

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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TCU's paintball club plans to compete on the national level.

Sports, page 6

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The legendary signing of the health care bill sounds more like staying true to the Declaration of Independence than socialism.

Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

The food in famous paintings of the Last Supper has grown by biblical proportions during the last millennium. Using a computer, researchers compared the size of the food to the size of the heads in 52 paintings of the meal. The size of the main dish grew 69 percent between the years 1000 and 2000.

— The Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER

65 49
HIGH LOW

Thunderstorms likely

Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny
66 / 44

Friday: Sunny
66 / 46



NEWS

TV's "Bounty Hunter" will visit the campus bookstore this week.
Tomorrow



NEWS

A student musician is taking his piano talent on the road.
Tomorrow



FACULTY

FRESH TAKE



CHILTON TIPPIN / Staff Photographer
 Biology professor Ray Drenner stands near the mesocosms, medium-sized biological communities, behind the Physical Plant building on March 2. The tanks are used to conduct controlled experiments on model ecosystems so that scientists can change variables and watch how they affects the contents within.

Prof pours passion into research

By Chilton Tippin
Staff Writer

As a child growing up in Arkansas, Ray Drenner had a pet raccoon named Rebel. Drenner and Rebel spent most of their time together, fording streams, catching crayfish and learning about the ecosystems of the creeks and streams of Arkansas.

Rebel, Drenner explained, had imprinted on him; the animal thought the boy was his parent. It appears, however, that the animal may have imprinted something even more enduring on the man.

Drenner, who is now a professor and chair of the department of biology, has devoted a lifetime to studying, researching and teaching about freshwater ecosystems and biology.

"I learned a lot about streams

from that raccoon," Drenner said.

Drenner has conducted vast amounts of research since coming to the university in 1977. He has directed 22 graduate theses, garnered 16 research grants, published 59 scholarly articles and presented more than 100 papers at scholarly meetings.

In 2009, the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society honored Drenner with the Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award for his contributions to the field. With an ocean's worth of work in freshwater systems behind him, Drenner is now focusing his efforts on studying the levels of mercury contamination in large bass fish in Texas.

Along with his colleague and former student Matthew Chumchal, who is also a biology professor at the university, Drenner

has studied and mapped 204 Texas lakes and more than 3,300 bass.

The scientists have spent the past six years gathering samples of the fish, which Texas Parks and Wildlife sent them, running the samples through a machine that measures the level of mercury contamination, and inputting the data into a comprehensive map.

The map shows a picture of eastern Texas speckled with hundreds of different-sized dots. The dots, each representing a lake, have varied sizes to represent the levels of mercury contamination. The bigger the dot, the more contaminated the lake.

"That's our data," Drenner said. "And we've identified the areas in Texas where the mercury

SEE DRENNER · PAGE 2

NUTRITION

Panera to post calorie count on menu

By Katie Vance
Staff Reporter

The Panera Bread on South University Drive will start posting item calorie counts on its menu boards today.

Linn Parrish, vice president of public relations, said Panera Bread is the first national restaurant chain to voluntarily post calorie counts on its menus across the nation. The motivation for publishing calorie counts initially came from the 2008 mandate in New York City for all restaurants to disclose the information. She said she thought other restaurants may make the same move toward transparency either voluntarily or by federal mandate.

Parrish said the decision would

provide greater transparency to customers and give them the information they need in order to make healthy choices. Panera stores located in New York City, where all restaurants were required to disclose the information, did not see a drop in sales but rather saw a shift in the type of items sold, Parrish said.

"We saw that people who love the information use it," Parrish said. "Those that don't want (the information) don't even see it."

Stephanie Luce, a sophomore nutrition major, said businesses providing calorie counts for their customers would make more consumers pay attention.

"The demand for (calorie facts) is higher," she said, adding that the

public is becoming more health conscious. "(Businesses) have always had to have those facts available so if somebody wanted them they would be able to give them to them, but now that they're there I think consumers are more likely to use them."

Research shows customers take advantage of custom meal options at Panera Bread that include pairing items with smaller portions to create lower-calorie meals, Parrish said. The effort at transparency prompted corporate management to take a closer look at current menu items, nutritional content and ingredients.

Nutritional changes were made to some menu items to make them

SEE PANERA · PAGE 2

QUICK NEWS

Vehicle burglaries spike during spring break

A series of four motor vehicle burglaries in Lot 4, located on the north side of the Amon G. Carter stadium, over spring break are the latest in a rash of such crimes recorded by campus police.

TCU Police Lt. Ramiro Abad said the department does not know who broke into the vehicles, and police are not sure if one person or multiple people were responsible for the crimes.

So far this month, 10 motor vehicle burglaries have been reported to police, a higher incidence

than in past years, according to campus police crime logs.

In March 2009, five car burglaries were reported for the month, while two vehicle burglaries were reported in March 2008.

According to the TCU Police crime log, a motor vehicle burglary was reported in the freshman parking lot the same day as the Lot 4 incidents. Other university lots on campus have experienced similar issues, Abad said.

"Generally, it's because of items that are left in full view," he said.

Abad said most thieves can tell what model radio or CD player a

car is equipped with. They know what they can sell and are not going to break into a car for off-brand items, he said.

It only takes 10 to 30 seconds for someone to reach into a car and take a radio out or grab whatever is on the dash, Abad said.

University parking lots do have some security cameras, but because of the movements of the units, not all activity in the area can be recorded at all times, Abad said.

— Staff reporter Madison Pelletier

SGA

Campus to vote on fee increase

By Andrea Drusch
Staff Reporter

Fundraising for large-scale concerts, sports clubs and student organizations are the primary reasons behind an initiative to raise the student body fee by 87.5 percent, Student Body President Marlon Figueroa said to the House of Student Representatives Tuesday night.

The House voted 37 to 2 in favor of a bill that would call for a student body referendum on whether to raise the student body fee from \$24 to \$45 in the 2010-2011 school year. According to the legislation, an increase in the fee has not been made since fall 2006.

Figueroa said earlier this month that past years' concerts had been paid for out of SGA's reserve account, which was rapidly depleting.

When the student body votes on April 1, the bill will require a simple majority, which is 50 percent plus one of votes that students cast. If passed, the SGA Cabinet would then propose the increase to the university's board of trustees for approval.

Speaker of the House Merillat Pittman said SGA could only attempt to increase this fee once per semester. In order to get the bill passed before the end of the school year, the House voted to move it up on the night's agenda, postponing a decision on a bill to further regulate campaigning and one to research adding drinking fountains along the Greek jogging path.

Figueroa said it was important for

SEE SGA · PAGE 2

SGA

Initiative sheds light on school services

By Andrea Drusch
Staff Reporter

The sauna in the basement of the University Recreation Center is just one of the secrets the Student Government Association is working to shed light on in an initiative to educate students about lesser-known campus services.

The Student Relations Committee's "Froggy 411" initiative will compile information about the services of different university offices into a link from the SGA Web site.

The committee, which functions as a sounding board for student needs, is in charge of hosting Improve TCU Day each year. Committee member Jillian Yarusso said many of the requests students made were already available to them, but had not been openly publicized.

Facts can be submitted by:

- Adding posts to the survey at myshare.tcu.edu/sga/Lists/Froggy%20411/overview.aspx
- Sending an e-mail to SGA@tcu.edu.

SEE FROGGIE 411 · PAGE 2

NEWS



KATIE VANCE / Staff Photographer
The menus behind the counter at Panera Bread Bakery's location off University Drive on March 23. Starting today, the menus will display calorie information.

PANERA

continued from page 1

healthier without sacrificing taste, Parrish said. For example, she said, the Napa Almond Chicken Salad Sandwich was changed to reduce calorie count and fat content.

Gina Jarman, an associate professor in the nutritional sciences department, said these types of policies could be beneficial to the average consumer in making healthy food choices. Most restaurants post nutritional information online or somewhere in the restaurant, she said, but customers are usually in a hurry and may not look for it.

"With the information directly in front of us, it will be difficult to ignore," Jarman said. "This can help those who truly want to make better decisions."

According to a corporate press release, all corporate-owned locations will be required to post nutritional information by April 2010. Corporate expects that franchise-operated locations will follow suit and post nutritional

information by the end of 2010.

The Panera Bread located near campus on South University Drive, which is corporate owned, will post calorie counts on its menu boards starting today, the manager said. The manager declined to give his name.

Parrish said evidence suggested posting nutritional information would prove to be financially successful for both corporate and franchise-operated locations.

In addition to the calorie information on the menu boards, full nutrition information is available on the company's Web site, www.panerabread.com, and in a binder available upon request, she said. Additionally, there is an interactive meal calorie calculator on the Web site so customers can customize their meals and determine calorie count by item ingredient.

Jarman said that although posting calorie counts on menu boards is a step forward, it would not solve the growing national problems of high obesity rates and chronic diseases

NUMBERS

690

calories in an Asiago Roast Beef on Asiago Cheese

720

calories in a Smokehouse Turkey® on three Cheese

860

calories in a Frontega Chicken® on Focaccia

1,040

calories in an Italian Combo on Ciabatta

*Sandwiches listed are all full-sized

associated with poor nutrition.

"Food labels are on most items in the grocery store," Jarman said. "Plenty of junk foods still fly off of the store shelves."

DRENNER

continued from page 1

concentrations in bass are the greatest, and they tend to be in East Texas."

Chumchal said about half of Texas' bodies of water have fish with mercury levels above the Environmental Protection Agency's safe-consumption levels.

Drenner said the significance is that regular consumption of the larger bass could be bad for pregnant women.

"Mercury is one of the most toxic compound chemicals known to man," he said. "If someone eats high concentrations of mercury when she's pregnant, then it could affect the development of the fetus she is carrying."

The bass consumed must be large and consumed on a regular basis to be harmful to a fetus, he said.

Drenner's work has not always been on levels of mercury contamination, but his focus has always been on freshwater ecosystems, he said.

Drenner received his first grant from the Agency for International Development of the U.S. State Department in 1980 to study fresh water bodies in Israel and Egypt.

"The three governments were trying to cooperate on

"He's really been a great ambassador for the department at TCU."

Phil Hartman
biology professor

something, so they picked the area of fresh water to focus on because water is so important to the Middle East," he said.

The grant funded Drenner's research on Lake Manzalah of Egypt and Lake Kinneret of Israel.

"I made nine trips and took my graduate students," he said. "I owned an apartment in Tiberia. I had a car, and I drove the country freely. Times were different."

Drenner worked with Israelis and Egyptians to conduct experiments and set up tests on the bodies of water in the area, he said.

Phil Hartman, a professor in the department of biology and Drenner's long-time colleague and friend, said Drenner is not only notable because of his scientific merits, but also for his contributions to the department.

Drenner has overseen the department of biology through a pivotal time of renovations and faculty turnover, Hartman said.

"He's done a really good job

of talking to candidates, explaining what the opportunities are at TCU," Hartman said. "He's really been a great ambassador for the department at TCU."

Chumchal said one of Drenner's greatest accomplishments as an educator is that he brought the Contemporary Issues in Biology course to the department.

Drenner said the course, which started more than a decade ago, introduced a new way of teaching biology that made it more attractive to non-science majors.

"A student from business, or fine arts, or any other area of the university doesn't need to be prepared to go to med-school or graduate school in biology," Drenner said. "So, I decided that a good way to teach the course was to have each lecture or each lab focus on a contemporary issue in biology."

Since its inception, the course has grown to more than 900 students each semester, and several faculty of the university are involved in teaching it.

Rachel Adcock, a freshman pre-major, said she enjoyed the course when she took it.

"I thought it was a lot of fun because Dr. Drenner made it interesting," she said. "It impressed upon me the importance of staying up-to-date with medical information."

FROGGIE 411

continued from page 1

"We decided it would be a good idea to express a lot of the utilities and opportunities we have at TCU that students don't know about and that they're not using right now," Yarusso said.

The sauna in the Recreation Center and the collection of newly released DVDs in the library are examples of services Yarusso said she wished she had known about earlier this year. The freshman representative from the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences has worked to request information about other lesser-known services by e-mailing department heads and other university officials.

According to the committee's e-mail advertisement, the members hope to compile facts that would educate students about every service available on campus. However, the focus would be on things that are not as well known, such as the lawyer who is available to answer students' questions through SGA.

SGA

continued from page 1

the Cabinet to have strong support from the House when discussing the increase with student organizations in the coming week. He said support from these groups is key to passing the increase.

Details about the change would be listed online in the coming week, along with a place to direct questions from the student body, Figueroa said.

Much of the representatives' discussion in opposition of the bill regarded the size of increase in the fee.

Freshman AddRan College Representative Saman Sadeghi said that while he was in support of changing the budget to

Yarusso said that although she only sent the e-mail to university officials, anyone may submit information.

The committee is accepting e-mail submissions, but also has a survey online where people can post ideas. Yarusso said the committee would verify all of the submitted information before posting it online.

Susan Nethery, associate director of programs and marketing, said she responded to the survey with information about new services available from the Career Services office, including a Facebook fan page and campus workshops.

"I just wanted to put specific facts out there that they may not know, remind them of what we've always done in terms of resumes (and) interviews, but also the new things we're doing, like the fan page, the on-campus workshops that we're doing and our Web site," Nethery said.

She said that in light of students' busy schedules, she hopes the site will help keep her office in the forefront of students'

"We decided it would be a good idea to express a lot of the utilities and opportunities we have at TCU that students don't know about and that they're not using right now."

Jillian Yarusso
committee member

minds when they are in need of career assistance.

Yarusso said the committee will compile the submissions of services, and the technology chair will create the link during the upcoming week. However, the committee has not yet decided on a way to organize the information, she said.

Once the information is posted online, Yarusso said, the committee plans to put up yard signs around campus displaying some of the services that had been submitted.

meet the demands of inflation, the \$21 jump was too much.

"Just because we can make them (students) pay more doesn't mean we should," Sadeghi said. "We should be responsible about it."

Despite the concerns about the size of the increase, the House voted down senior College of Communication Representative Christina Durano's amendment to lower the proposed amount. Durano suggested lowering the fee to \$30 per semester, based on the government's projected inflation rate.

Brian McDermott, a freshman representative from the College of Science and Engineering, suggested cutting unnecessary spending to avoid any increase.

"As I walk around campus, I see a lot of programs that nobody's at, and I feel like it's a waste of money," McDermott said. "Maybe we should put all of that money into the concerts and cut all of these programs that no one wants to do."

Student Body Treasurer Chase Bruton said the events McDermott mentioned were likely events not sponsored by SGA.

Student Body Vice President Jackie Wheeler said the Cabinet had done its homework in researching the amount it requested.

"I have been on activities funding committee and had to deny organizations funding too many times," Wheeler said. "We researched this and found it to be the necessary increase."

Housing & Residence Life

Mark your calendars... Make your plans...

March 1 - March 9

All residents who plan to live on-campus for 2010-2011 must submit a housing application, complete & verify roommate groups (if applicable) and select a meal plan.

March 12

Housing & Residence Life will issue Room Selection Lottery Numbers with a time/date for assignment (which will occur after Spring Break).

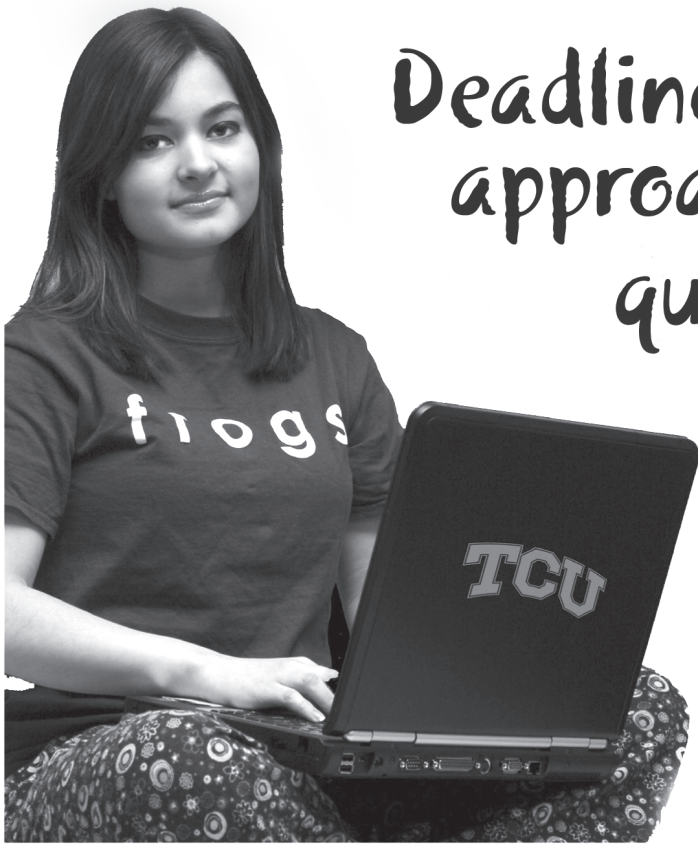
March 23 - April 1

Housing Selection (based on Lottery Number)

Find the Housing & Residence Life Office
in the basement of Samuelson Hall

Check our website for more details: www.housing.tcu.edu

Email or call for assistance: housing@tcu.edu or (817)257-7865



Deadlines are approaching quickly!

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The Skiff View

Healthy lifestyle begins with individual choices

Panera Bread's decision to list calorie information beside items on its menu boards creates advantages to both the company and consumers. According to Linn Parrish, vice president of public relations for Panera, the decision to add calorie information originated from a 2008 mandate in New York City. By expanding the original decree beyond New York City, Panera sets an example of transparency by willingly sharing calorie information with its customers without them having to look up the information online. Posting calorie information gives consumers the opportunity to choose the healthier option with less of a hassle.

However, even though providing immediate calorie information is commendable on the restaurant's part, it's up to the consumers to take that extra step toward a healthy lifestyle.

Simply choosing the menu item with the smallest calorie count isn't going to cut it. Other restaurants may not provide instant health information, and it's important that people look at the numbers and understand what each piece of information means and how that affects their health. In other words, people shouldn't only eat healthy when the calories are there to provide guilt-induced eating habits. It should be a habit applied to all foods and meals.

Eating healthy should be a priority in a country where the stereotype is the image of an overweight American eating something fried and greasy.

Web editor Maricruz Salinas for the editorial board.

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

Vice president's expletive blown out of proportion



ANDREA BOLT

An open microphone, a landmark health care reform and Joe Biden — how does anyone not expect an outlandish comment of some kind? The now infamous f-bomb dropped by Biden in a personal congratulatory aside to President Barack Obama is being blown ridiculously out of proportion and mainly by the (gasp) GOP, with the immediate aid of FOX News.

Biden has made himself a wonderful target throughout his career by maintaining his consistent outspoken and effusive attitude. Though the health care reform is getting more than its fair share of the spotlight, it's a shame this detail — so minor and insignificant in this scope and circumstance — is making such waves.

Quite honestly, Biden's comment, "Mr. President, this is a big f---ing deal," was not so outrageously out of place, given the gravity of the situation. And again, please consider the source. The vice president has a penchant for the unexpected and oftentimes inappropriate.

"I mean, you got the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy. I mean, that's a storybook, man," Biden said of running

Biden has made himself a wonderful target throughout his career by maintaining his consistent outspoken and effusive attitude.

mate Obama during their campaign.

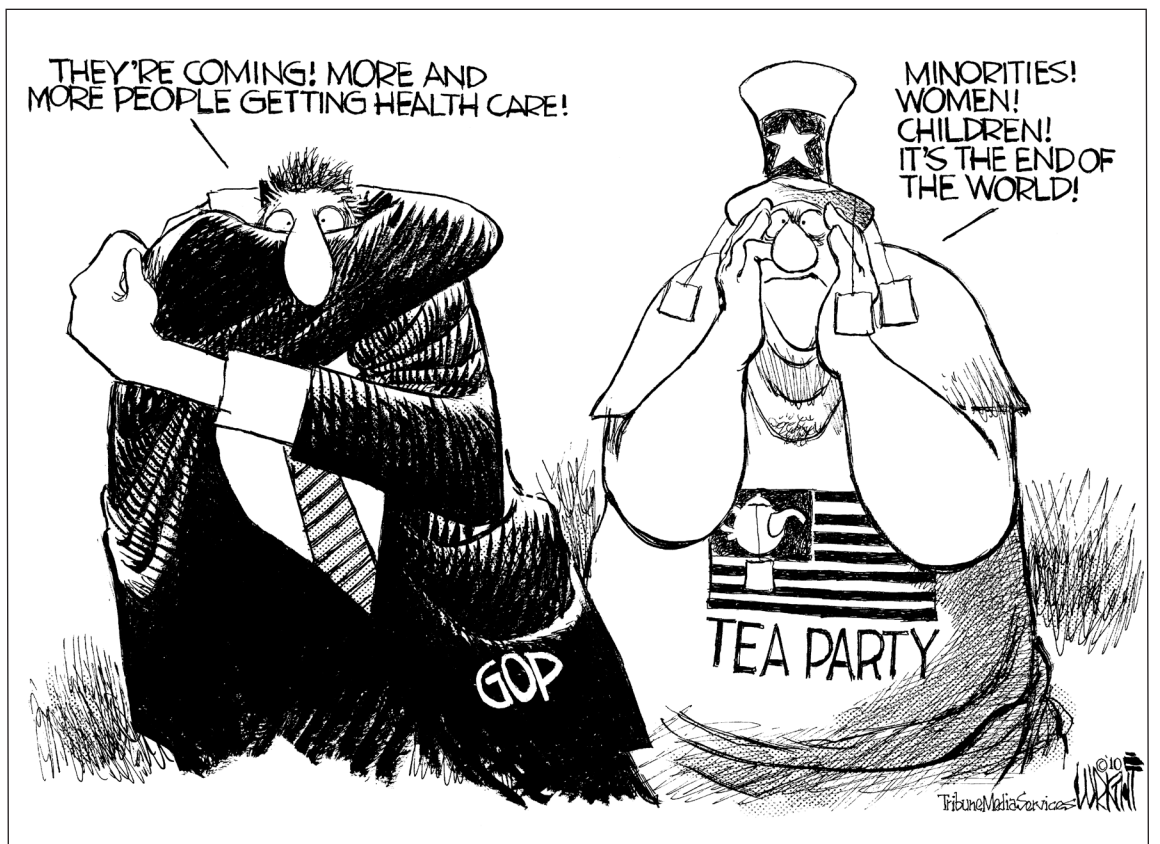
The real problems with Biden's statement are that it aired over a microphone and that it contained such an intense expletive. If he had elected to utilize a less harsh curse word, the comment would have made far less of an impact. At this point, though, the outsized Republicans are likely more upset about the signing of the bill than Biden's classless comment. The bill's signing was an upturning of the Republican world, Biden's remark, a cherry on top of that world-rocking sundae.

As far as his intent, however, he was and is completely correct — the signing of the health care bill was and is undoubtedly a huge deal.

Fitting as his comment may have been, the vice president should have been more considerate and aware of the fact that an open microphone sat nearby.

To his credit, though, yes, Obama, that was a pretty freaking big deal. There is one saving grace to Biden's public speaking: at least his accidents are committed with words and not with hunting weapons.

Opinion editor Andrea Bolt is a junior news-editorial journalism major from The Woodlands.



Don Wright is a political cartoonist for The Palm Beach Post.

Democratic dedication great



JOHN ANDREW WILLIS

Early Monday morning marked the passage of the unprecedented "Obamacare" bill by the U.S. House of Representatives. President Barack Obama's signature officially made it federal law.

Turns out some people aren't as psyched about the progressive health care reform as the majority of elected Democratic leaders are. In a last-minute plea to the House on Sunday evening, Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, posed the question regarding the writing of the bill, "Can you say it was done openly, with transparency and accountability without backroom deals struck behind closed doors, hidden from the people?" Boehner angrily answered his own question, shouting, "Hell no, you can't!"

Later, Congressman Randy Neugebauer of Texas yelled, "it's a baby killer," out of turn, referring to the health care bill.

As for my peers, most students I talk to feel very strongly one way or the other, but I'm not sure too many opinions are factually grounded. Most opposed to the bill say that universal health care represents the beginning of socialism. All who drive automobiles in our country are required to have insurance or face a fine for failure to do so. With that similarity in mind, I'm not convinced that requiring citizens to possess protection against rising health care costs — in the form of insurance — is socialistic. Rather, it sounds more to me like fulfillment of the Declaration of Independence's goal of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Among other grievances Boehner expressed regarding the health care bill is the increased financial

burden imposed on the taxpayers. To his point, Democrats heralding the bill's \$143 billion deficit savings over 10 years as incredible is a bit ridiculous, considering the estimated cost of the bill nears \$950 billion, also over 10 years. The bill will be paid for by taxing rich families and individuals (who make over \$250,000 and \$200,000 respectively), insurance companies' "Cadillac" high-end policies and indoor tanning facilities. This disproportionate distribution of tax burden certainly isn't "fair," but our progressive tax system never has been. In fact, the "fair tax," a proportional national sales tax in lieu of federal income tax, was proposed by Mike Huckabee when running for president in 2008, who was thoroughly chastised for suggesting it.

The fact of the matter is that Obama and his Democratic colleagues are doing exactly what the voters — who were dissatisfied with the actions of the Republican majority under the Bush administration — elected them to do. Sure there was a fair share of backroom deals and "arm twisting" involved in getting the health care bill passed. They used to have a word for that...oh yeah, politics.

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson was the king of "arm

twisting," namely in passing civil rights reform. Johnson pursued civil rights for the same reason Obama has pushed health care reform so intently — because he desired to do the right thing, despite popular perception.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the poignant commentaries and overall enthusiasm, both for and against health care reform. We can certainly expect a similarly poignant discussion on other hot-button issues the Obama administration intends to explore, such as cap-and-trade relating to environmental issues.

At the end of the day, our elected leaders have passed legislation important to their constituents, and they deserve praise for their dedication to the electorate.

At the end of the day, our elected leaders have passed legislation important to their constituents, and they deserve praise for their dedication to the electorate.

John Andrew Willis is a junior Spanish major from Dallas.



MCT

QUICK NEWS

Obama signs landmark health care reform bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Tuesday signed into law a landmark health care reform bill, presiding over the biggest shift in U.S. domestic policy since the 1960s and capping a divisive, yearlong debate that could define the November congressional elections.

The law will bring near-universal coverage to a wealthy country in which tens of millions of people are uninsured. The plan's provisions will be phased in over four years, and it is expected to expand coverage to about 94 percent of eligible non-elderly Americans, compared with 83 percent today.

"We have now just enshrined the core principle that everybody should have some basic security when it comes to their health," Obama said at a signing ceremony at the White House.

Fed cracks down on gift card abuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve issued new rules Tuesday to protect Americans from getting stung by unexpected fees or restrictions on gift cards.

Gift cards have grown in popularity — with more than 95 percent of Americans having received or purchased them, the Fed said.

Under the rules, consumers must have at least five years to use the gift cards before they expire.

The Fed also says service or inactivity fees can be imposed only under certain conditions. Such fees can be charged if the consumer hasn't used the card for at least a year, if the consumer is given clear disclosures about them and no more than one fee is charged a month.

The rules take effect Aug. 22.

Gay Jesus play planned at Tarleton State

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP) — Security will be increased at Tarleton State University when a play in which Jesus is portrayed as gay will be presented Saturday.

The production called "Corpus Christi" is being directed by student John Jordan Otte, who says he wants to offer a play that portrays tolerance and unconditional love.

School police Chief Justin Williams says university officers will be assisted with security by police in Stephenville, a city of 17,000 located 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

Tarleton President F. Dominic Dottavio has said the play will be allowed because the school is committed to protecting and preserving freedom of thought, speech and expression.

The Terrence McNally play premiered in New York in 1998.

Google's action angers China, divides Web users

BEIJING (AP) — Google Inc.'s partial withdrawal from China brought condemnation from the government Tuesday while leaving Chinese Web surfers to wonder whether the company's new offshore search engine site would be blocked by censors.

Google's decision to move most of its China-based search functions from the mainland to Hong Kong opened a new phase in a long fracas pitting the world's most powerful Internet company against a government that tightly restricts the Web in the planet's most populous market.

The moves underscored the uncertainties Google faces after announcing Monday that its China search engine, google.cn, would automatically redirect queries to its service in China's semiautonomous territory of Hong Kong, where Google is not legally required to censor searches.

Critics say Texas leaders politicizing health care

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democrats say Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott is playing politics by joining 12 other states in a lawsuit challenging new federal health care legislation.

A spokesman for a group affiliated with the Democratic Party and that pushed for health care reform said Tuesday the lawsuit is simply a theme for the Republican re-election campaigns of Abbott and Gov. Rick Perry.

Hector Nieto of the Texas branch of Organizing for America says Abbott and Perry are standing in the way of progress by opposing the new law.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in Florida minutes after President Barack Obama signed the health care bill. Abbott says the law violates individual liberties and forces states to spend billions more on entitlement programs.

NEWS & SPORTS

MISSISSIPPI

Judge: Prom still canceled

By Shelia Byrd
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that a Mississippi school district violated a lesbian student's rights by refusing to allow her to bring her girlfriend to the prom, but he said he would not force the school to hold the event.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued in U.S. District Court to force the Itawamba County school district to sponsor the April 2 prom and allow Constance McMillen to escort her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo.

School officials said in court they decided to call off the prom at Itawamba Agricultural High School because McMillen's challenge to the rules had caused disruptions.

U.S. District Judge Glen H. Davidson denied the ACLU's request for a preliminary injunction. He said he'll still hold a trial, but he did not set a date, meaning any ruling would likely come too late to have the prom when it was originally scheduled.

Davidson did say in his order that the district had violated McMillen's constitutional rights by denying her request to bring her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo.

"We consider this a victory," said ACLU Mississippi legal director Kristy Bennett.

But Davidson said a private prom parents are now planning will serve the same purpose as the school prom. He wrote in his ruling that "requiring defendants to step back into a sponsorship role at this late date would only confuse and confound the community on the issue."

Ben Griffith, the school district's attorney, said his clients were pleased with the ruling.



ROGELIO V. SOLIS / Associated Press
Constance McMillen, an 18-year-old senior at Itawamba County Agricultural High School, speaks to a member of her legal team in the federal courthouse in Aberdeen, Miss., on Monday for a hearing regarding the ACLU's preliminary injunction to force the prom at her high school.

"I wanted to let them know how it made me feel. I felt like I couldn't go to the prom."

Constance McMillen
high school student

"What we're looking at now is the fact that the case is still on the docket for a trial on the merits," Griffith said.

McMillen first approached school officials about bringing her girlfriend in December, and again in February. Same-sex prom dates had been banned in the past, but she had hoped school officials would grant her request.

"I thought maybe the policy had been in place for a different reason," McMillen testified at a hearing on the ACLU lawsuit. "I wanted to let them know how it made me feel. I felt like I

couldn't go to the prom."

She was told two girls couldn't attend the prom together and she wouldn't be allowed to wear a tuxedo, court documents show. The ACLU issued a demand letter earlier this month and the district responded by canceling the event.

District officials said they felt not hosting the prom was the best decision "after taking into consideration the education, safety and well being of our students." Superintendent Teresa McNeece said it was "a no-win situation."

The 715-student high school is located in Fulton, a town of about 4,000 in rural, north Mississippi. The entire county school district has 3,588 students.

McMillen, who lives with her grandmother and has a 3.8 grade point average, has kept her 16-year-old girlfriend out of the spotlight at the request of the girl's parents.

"It is easier to approach them if I'm feeling uncomfortable in class."

Grace Weidner
Northern Illinois University senior

who attended class that day in Cole Hall — and the families, roommates and close friends of the five who died. The services also are available to the 60 students who were in the adjacent auditorium and anyone who was in the building's hallways.

Junior Katie Haft was roommates with one of the victims, Gayle Dubowski. She was a student at a local community college, but transferred to NIU this semester with the help of the support office.

She met with a counselor to work through the fear of being on the campus where her friend was killed. "I was afraid it would bring up too many memories," said Haft, 23.

PARKING

Lot changes nearly complete

By Nathan Wall
Staff Reporter

Expansion of the East Greene Avenue parking lot, adjacent to the Air Force ROTC building on West Lowden Street, is scheduled to begin sometime in the near future, a Physical Plant official said.

"Right now we're in the process of moving staff from the Rickel to the Reed building," said Harold Leeman, associate director of major projects for the Physical Plant. "Once that is done, we will move the ROTC into the Rickel Building and start work on the East Greene lot."

Leeman said Physical Plant will remove the ROTC building to create more parking spaces in the East Greene lot.

The lot that used to house the temporary buildings will be called the West Greene Avenue parking lot, Leeman said.

The West Greene lot was scheduled to be completed

before students returned from spring break, but Leeman said the weather during that week interfered with construction.

"A lot of rain happened last week," he said. "We wanted to be done stripping on Sunday, but because of the weather we couldn't finish until Monday. Then we still had 10 to 15 parking blocks that needed to be bolted in."

Will Stallworth, associate vice chancellor of facilities, said earlier this month that new lights were being installed in the Beasley parking lot and students should

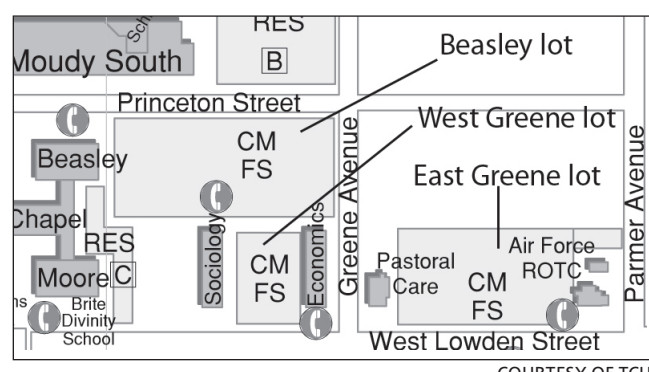
expect to see 44 new parking spaces.

Leeman said there are no plans for construction on the Beasley lot, which is adjacent to the West Greene lot. The university wants to wait until plans for a potential new building for the Brite Divinity School are completed.

The current layout of the West Greene and Beasley lots will remain that way for a while, Leeman said.

"At this point, everything is done over there," he said.

News Now reporter Lizzy Karoly contributed to this report.



TECHNOLOGY

Media fasting tough for students

By Jenna Ross
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)
(MCT)

MINNEAPOLIS — Heather LaMarre calls her students "the wired generation." The University of Minnesota professor sees that they don't listen to an iPod, talk on a cell phone or surf on a laptop — they do all three at once. She reads articles about their numbness to technology and knows that if one e-mails her at 10:30 p.m. on a Saturday and she doesn't write back by 11:30, he'll freak out.

So she did something about it.

A recent class assignment: Five days without media or gadgets that didn't exist before 1984.

Sophomore Lucy Knopff lasted half an hour before she accidentally flicked on her iPod. "You don't even think about it," she moaned. "It's just a habit for me."

LaMarre didn't realize she's part of a trend: A growing group of instructors around the country are prescribing their highly wired students a kind of shock treatment. Go without media for 48 hours. Turn off your phone for a day. Block Facebook for a week.

"Honestly, most of my students are oblivious to the huge role mass communication and the Internet play in their lives," said Amy Kristin Sanders, a media law professor at the U who has forced students into

"Honestly, most of my students are oblivious to the huge role mass communication and the Internet play in their lives."

Amy Kristin Sanders
University of Minnesota
law professor

24-hour media fasts. "They really think about access to the Internet as one of life's necessities."

Students are finding the fasts anywhere from impossible to freeing — and sometimes, over time, both.

David Parry, a professor at the University of Texas at Dallas, is in his 30s and began teaching digital literacy less than a decade ago. But even he has seen a dramatic change.

"These 18-year-olds don't know a world without Google, YouTube or text messaging," he said. "I've found that my job is to make it unfamiliar to them."

This semester — to a chorus of gasps and groans — he assigned the students in his introduction to electronic and digital communications class to quit Facebook for a week.

Olivia Myles quickly found that to stay off Facebook, she'd have to abandon Twitter and LinkedIn as well. They were too intertwined. To stay in touch with her family and friends — most of whom live

in California, where she's from — she couldn't poke them, post on their walls or comment on their photos.

She had to call them.

"Even though I talked to my cousin every day, I hadn't heard her voice forever," said the 26-year-old junior. "It was weird. We were like, 'We should do this more often.'"

Still, Myles signed onto Facebook when the assignment ended. "Who has time to call all these people?" she joked and, on her blog, confessed: "I miss being nosy."

A break from social networking sites can help people ask important questions about their purpose, said Sherry Turkle, director of the Initiative on Technology and Self at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Do you see your friends more often? Do you have telephone calls where you really can reach better understandings of what the other person is thinking and feeling?"

"Breaking the circuit, for me, is not about breaking an 'addiction,'" said Turkle, whose coming book, "Alone Together," looks at young people who voluntarily sign off Facebook and other sites. "We have to learn to live with these technologies. But a break can help us use technology to open a conversation."

The media fasts vary in how long, how serious and what's banned. Most require the undergrads to journal or blog along the way.

COUNSELING

New office helps students cope

By Jodi S. Cohen
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHICAGO — If a door opens unexpectedly in the middle of class, senior Grace Weidner may jump out of her seat.

The sound of a helicopter could startle her.

And when the Northern Illinois University campus in DeKalb is blanketed in snow, the way it looked the day a gunman entered her lecture hall and killed five of her classmates, she may not be able to concentrate on schoolwork.

She doesn't want to explain all of this to five different instructors at the start of each semester. And she doesn't have to. A month after the deadly shooting, the university created the Office of Support and Advocacy to help students cope with the aftermath of the tragedy.

Each semester, someone from the office contacts her professors, alerting them that they should be extra sensitive to the needs of specific students in their classes who were

directly affected by the Feb. 14, 2008, shooting.

"It helps for them to know," said Weidner, 20, who expects to graduate in December. "It is easier to approach them if I'm feeling uncomfortable in class."

Scott Peska, director of the office, explained: "(The students) don't want special privileges, but if they run out of class because something is bothering them, they want professors to understand."

The office works to connect students with any services they need, including counseling or tutoring. It helped injured students navigate through paperwork from insurance companies and hospitals, and now works with them on class schedules, sometimes finding ways to avoid large lecture halls.

Virginia Tech, where a gunman killed 32 students a year earlier, has a similar program.

The NIU office focuses on the 157 students who were registered for the Geology 104 class — whether or not they were among the 120



You seem to be looking for something
Find it on p. 6

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Today in History
 On this day in 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.
 — The Associated Press

Joke of the Day
 Q. Which rodent won the basketball game?
 A. The porcupine because he had the most points.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

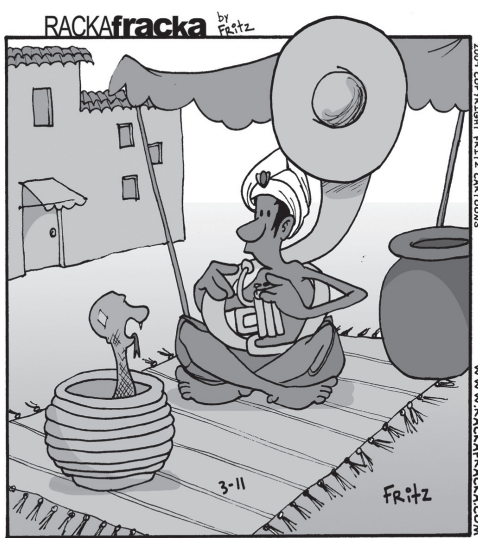
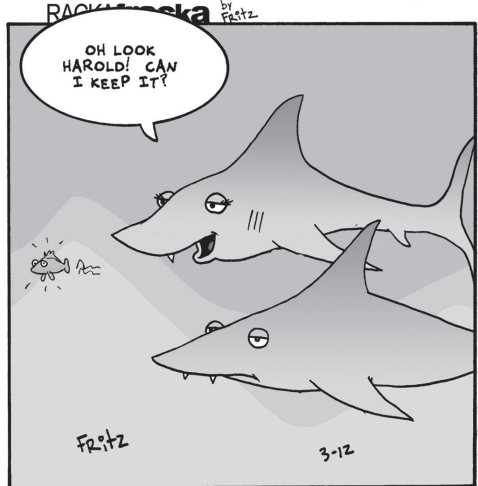
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	5	2	8					4
		8		4	7			1
1		7						
		5		2	1	4		
		9	3	7		5		
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8				9	6		3	
	3				4	7	5	

RACKAfracka

by Fritz



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- Hippo's attire in "Fantasia"
 - Fashionably smart
 - Sun ray
 - Actress Lena
 - "Lion's share" fabulist
 - Hockey great Phil, familiarly
 - John Denver #1 hit
 - Largest of the Near Islands
 - Place for a massage
 - Campaign funders
 - Locale in a 1987 Cheech Marin title
 - "Yay!"
 - Charon's river
 - Rub elbows (with)
 - Western ... history class, briefly
 - Industry kingpin
 - Bullies
 - "Guys and Dolls" showstopper
 - Mississippi River explorer
 - Take charge
 - Baby talk word
 - Trial sites
 - Rough file sound
 - Measuring tool
 - Billiards blunder
 - Fork or spoon
 - Longtime buddy
 - Honey; candy
 - "Dr. Zhivago" melody
 - "Cool" rapper?
 - Polished
 - They're removed via shafts
 - With 68-Across and 69-Across, classic game show, and this puzzle's title
 - See 67-Across
 - See 67-Across
- DOWN**
- Repulsive sort
 - Bone near the funny bone
 - Mite-sized
 - Like many salons
 - Andalusia abodes
 - Bulls and boars
 - Prefix with metric
 - Informal discussion
 - Shell collector, maybe
 - Cornerstone abbr.
 - Is ... likely will
 - Mesik
 - Org. for drivers?
 - Eco-friendly fed gp.
 - "Tough luck"
 - Senator Cochran of Mississippi
 - Legendary siren
 - Big batch
 - Mariner's concern
 - Part of YSL
 - "The Lion King" boness
 - Furnishes food for
 - Temple area of Jerusalem
 - "Sonic the Hedgehog" developer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15		16	
17				18						19	
20								21		22	
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27	28	29						30		31	
32				33	34					36	37
39				40						41	
42										43	
										47	
48	49	50						51		52	53
54								55		56	57
60								61	62	63	
64								65			66
67								68			69

By Peter Abide 3/24/10

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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37 Grandson of Eve
 38 Train station
 40 It includes terms of endearment
 41 Meeting of Cong.
 46 Diacritical pair of dots
 47 On a winning streak
 48 Apply before cooking, as spice to meat

49 New York city
 50 "Who cares if they do?"
 52 Math subgroup
 53 Last: Abbr.
 55 They, in Calais
 57 Liama land
 58 Church approval
 59 Suffix with Congo
 62 Rooting sound
 63 Gardner of "On the Beach"

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

Tuesday's Solution

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

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SPORTS



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PAINTBALL CLUB

SPLATTER



Freshman Jennifer Ulich shoots at a target at the Texas A&M Open on Feb. 27.

CAMERON CULVER / Staff Photographer

Paintball club heads to championship

By Vicky Watson
Staff Writer

The TCU Paintball Club is gearing up for the 2010 National Collegiate Paintball Association's National Championship in Lakeland, Fla.

The team consists of six members, five of who will be traveling to the tournament.

The paintball tournaments are similar to the game of capture the flag.

The two teams in the match each have five players, who are eliminated if they are shot and the paintball breaks on them, leaving a paint splatter. Teams acquire points by eliminating players on the other team, staying clean, capturing the flag and hanging the flag in a designated spot on the course.

Approximately 30 teams are signed up for the tournament, which will take place April 9-11. Amir Ta-

farroji, president and captain of the club, said more teams are likely to sign up by the registration deadline.

"Last year, there were almost 50 teams in our division," Tafarroji said.

Tafarroji said the club started about five years ago, and the roster has been more solidified the past three years.

The team competes in four tournaments each year, usually two during

the fall semester and two during the spring semester. The practices take place in various locations throughout the state against other collegiate clubs, including Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University.

Ren Petroff, a sophomore strategic communication major, is also an officer for the club, but he has a unique title: the Officer of Fun.

SEE PAINTBALL · PAGE 4

TENNIS

Teams prep for matches

By Ben Wertz
Staff Writer

After snapping a three-match losing streak last Thursday with a victory over Sacramento State, the men's tennis team will try to make it two in a row as team members travel to Dallas today to take on the Southern Methodist University Mustangs.

TCU is ranked No. 42 with a 6-5 record and is facing an SMU squad that has won two matches in a row and has a 9-9 record. The Mustangs' top doubles team is ranked No. 29 in the country and beat an undefeated doubles team from Oral Roberts on Friday.

Head Coach Dave Borelli said he is not worried about his team's record and said he doesn't think anyone else should either.

"It has not been a bad year," he said. "Two of our five losses have come against the finalists in the Blue Gray Bowl, which is a highly prestigious tournament."

In addition to those losses, two others came from matches against Baylor, which is ranked No. 8 in the nation.

Sophomore Slah Mbarek said the team has been "getting back to fundamentals in practice," which helped secure the win against Sacramento State.

In regards to the match with SMU, Borelli said that he doesn't worry about SMU as much as his own squad.

"The focus is on us and where we need to improve,"

he said. "If we play well, we should win."

Last year, the Horned Frogs won a hard fought home matchup against SMU 4-3. This time the matchup will take place on SMU's campus at the Turpin Tennis Stadium where the Mustangs are 6-2 on the season.

The men's team will return home to the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center on Saturday, as it plays host to Rice University.

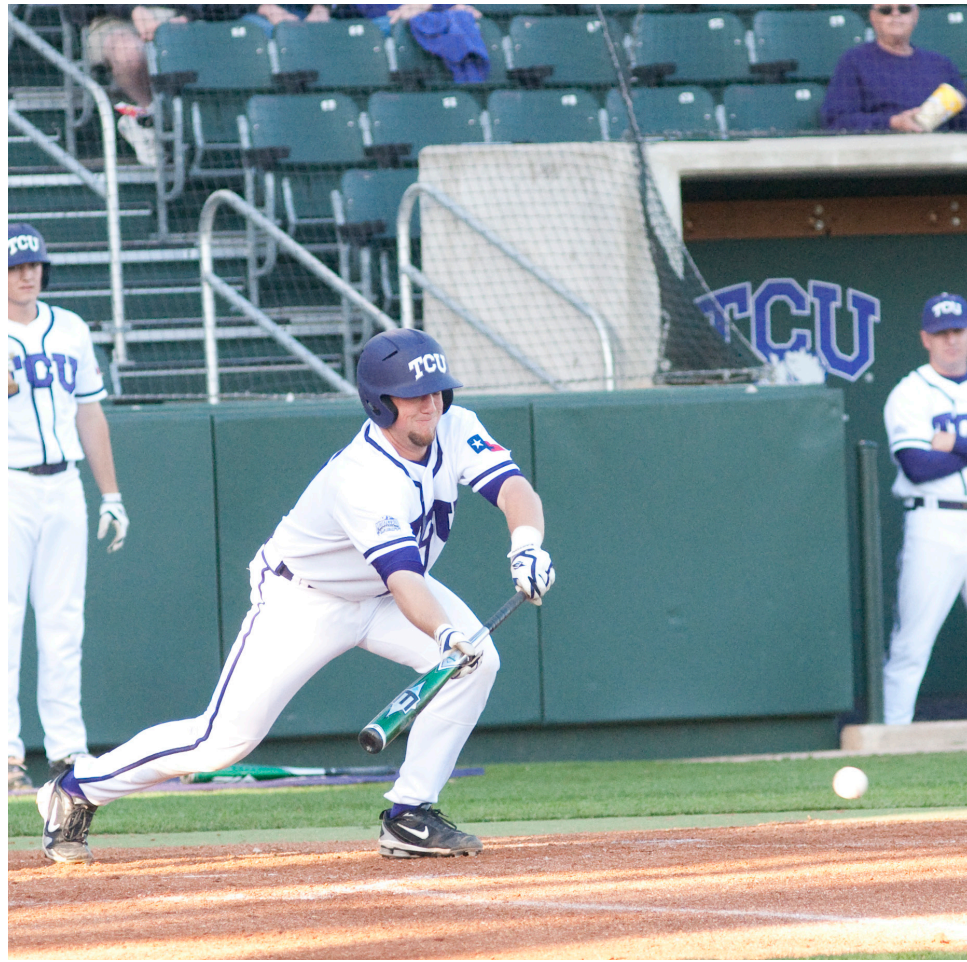
The No. 72 TCU women's tennis team will travel to Wichita, Kan. on Friday to take on the Wichita State Shockers. This will be the first matchup for TCU in the Shocker Classic. They will then face Notre Dame on Saturday.

The Frogs are coming off a tough 5-2 loss at home last Thursday against No. 23 Virginia Commonwealth University. TCU only won one singles match against VCU and will have to improve on that against the Shockers, who boast the No. 39 overall singles player in Lutfiana Budiharto.

Wichita State comes into this match on a two-match losing streak after dropping matches against No. 25 Iowa and No. 33 Tulsa in the Indian Wells Tournament last week. The Shockers are 4-1 at home at the Sheldon Coleman Tennis Complex.

The women's team will return home to host Air Force as Mountain West Conference play begins on April 2.

MEN'S BASEBALL • TCU 4, TEXAS STATE 0



Senior Bryan Holaday bunts in the Horned Frogs' 4-0 win over Texas State Tuesday night. Go to dailyskiff.com for details.

MARCH MADNESS

Basketball boosts morale at work

By Tali Arbel
AP Business Writer

MARCH MADNESS AT WORK: College basketball watchers are tuning in to games online in record numbers, often during the work day — but many managers see that as a potential positive for the workplace, according to a recent survey.

During the first day of the NCAA men's basketball tournament last Thursday, 3 million unique visitors watched 3.4 million hours of on-demand streaming content online, according to CBS Sports.com. That's the biggest traffic day ever for live sports on the Internet, and up 20 percent from the

first day of the 2009 tournament, CBS Sports.com said.

The most-watched hour was from 2 to 2:59 p.m. EDT — distracting plenty of office workers across the country.

A recent poll suggests some bosses see basketball frenzy as a workplace benefit, not a productivity drain.

Forty-one percent of randomly polled managers said employees watching games and signing up for office-wide pools could boost morale, according to a poll by OfficeTeam, a division of staffing firm Robert Half International Inc. Nearly half said tournament-related activities would have no effect on morale, while only 11

percent said they could hurt sentiment at work.

Only 22 percent of senior managers said the NCAA tournament would hurt productivity, while 22 percent said it would have a positive effect on office output. The rest said the NCAA tournament would have no effect.

Tracking sports may temporarily cut down on employees' output, but the feel-good benefits of organizing a fun group activity such as a betting pool could energize employees in the long run, said Robert Hosking, executive director for OfficeTeam. "A lot of companies are looking for ways to give incentives to people that are not monetary," he said.

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