkley faced off in the infamous

trouser-dropping argument.

Shanahan said Monday that he thought he was arguing in a "safe house, among people who believe in dealing with problems internally, but I misjudged."

Shanahan said he didn't expect to be recorded and would have guarded his behavior had he known a video was being made. But he said he thinks the new standards are unnecessary and were designed to appease the public.

Still, he said, "I have terrifying

"Debate is what gave me confidence. Debate is what got me through college."

Jan Jarma
Wichita, Kan., prosecutor

regret about the way it all played out. Who wouldn't? It negatively affected an activity — debate — that I had devoted my life to. It cast a negative shadow on a university where I'd taught for 10 years, and it negatively impacted my students."

Now Shanahan is home in Hays, working on a book about history and philosophy.

For her part, Reid-Brinkley was suspended from coaching and judging but now is back on the coaching roster at her school.

After the YouTube display, the Fort Hays students left the Kansas school for the University of Central Oklahoma and will compete at nationals again. Fort Hays has yet to renew its program.

The Cross Examination Debate Association expects 300 debaters and 150 teams from around the country to take on this year's topic, agricultural subsidies.

Association officers hope for the usual intense, passionate debates but all fingers are crossed that there won't be a repeat of last year.

"That kind of behavior is isolated," Rief said. "I understand the public reaction to it, but what was never brought to light is that it also shows the passion coaches have for their teams."

Coaches think the YouTube display drew heat from the public because the average nondebater does not understand what college debate is.

"If you watch the movie 'The Great Debaters' and then go to a college debate tournament, you are going to be completely taken aback," Rief said. "They are not remotely similar."

College debate is no dainty public-speaking competition.

"People have to get over thinking that this is some type of public speaking event, because it's not," said Jan Jarma, a Wichita prosecutor who once debated and later coached at Northwest Missouri State University.

It is a punishing, intellectual word war. That was evident at a recent regional tournament at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Teams of two went hard at one another in a rapid-fire attack that brought to bear hundreds of hours of research, knowledge, well-honed delivery strategy, skill and speed. The best could rattle off as many as 400 intelligible words per minute and build a wall of well-supported points for or against a hot political topic of the day.

And like any simulated war of territorial possession, each side looked for weaknesses, seeking to break down an opponent's argument using contradictory data and scholarly quotations. Teams went back and forth, like a boxer pounding out an eight-minute flurry against his opponent.

Debate officials, coaches and judges see benefits in the competitors' fast talking that go far beyond tournaments and even college. To work in the real world, though, what's practiced in competition has to reflect the respectful conversation promoted by the new standards.

"Debaters are able to process information much more quickly," Jarma said. "Thinking and processing information fast can translate into other professional areas. I use it as a prosecutor."

Debate requires a tremendous amount of research.

"Top teams research 20 to 30 hours a week," said Eric Morris, the debate coach at Missouri State University in Springfield. "It is a full-time job for them."

Debaters and former debaters say it's all worth it.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for debate," Jarma said. "Debate is what gave me confidence. Debate is what got me through college."

GAY MARRIAGE

Couples weigh differing views

By Rex W. Huppke
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The similarities between the Neubeckers and Creswells are striking: young children, well-appointed Chicago homes, white-collar jobs, nightly dinners as a family.

Each couple believes deeply in the love that binds them and in the institution of marriage, but through the nettlesome definition of that word, the Neubeckers and Creswells refract.

Disagreement over who has the right to marry has become commonplace, and much of the country now awaits a California Supreme Court ruling on the validity of Proposition 8, a ballot measure that outlawed gay marriage in the Golden State.

David and Lee Neubecker are gay and have adopted two children. They were married in San Francisco in 2004 during a brief window when the city married same-sex couples. California nullified the marriage less than a year later, but the men still consider themselves husband and husband.

John and Stacy Creswell were wed in California in 1999 and now have three children. They believe strongly that marriage should be the union of a man and a woman. But they empathize with gay and lesbian partners and believe society should find ways for them to share rights similar to those of married couples.

"I don't think anyone wants to disenfranchise anybody," Stacy said. "If couples are having problems in certain areas, how can we as a society better help support these families?"

Each side in this debate tends to broad-brush the other: radical, bigoted, asking too much, giving too little. But in the calm reflections of the Creswells and Neubeckers, a more nuanced disagreement can be found. And while it may not be settled, it can at least be better understood.

The Neubeckers

David and Lee met at a Chicago nightclub in 1999. Neither was looking for love, but it quickly found them. They dated for about a year and then moved in together.

"When you look at our courtship, it was really pretty traditional," David said.

Lee proposed to David at an Italian restaurant. He was nervous, holding the ring in one hand under the table and his menu in the other. The menu drifted too close to the candle and caught fire. Shortly after dousing it, Lee popped the question.

In 2004, Lee called David out of the blue: "Hey, you want to go out and get married?" San Francisco had just begun marrying same-sex couples. Lee had already bought the tickets.

On the day they flew out, Feb. 19, 2004, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley was quoted in the papers expressing his support for gay marriage. Lee and David took it as a good omen.

Outside City Hall in San Francisco, the couple waited in line for hours and wound up being the last pair married that day. They stood in the rotunda, called their parents on their cell phones and had them listen in.

"We were just overcome,"



CHRIS WALKER / Chicago Tribune via MCT
Stacy Creswell plays with her daughters in the family's Bucktown home on March 5 in Chicago.

David said. "Growing up, you feel like a second-class citizen. To get to a point where you feel totally accepted by everyone, from the old ladies on the street to the government, it was just amazing."

The newlyweds returned to Illinois, where the marriage would not be recognized. And by August 2004, the California Supreme Court voided the Neubeckers' marriage, along with nearly 4,000 others.

"There was some sadness because, for that short moment, we felt what most of society has felt most of their lives," Lee said. "Like we were equal."

The couple moved on, holding separate insurance policies and filling out "single" on almost any kind of official paperwork.

"We emotionally consider ourselves married, but we're reminded at every turn that we're not," David said.

In August 2007, the Neubeckers adopted a brother and sister, now 5 and 6, respectively. They settled into the familiar pattern of family life: school, play dates, birthday parties.

"Our lives are no different than any other," said David. "Unquestionably, we're their parents. There's just no question about it."

But marriage provides a level of legal protection that a gay couple simply can't get, particularly when children are involved.

"For me, I care most that we have the same legal rights," Lee said. "We are citizens. And at this point I'd be happy to just be given equal rights."

The Creswells

John and Stacy Creswell met in California in the late 1990s. They were both analytical and business-minded — she was in graduate school and he had launched a career that would eventually lead him to a money management firm in Chicago.

Stacy's roommate introduced

them, the man in the suit and tie and the woman in overalls and red Converse sneakers. Beneath different exteriors were two like-minded people; both were athletic and fascinated by processes and figuring out how things work. They were friends for about six months, dated a year and were married 11 months later.

Their wedding was in the church John went to as a child. They didn't have much money — their floral display consisted of about a half-dozen poinsettias that wilted slightly before the ceremony. The florist was kind enough to swoop in and give them an additional arrangement free of charge.

Rather than focus on finery, the pair put their energy into the meaning of the ceremony, the emotional and spiritual connection they shared and the excitement they felt to display their love before friends and family.

Stacy became a successful software engineer and the couple wound up moving to Chicago in 2001. Four years ago they had their first child, followed by two more. Stacy decided to focus her energies on the family.

Through their church, the couple have worked extensively with families in Chicago's housing projects, making close friends and witnessing a wide array of what they call "non-traditional families." They've seen firsthand how the legal definition of a family can work against people bound by love and support but not necessarily blood or formal documents.

Stacy feels the debate over changing the meaning of marriage draws focus away from the need for broader family-friendly laws that could benefit everyone, gay and straight alike.

"We should all respect each other for who we are and worry less about labels," she said. "Whether we're married or single or life partners or whatever. We're all people, and we're all unique. And we should put our focus on that."

Pirates a popular topic of study

By Jodi S. Cohen
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — If you were looking for more proof that pirates are popular, here's some news from the University of Chicago:

More undergraduates registered for the anthropology class "Intensive Study of a Culture: Pirates" than almost any other course for the spring quarter, which begins March 30.

"As eggheady as our students are, they also are very much of their generation and in touch with mainstream culture," said assistant anthropology professor Shannon Lee Dawdy, who teaches the class.

But don't expect this will be all Johnny Depp, all the time.

Students in the class, a first-time offering, will study traditional Caribbean pirates as well

as contemporary software piracy and "pirates" such as Bernard Madoff, who recently pleaded guilty to defrauding thousands of investors.

The class also will take a trip to the Field Museum's "Real Pirates" exhibit.

"It is almost too fun for the University of Chicago, so I will make sure they read a bit of theory every week," Dawdy said. Arrrrrrgh!!!

The top three classes requested by University of Chicago students are an eclectic mix. Global warming topped the list, with 377 students requesting the course. Introduction to Microeconomics, taught by popular professor Allen Sanderson, was next, followed by a hands-on drama course.

"One never knows" which classes will be popular, said Michael Jones, an associate dean at the college.

To avoid sinking students' dreams of learning about pirates,

"As eggheady as our students are, they also are very much of their generation and in touch with mainstream culture."

Shannon Lee Dawdy
assistant anthropology professor

Dawdy increased the size of her class to 150 students, up from the original maximum of 90.

As of Tuesday, all but one spot had been taken.

NEWS

QUICK SPORTS

While Spring Break is a time for leisure for most students, Horned Frogs athletes were working hard over the week.

Several teams were in action last week while students were away. Three squads saw their seasons come to an end while another team continued to prepare for the final stretch of its own season.

Lady Frogs fall in first round of NCAA Tournament

The 10th-seeded women's basketball team saw its season come to an end in Lubbock on Sunday night when they fell to a seventh-seeded South Dakota State, 90-55 in the first round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

The Lady Frogs, who finished third in the Mountain West Conference, ended the season with 20-11 record.

SDSU improved to 32-2 on the season and will face a No. 2-seeded Baylor (28-5) team tonight.

Sophomore guard Helena Sverisdottir led the way for the Lady Frogs with 12 points and eight rebounds. Teammate Emily Carter chipped in with 11 points.

The Lady Frogs allowed the Jackrabbits to shoot 54 percent while managing to connect on only

31.7 percent of their own shot attempts. SDSU had a 30-point lead by halftime.

The team will lose only one player in senior Micaela Younger as it now looks toward next season and beyond. The team's entire starting five, which includes three all-conference players, will return for next year's campaign.

Men's basketball season ends in Las Vegas

The Horned Frogs fell to Utah 61-58 in the quarterfinals of the Mountain West Conference Tournament on March 12.

A Utah three-pointer with 0.8 seconds remaining put the Utes back on top after they blew a seven-point lead late in the game.

Junior forward Zvonko Buljan poured in 20 points to lead all scorers and freshman guard Ronnie Moss added 16 points of his own.

The Horned Frogs finished the season with an overall record of 14-17 under new head coach Jim Christian.

Rifle team finishes fifth in NCAA Championships

The Horned Frogs hosted the NCAA National Championships

on March 13 and 14 and came away with a fifth-place finish.

It was the team's third straight top-five finish at the NCAA Championships.

West Virginia came away with the overall title with a total score of 4643.

Individually, The Horned Frogs' Mattie Brogdon finished in seventh place in the air rifle competition with a score of 686.6.

Men's tennis team finishes home portion of schedule

The No. 50 Horned Frog tennis team had two home matches over Spring Break.

The first match pitted the team against a No. 21 Virginia Tech squad on March 13. The Hokies came away with a 4-3 victory.

The second match on March 17, the final home match of the season, saw the Horned Frogs sweep a Columbia team 7-0.

The Horned Frogs' record now stands at 6-9 on the season.

The team will return to action April 2 with the beginning of its conference schedule in Salt Lake City against BYU, Utah and UNLV.

Sports editor Michael Carroll

OPINION

NCAA men's basketball



There won't be a Cinderella to cheer on this season

By Greg Cote
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — Cinderella has left the bracket.

The Sweet 16 went on without her Sunday, March Madness a bit diminished for it, the NCAA Tournament left with big dogs and top dogs but no underdogs.

Cleveland State was the last hope in the heartwarming category, but the Vikings were the Little Team That Couldn't Quite, falling to Arizona 71-57 at Miami's downtown bayside arena in the Tournament's second round.

(Giving a slice of March Madness to the college-hoops-hinterland of Miami is sort of like relocating Mardi Gras to Dubuque, and yet 10,204 appeared Sunday as South Florida made a game attempt at pretending to be a college basketball town).

Upstart Cleveland State drew within four points with less than seven minutes to play but could get no closer despite my violating every tenet of journalistic neutrality by openly hoping for yet another upset win by the aberrations from Cleveland who'd stunned Wake Forest earlier in the Tournament.

Cleveland State died from three-point range with 3-for-23 shooting, the long shot ultimately failing by the long shot.

It was too bad (sorry, Arizonans) because no other men's college basketball team fighting this weekend to stay alive could match Cleveland State in terms of the kind of shock-the-world possibility that is the Tournament's charm and stock in trade.

Cleveland, a 13th seed, would

have been the lowest-rated entrant in the Sweet 16, in only its second NCAA Tournament appearance and first since 1986 — before any of these players was born.

"Us against the world," as guard Cedric Jackson put it. "Who else believed we'd be here?"

Arizona probably can stake an underdog claim itself now, as a 12th seed advancing, but the Wildcats are a fake Cinderella despite that seeding. Not even close. This is a team playing in its 25th consecutive March Madness, an astounding streak that included the 1997 national championship and three other Final Four shots.

True Cinderella status requires not just a double-digit seeding but a program bereft of national status, a team whose players require Hello My Name Is tags and whose appearance in the Tournament elicits a collective "Who!?" from the nation at large.

That was Cleveland State. It had the ragtag quality of a local repertory theater plopped down on Broadway. The school's goofy pep band would chant, "Block that kick!" when Arizona attempted free throws. Its cheerleaders failed to execute the simplest pyramids and handsprings.

How can you not root for a program like this one?

When the school made the tournament in '86 it proved closer to a curse than a blessing. Calamity followed.

The coach then, Kevin Mackey, would soon be fired in disgrace after being caught exiting a crack house with a prostitute on his arm.

It was Mackey who had famously said of the program he'd taken over: "Some teams have

McDonald's All-Americans. Cleveland State has players who eat at McDonalds."

Probation for recruiting violations followed that first Tournament bow, and then a long lapse back into irrelevance. Cleveland State was 10-21 just two seasons ago, a sixth consecutive losing year.

Arizona center Jordan Hill admitted being "in shock" that it was the little Vikings pounding on the Sweet 16 door Sunday. Wildcats guard Nic Wise, accurately more than insultingly, called Cleveland State "a small-name school."

What is the recruiting pitch if you're trying to sell players

Quality has advanced, for sure. It is a big Sweet 16. It is an impressive-looking one. It might even prove to be a great one.

on coming to Cleveland State? "Pack Your Longjohns?"

Yet this was the team that won the lightly regarded Horizon Conference to win a ticket to the Big Dance, then shoved Wake Forest off the floor to kindle hope that — in an unpredictable, wide-open season — maybe the Vikings weren't done.

Alas, they were, with no underdog to take their place.

The Sweet 16 teams in place now have together made 433 NCAA Tournament appearances and won a combined 18 national championships. That includes Miami's other qualifier, Syracuse, in its 32nd Tournament and the 2003 national champ. Other than Arizona, no surviving team is lower than a fifth seed. The remaining team with the shortest tournament resume, Gonzaga, is in its 11th consecutive March.

Quality has advanced, for sure. It is a big Sweet 16. It is an impressive-looking one. It might even prove to be a great one.

Something is missing, though.

Among all the giants, there is no little guy left to root for.

That's because Cleveland State packed its bags not for the dream Sunday, but for home.

BASEBALL

continued from page 10

8-7. Senior pitcher Taylor Cragin threw a career-high 7 2/3 shutout innings, driving the Horned Frogs to the series-clinching win, 6-1. The team dropped the last game of the series in extra innings, 9-8,

despite rallying from a 6-0 deficit to tie it up.

The team is back in action tonight against the Lumberjacks of Stephen F. Austin State University. Despite a 7-13 record, SFA comes into the game having won a series against Southland Conference foe Nicholls State.

The Lumberjacks' senior pitcher Erich Lehmann set the school record for career strikeouts when he reached 224 in the series against Nicholls State. Senior first baseman Sean Meyers leads the 'Jacks in almost all hitting categories with an average of .425 with three long balls and 22 RBIs.

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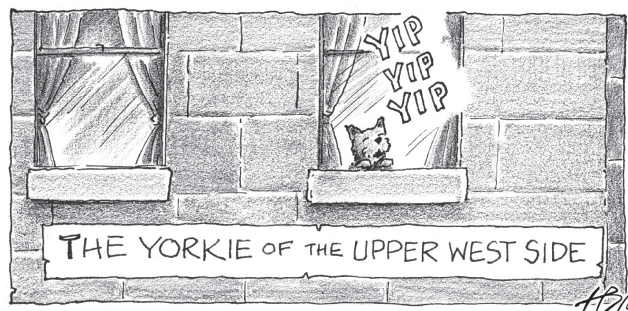
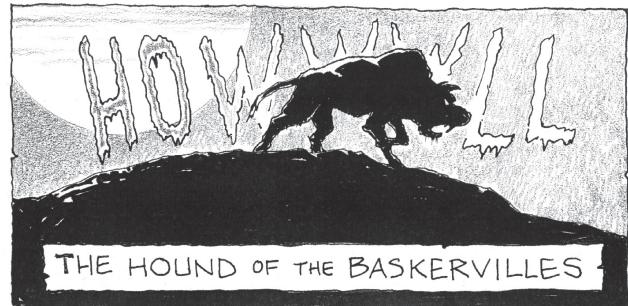
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 — History Channel

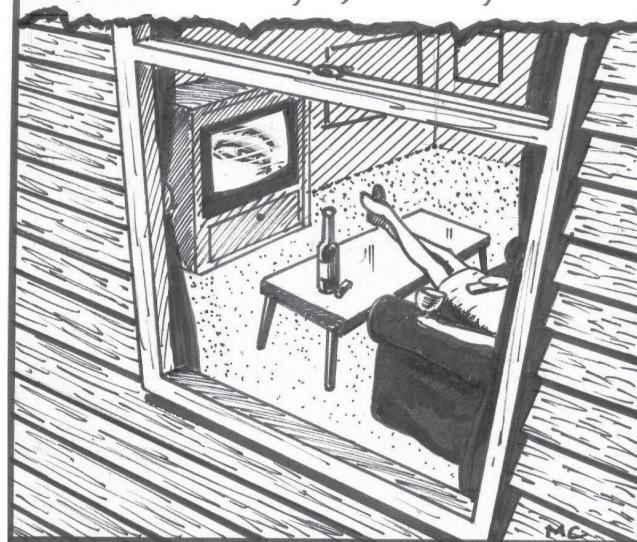
Joke of the Day
 Q: Why does someone who runs marathons make a good student?
 A: Because education pays off in the long run!

Bliss by Harry Bliss



Michael Capozzola's CHEAP CITY

Dear Diary: Some of the best things in life really ARE free! Last night, my neighbor was also watching that K&ED documentary on Voyeurism —and she was wearing my favorite nightie..!



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

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

See Wednesday's paper for sudoku solutions.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD

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ACROSS
 1 Overactors
 5 In pieces
 10 Forget about
 14 Object of worship
 15 Ladies' man
 16 Costa ___
 17 Centennial State rock?
 20 Pilot's announcement, briefly
 21 Frontier bases
 22 Wolverine State fire starter?
 26 It'll never fly
 27 Bud's buddy
 28 Wetland
 29 One in a "Flying" circus act
 32 ___ generis: unique
 35 Peach State wide open spaces?
 39 Sixth sense
 40 Baggage claim item
 42 Firm way to stand
 45 Guy
 46 Without precedent
 47 Cotton State sculpture?
 51 Italian veal dish
 53 Psh precursor
 54 Cornhusker State Town Car?
 59 Quaint "Holy moly!"
 60 John of England
 61 Bay of Pigs locale
 62 Disney dog
 63 Catches one's breath
 64 To be, in old Rome

DOWN
 1 Juice drink with a hyphenated name
 2 Big fuss
 3 Minute particles
 4 One of the deadly sins
 5 Coach Parseghian
 6 Pea's place
 7 O'Neill's ___ for the Misbegotten
 8 Blunt rejection
 9 Play the piccolo
 10 Synthetic fabric
 11 "A living faith will last in the ___ of the blackest storm"; Gandhi
 12 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
 13 Old salts
 18 Bitter complainer
 19 Words before smoke or flames
 22 Copy cats?
 23 Reflection
 24 Bell hit with a padded hammer
 25 Auto with a four-ring logo
 30 Cut off, as branches
 31 Remote batteries
 32 [error left as is]
 33 Like a 12-0 verdict
 34 Basketball Hall of Famer Dan
 36 Mountain lion
 37 Neeson of "Taken"

By Dan Naddor 3/24/09

See Wednesday's paper for crossword solutions.

38 When many go to lunch
 41 Dolly, the clone, was one
 42 Derivatives of it are used in sunscreen
 43 Privilege loser, often
 44 Bring down on the gridiron
 47 Equally yucky
 48 "Mercy me!"

49 Watery trenches under drawbridges
 50 Italian lawn game
 51 Like Ogden Nash's lama, in a poem
 52 Big name in video games
 55 Place to park
 56 Connections
 57 Barbell abbr.
 58 Rob Roy's refusal

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SPORTS



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TRACK AND FIELD

FLYIN' HIGH Teams find success at home meet



Courtesy of ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

Senior sprinter Kishelle Paul competes during the Horned Frog Invitational over the weekend. Paul placed first in the 100 meter hurdles, lead off for the 4x100 meter relay team that placed first and ran second for the 4x400 meter relay team that placed second.

By Mark Bell
Staff Reporter

The track and field team posted 10 NCAA regional qualifying marks Friday and Saturday at the third annual Horned Frog Invitational at the Lowden Track and Field Complex.

The meet was the first of the outdoor season for the Flyin' Frogs and the team took first place in 12 events. The team competed against Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Junior Jessica Young ran a personal-best and regional qualifying time of 11.24 seconds to win the 100-meter dash. Her time is the fastest time in the world this spring.

Freshman Mark Barnes ran a regional qualifying time of 10.701 seconds in the 100-meter dash, the top time posted in the Mountain West Conference this spring.

Senior Kishelle Paul and sophomore Jordan Pitts also set Mountain West top marks for this year and posted regional qualifying times in the 100-meter hurdles and 110-meter hurdles, respectively.

The men's and women's 4x100 relay squads and sophomore Mychal Dungey, who ran the 200-meter dash, also ran regional qualifying times.

In field events, freshman Whitney Gipson and junior Neidra Covington took home first and second place, respectively, with regional qualifying marks in the long jump. Sophomore Stormy Harrison tossed a regional qualifying mark in the shot put and junior Tommy Killen won the discus with a regional qualifying mark.

Also winning individual events for the Flyin' Frogs were Matthew Love (400 meters), Sean Zurko (800 meters), Tanja Ivandic (1500 meters), Danielle Selner (3000 meters) and Crystal Fenoglio (javelin).

Head coach Darryl Anderson could not be reached for comment.

The Flyin' Frogs will compete at the LSU Relays starting Friday in Baton Rouge.

BASEBALL



PAIGE McARDLE / Design Editor

Freshman shortstop Taylor Featherston slides back to first base during the game against Wichita State on March 8. The Horned Frogs won the game 12-3 and swept the series.

Team welcomes SFA after busy Spring Break

By Travis L. Brown
Staff Writer

TCU vs. SFA

When: 6:30 p.m. tonight
Where: Lupton Stadium

While students were away soaking up rays on a beach somewhere the Horned Frog baseball team was hard at work, playing seven games in nine days.

The Horned Frogs lost their first series of the season March 14 to 16 to the Golden Gophers of Minnesota, two games to one. The first two games were lost with scores of 6-4 and 7-2. The Horned Frogs fell victim to the big inning multiple times during the series, giving up more than one run in at least one inning in each loss. The second game was plagued with bad pitching from the start, beginning with starting pitcher Sean Hoelscher who went 1/3 of an inning and gave up six runs on three hits.

The team did take the final game of the series by a score of 4-1. A lights-out pitching performance from freshman Kyle Winkler kept the Gophers down, allowing the Horned Frog bats to get the job done.

The Horned Frogs relinquished a three-run lead March 17 in the ninth inning to the Oklahoma Sooners to drop their third in four games at home. Freshman pitcher Erik Miller gave up four runs in the ninth to get the loss for the game. Despite the loss, freshman shortstop Taylor Featherston went 5-5 with two doubles and a triple. This loss ended the Horned Frogs' 116 game win streak when leading after 8 innings.

While March Madness took over the country, the Horned Frogs opened up Mountain West Conference play in Utah on Friday, taking the series two games to one.

A two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth by Hunt Woodruff blasted the Frogs past the Utes in the first game of the series by a score of

SEE BASEBALL · PAGE 8

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