



RELIGION 2

Professor speaks on the Rastafarian religion today.

WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM



REBECCA PHILP / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Political science professors Manochehr Dorraj, Ralph Carter and Michael Dodson led a panel Wednesday to discuss the impact of social media on the revolutions in the Middle East.

Panel: Social media helped spur revolution in Middle East

By Mandy Naglich
 Staff Reporter

In a panel with three political science professors, students discussed the use and necessity of social media outlets to cause and to help continue the protests in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain and Yemen.

Each panelist gave a 25-minute lecture, which presented the uprisings in the Middle East from the point of view of their specialty. After all three panelists finished, they opened the floor to the audience for questions.

Manochehr Dorraj specializes in the studies of Middle Eastern politics, Ralph Carter specializes in the analysis of U.S. foreign policy and Michael Dodson specializes in political thought and democratic theory.

The departments of political science, history, international studies and the AddRan College of Liberal Arts worked to organize the panel. Dodson said the goal of the panel was to provide analysis of the events in the Middle East to students, explaining the reasons behind the uprisings instead of just a timeline of events.

Dorraj introduced social media into the conversation and said the youth took use of the new tool to organize and to protest peacefully in a way that had never been seen before.

“The younger generation is very tech savvy,” he said. “So they see all these democratic rights in the world and they want them. If it was not for this technology there would be no revolution.”

Senior political science major Kensey Gilbert said the use of social media was the most interesting theme in the panel.

“I didn’t realize how much social media came into play,” she said. “I have heard clips about it on the news, but the panelist put it into words really well.”

Gilbert said she never made the connection between the lack of violence in the Middle East uprisings and social media until this panel.

Junior political science major Katharine Dewar said she also noticed the mention of the importance of social media outlets, like Twitter, in the uprisings.

“In the United States we just use

social media all the time,” she said. “Over in the Middle East it is really changing things.”

Another thing Dewar said was interesting to her was the dictators being overthrown in the countries in the Middle East did not know how to use social media, so the youth stayed ahead of the opposition.

Dorraj mentioned in the panel that social media could bring about a domino effect and spread the uprisings to other countries and even

See **MIDDLE EAST** 3

CORRECTIONS

In Wednesday’s paper, a tennis player was incorrectly identified. The player should have been identified as sophomore Federica Denti. Liz Schmitt’s name was misspelled in a photo caption.

Staff writer Alex Apple’s major and hometown were misidentified. He is a freshman journalism and political science double major from Nashville, Tenn.

EDUCATION

 2

Texas budget cuts could lead to a rougher time securing a job.



TEXAS

Education cutbacks affecting grads



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teachers, students and parents take part in a school rally, Saturday, March 12, 2011, in Austin, Texas.

By Madison Pelletier

News Now Sports Director

Potential state budget cuts in public education have resulted in cutbacks in hiring of teachers upon graduation, Dale Young, director of teacher placement in the College of Education, said.

Gov. Rick Perry proposed \$10 billion in cuts to the public education system, according to an *Associated Press* article on March 14. More than a thousand teachers, students and school officials protested the proposed cuts last week in Austin on the Capitol steps.

Young said because of the budget cuts, school districts across Texas pulled out of career fairs. He said TCU had to cancel its state education career

fair because of lack of participation.

"Usually we have around 25 and 30 school districts come to that [state career fair]," he said. "We only had five school districts who wanted to participate, so we had to cancel it."

While the state career fair was canceled, the DFW Metroplex Interview Day, a day typically reserved for students to connect to school district representatives, still took place Wednesday. All but six districts in the area said they would bring representatives, Young said. The districts were not scheduled to bring as many interviewers and were not looking to hire but just take resumes, he said.

Despite the lack of open positions, senior education major Andrea Gouldy still planned

to use the Metroplex Interview Day to her advantage.

"Hopefully by the time they do the interviews, maybe a job will have appeared for me," Gouldy said. "But for me it's just going to kind of be a training for me to learn how to interview."

In addition to hiring freezes, districts are first cutting newer teachers who have been teaching for less than three years, Young said. He said he received emails from graduates who received notice that they will not be teaching next year if the budget is passed in April.

Since her freshman year, junior education major Katie Hall said she planned to become a teacher and hoped to influence students as the teachers she had growing up influenced her. She

never looked back to question her decision until the education budget cuts were released and hiring freezes started across Texas, she said.

Hall said she did not agree that newer teachers should be cut first. Districts should give younger teachers a chance because younger teachers know the newest teaching techniques, she said.

"Younger teachers will have a better chance of getting students to be engaged," Hall said.

Young said that because of the cuts, students shouldn't be selective when deciding what districts to apply to.

"What we're telling them to do [is] widen their range of where they want to go," Young said. "They may need to go out to rural school districts."

Gouldy said she applied to districts she would not have applied to prior to the proposed cuts. She expanded her region from the Metroplex to the San Antonio and Houston areas, she said.

"I've already completed applications for about 16 school districts, and I'll probably do another 15 to 20," Gouldy said. "Before, I probably would have just applied to the larger districts in the DFW area."

Hall said her aspirations to teach middle school history now are harder to reach because of the budget cuts. She said she would now be happy to teach any grade or subject.

"I just want to have a classroom that kids want to be in, and I don't really care what grade level at this point," Hall said.

RELIGION

Rastafarianism discussion today

By Brittany Turner

Staff Reporter

Rastafarianism usually sparks thoughts of ganja, reggae, Jamaica or Bob Marley, but Darren Middleton, a professor of religion at TCU, will discuss Rastafarianism in depth through the use of visual aids and music Thursday.

The lecture, titled "Jah Live!: Art, Religion, and the Internationalization of the Rastafari," is the fourth lecture in the AddRan College of Liberal Arts' Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series.

Middleton said this lecture is to inform students about the ideals and culture of this relatively new religious movement. This lecture is not about doctrines or beliefs, but about artistic expressions of the religion, he said.

Mark Dennis, assistant professor of East Asian Religions, said schools have tried to get students to expand their horizons through study abroad and now by religions and exposure to other cultures outside of what they're used to.

"He's really good at getting people to think about something that may seem unapproachable in a way that resonates and is as easily understandable," Dennis said.

Students will be impacted by Middleton's stories and relatable experiences, Dennis said. He added Middleton uses examples that students can relate to get them to think about their own life experiences.

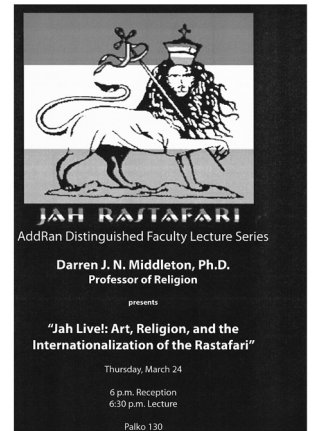
"He's a fascinating thinker and a great public speaker," Dennis said.

Middleton has planned to play reggae music as well as give a PowerPoint presentation and other visual representations at the lecture to disclose the connection of art and religion.

"Art is the engine that drives Rastafarianism," Middleton said.

Middleton said he hopes to give students a history of the Rastafarian movement in his 45-minute lecture and to share how this 80-year-old religion has spread around the world in such a short time. Rastafarianism spread from Jamaica to places like Ghana, West Africa, Japan, New Zealand and Australia, he said.

A new religion gets off the ground by popular culture



and media through film, literature, music, painting, and art in general, Middleton said.

The basic culture of Rastafarianism is based on the belief that Haile Selassie, the last emperor of Ethiopia crowned in 1930, is the returned-again Christ, Middleton said. Middleton said the title of the lecture came from a Bob Marley song, "Jah Live," which was written when Marley learned of Haile Selassie's death.

Graham McMillan, a freshman political science major, said he did not know anything about Rastafarianism at all.

"I am looking forward to seeing what it's all about," he said.

McMillan said he has always thought of Rastafarianism as Bob Marley music, love, naturalism and vegetarianism. However, he is interested in learning what Rastafarians actually do, what they believe, where the religion came from and how prevalent Rastafarianism is in the world, he said.

Middleton said the event has gotten attention not only from the TCU community, but from local groups as well. In addition to TCU students, there will be church groups and students from Nolan Catholic High School in attendance who have decided to come to the event to learn more about Rastafarianism as well.

AddRan Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series

Professor of Religion Darren Middleton
"Jah Live!: Art, Religion, and the Internationalization of the Rastafari"

When: Reception at 6 p.m., lecture at 6:30 p.m. today

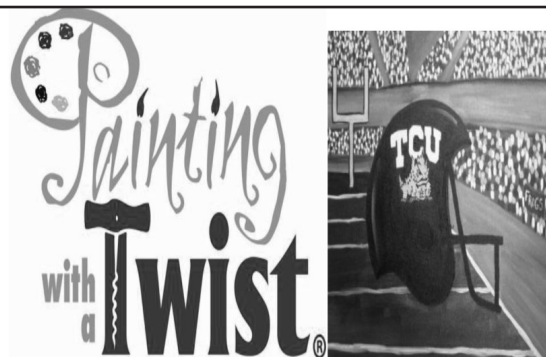
Where: Palko 130

DON'T GET CAUGHT
UNDRESSED...



PERSONAL STYLIST
CLOSET ORGANIZATION
PERSONAL SHOPPER
IMAGE CONSULTING

WWW.BREEWESTBROOK.COM | 817.938.3657



FORT WORTH PAINTING WITH A TWIST

2605 S. CHERRY LN. (817) 886-0515

www.paintingwithatwist.com/fortworthwest

April 9, 2011 7-10 PM Come join the party!

CHARITY

Local restaurant to give portion of Friday's profit to cancer non-profit

By **Bryn Zimmermann**
Staff Reporter

By simply enjoying a sub sandwich at Jersey Mike's this Friday, TCU students, faculty and staff can help support the Wipe Out Kids' Cancer organization of North Texas.

The program also includes WOKC day on Monday at Jersey Mike's, where customers will receive a free regular sub in exchange for a minimum \$1 donation. In addition, the TCU WOKC day on Friday offers the same deal for TCU students and staff only.

Morgan Whipps, a junior communication studies major and an intern involved with WOKC, said the partnership between WOKC and the Jersey Mike's location on Hulen Street was a great fit for the TCU community. The WOKC day on Friday for TCU students will be

at the location on Hulen Street only.

Whipps said WOKC is strengthening its involvement with Cook Children's in Fort Worth, and there is no better way to further the partnership than by involving the university in their efforts.

"TCU is such a big part of Fort Worth," Whipps said. "Cancer affects so many lives, and by getting Fort Worth and TCU involved, WOKC is able to help more families."

Susan Zacheis, marketing director for WOKC, said the partnership between Jersey Mike's has been wonderful. During WOKC's program, the Month of Giving, Jersey Mike's would give a 25 cent donation to WOKC for each regular sub sold and a 50 cent donation for each giant sub sold from February 28 through March 27, Zacheis said.

"They wanted to get involved," Zacheis said. "Their corporate culture has a giving back component, and they really believe in giving back to the community."

Jersey Mike's DFW-area owner Dalton Stewart said that this year, the restaurant wanted to make the special offer to the TCU community to get everyone involved.

"We are looking at taking it up a notch. Instead of just our main WOKC day, we are going to have one special offer to TCU and SMU," Stewart said. "That day, anybody who comes through the door with a TCU ID will get a free sub as long as they drop \$1 in the donation box. One hundred percent of the money goes to WOKC."

The Month of Giving and WOKC days have allowed for four different pediatric kids research projects, two at Chil-

dren's Medical Center Dallas and the other two at Cook Children's in Fort Worth. Zacheis said it allowed WOKC to expand its programs for research in Fort Worth.

Whipps said she was hopeful that WOKC could raise even more money this year, especially with a TCU-only day at Jersey Mike's. She said encouraging the TCU community to enjoy a sandwich and to donate could help WOKC more than ever before.

"Last year, the Month of Giving raised approximately \$50,000 to help move the efforts towards Cook Children's," Whipps said. "This year, they're hoping to raise more to help more kids and families. Their ultimate goal is to be able to one day live in a world where children live cancer-free."

Zacheis said there are many goals WOKC and Jersey Mike's

have for the donations, including funding for research and Cook Children's special Buddy Bag program.

"We give every child that is admitted to the hospital with a cancer diagnosis items that are needed for a hospital stay," Zacheis said. "Usually the diagnosis is right away and the family is out of town or can't go home, and they need these items for comfort."

Zacheis said along with the buddy bags, research for cancer prevention is extremely important.

"Cancer is the No. 1 cause of death by disease for American children. We need to raise awareness and funding so that we can provide more funds for research for these hospitals and

provide hope for a cure," Zacheis said.

Stewart said individuals also can help further by buying wrist bands at Jersey Mike's for the cause. The wrist band proceeds go to WOKC and also include free chips and a drink with purchase. There are so many ways to participate, and he said there is no better cause.

"We built our company on giving back to organizations in the community," Stewart said. "Over the last year, I have spent a lot of time with these kids and these families, and if you want to get yourself grounded, spend a day and see what they are going through. These kids are amazing. They are literally fighting for their lives, but they are so positive it's amazing."

TEXAS

House committee passes budget with steep cuts

By **April Castro**
Associated Press

A Texas House committee approved a bare-bones budget Wednesday that would make deep cuts to public education and health and human services over the next two years.

With no discussion or debate, the House Appropriations Committee adopted the 2012-2013 spending plan in an 18-7 vote that fell along party lines, with all Democrats present rejecting the measure.

The proposed budget calls for the state to spend \$77.6 billion of its own funds over the two years. Even

after an agreement to make a limited withdrawal from Texas' flush reserve fund, the Rainy Day Fund, the plan still would underfund public schools by almost \$8 billion and Medicaid by \$4 billion. The figures are contingent on passage of the plan to tap the reserve fund.

Republican Rep. Jim Pitts, who leads the committee, said the budget writers did their best given the combination of a fiscally conservative House and available revenue, which was short by more than \$14 billion.

"It's a budget that reflects the money we have," Pitts said.

Gov. Rick Perry and law-



JAY JANNER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican State Representatives Van Taylor, left, and Jim Pitts discuss the state budget in the House Chamber at the Capitol in Austin, Texas.

makers agreed last week to use \$3.2 billion of the state's Rainy Day Fund to help close a shortfall in this year's

budget. Perry has vowed to reject any 2012-13 budget that would further tap the reserve fund.

Continued from page 1 MIDDLE EAST

continents such as Africa and Asia. The younger generation now has resources to learn about revolution and re-enact it in their own countries, he said.

Carter said the peaceful nature of many of the uprisings complicated U.S. foreign policy. He said because the uprisings are classified as "democratic uprisings," the U.S. will be pressured to support the resulting government.

"If we don't support the government that comes out of these events, we [the U.S.] will be seen as hypocrites," he said.

Sophomore supply and value chain management major Katie Horton came into the panel expecting to learn the underlying causes of the uprisings. She said she felt more knowledgeable about the events occurring overseas.

"I feel like after this, I know what is going on over there and why," she said. "I never realized how youth-driven

the uprising was."

Horton also said seeing three different perspectives from the panelists made the event interesting.

Dewar said she had never thought of the uprisings from a purely democratic standpoint, which was the angle Dodson took.

Dodson said the Middle Eastern countries had failed to be accountable to their people and that social media allowed people to communicate effectively enough to hold their own governments accountable.

TRAFFIC TICKETS

Defended in Fort Worth, Arlington, Richland Hills, Benbrook, Crowley, Hurst, Euless, Grapevine, and elsewhere in Tarrant County.

- No promises as to results.
- Any fine and any court costs are not included in fee for legal representation.

James R. Mallory
Attorney at Law

3024 Sandage Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76109-1793
817.924.3236

www.JamesMallory.com

ENCOURAGE
UPLIFT
MENTOR
SPARK
PREPARE
INSPIRE

ADVISE TX

COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS

Lead the Way To College

Advise TX seeks December 2010 and May 2011 Texas Christian University graduates to become college advisers in high schools. Mentor, encourage, and lead underrepresented students to college. Gain valuable work experience as you change lives forever.

INFORMATION SESSION:

March 29, 3:30-5:00 pm
Location: Palko 130

Learn how to apply to
become an adviser at:

www.AdviseTX.org

PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Budget cuts not in best interest of students

Between all the debate and uproar about the coming cuts in the Texas budget, there have been plenty of objections when it comes to slashing the education budget. Young teachers are being laid off left and right, and it will be increasingly difficult for new teachers to find jobs.

But what's far more important than jobs and budgets is the way this will affect the thousands of children who show up at Texas schools every Monday through Friday. After all, that money is meant to be invested in their learning. All of those teachers are needed to help guide them down their intellectual path. All of those buses, buildings and programs are needed to provide for them the resources necessary for gaining knowledge.

So why have they been put in the back seat while this issue is being discussed? They should be in the forefront of Texas legislators' minds when they consider cutting the billions of dollars that have been proposed. Hiring fewer teachers and letting go of some of the ones already in the field is not in the best interest of the students.

If the Texas school system served our legislators well at all, they should be creative enough to find a solution that does not severely cripple our education system. Because after all, someday those same children will be sitting in their places, and in ours, and in yours.

News editor Katey Muldrow for the editorial board.

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Libby Davis, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Mark Bell, MANAGING EDITOR
Ryne Sulier, SPORTS EDITOR
Katey Muldrow, NEWS EDITOR
Patrick Burns, NEWS EDITOR

Andrea Drusch, WEB EDITOR
Rebecca Jeffrey, ASSOCIATE WEB EDITOR
Matt Coffelt, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Marshall Doig, ASSOCIATE/OPINION EDITOR



The Fog of Obama's War

Nate Beeler is an editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

Paddling has no place in public school system



Emily Atteberry

When I read the *Star-Telegram* headline from a March 15 story, "Paddling in school is subject of House hearing," I was certain I had read it wrong. Paddling is illegal, I confidently decreed. But, to my shock, corporal punishment is still condoned in the Texas public education system.

I always thought scare-tactic disciplinary action such as paddling and knuckle-rapping were archaic, exaggerated things of the past. But the aforementioned article proved that assumption wholly incorrect.

A state House committee on March 15 held a hearing considering laws to prohibit corporal punishment in Texas schools, according to the article. The proposal is a bipartisan movement cosponsored by Rep. Alma Allen (D-Houston), who spent four decades in the Houston school system, and Rep. Barbara Nash (R-Arlington), a freshman lawmaker who used to be on the Arlington school board.

Only 20 states in the country still allow corporal punishment, according to the

article, including Texas. This speaks for itself; we are behind the times.

There is a plethora of reasons why corporal punishment should be prohibited, the first being the actual physical harm.

As cited in the *Star-Telegram* article, a 17-year-old boy from Wichita Falls endured a set of paddlings last year for missing a detention. He suffered "three swats" to the buttocks, which resulted in large bruises and welts that later required treatment at a hospital.

The boy's mother said it exactly right when she expressed that "it's just not right."

Although some can argue the supposed effectiveness of corporal punishment until they are blue in the face, what cannot be argued is the simple fact that these school officials have no intrinsic right to inflict such punishment.

Would it be OK for a random stranger in the street to hit a child? No. Could a neighbor, friend or pastor? No. Why is a schoolteacher different? Some responsibilities are solely those of the parent.

Moreover, the banning of this practice would be a win-win for both children and school officials. No longer would school officials have to be accused of physical abuse, nor would school districts have to face lawsuits.

On a broader level, however, corporal punishment is simply detrimental to child development.

The University of Michigan conducted

a 2004 study that found "even minimal amounts of spanking can lead to an increased likelihood in antisocial behavior by children," according to leading researcher Andrew Grogan-Kaylor.

A long-term study of 442 boys born in 1972 found that 1 in 3 boys who were mistreated due to physical punishment would later exhibit criminal behavior in the future.

But really — how can you blame these kids? If they are taught violence is a tool with which to procure desired results, then they will continue to use this pattern throughout their lives.

Violence is everywhere in today's culture, whether it's seen when turning on CNN, playing Xbox or experiencing bullying. School should be the sacred, safe place where children do not have to be afraid of violence, where they are free to grow and learn.

Perhaps the *Christian Science Monitor* said it best in an issue from 1989: "The fundamental need of American education is to find ways of engaging today's children in the thrill of learning. Fear of pain has no place in that process."

It's time Texas catches up with the majority of the country and says no to violence as a means of discipline.

Emily Atteberry is a freshman journalism and Spanish double major from Olathe, Kan.



TCU Box 298050
Fort Worth, TX 76129
news@dailyskiff.com

Phone (817) 257-7428
Fax (817) 257-7133

Circulation: 3500
Subscriptions: Call 817-257-6274
Rates are \$30 per semester.
Location: Moudy Building South
Convergence Center, Room 212
2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109

Distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus and surrounding locations, limit one per person. Additional copies are \$.50 and are available at the Skiff office.
www.dailyskiff.com

The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schieffer School of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives from the student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday through Friday during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays.

STAFF

Design Editor: Akmal Marikar
Advertising Manager: Courtney Kimbrough
Student Publications Director: Robert Bohler
Business Manager: Bitsy Faulk
Production Manager: Vicki Whistler
Director, Schieffer School: John Lumpkin

COPYRIGHT All rights for the entire contents of this newspaper shall be the property of the TCU Daily Skiff. No part thereof may be reproduced or aired without prior consent of the Student Publications Director. The Skiff does not assume liability for any product and services advertised herein. The Skiff's liability for misprints due to our error is limited to the cost of the advertising.

PERSPECTIVES

Devices may help, but could interfere with personal rights



Heather Noel

It's late on a Thursday night and you've been out with your friends, probably consuming a few too many piña colodas or whatever your drink of choice is. As you place your key in the ignition and turn, the usual purr of the engine is unmistakably absent. Nothing is mechanically wrong with your car, but your all-night alcoholic consumption is the culprit of this dilemma.

According to a March 10 *Star-Telegram* article, devices that would prevent a car from starting if the driver is under the influence of

alcohol could be a feature on new cars for Americans in the near future.

I am in favor of preventing the number of impaired drivers on the roads, but other methods that do not impose on individual rights should be considered.

The proposed bill, supported by nine U.S. senators, is called, the Research of Alcohol Detection Systems for Stopping Alcohol-related Fatalities Everywhere, or ROADS SAFE. The bill would provide \$60 million over five years in funding for research on devices that could detect alcohol on a driver's breath at the touch of the steering wheel or through other methods, according to the article.

According to the article, the American Beverage Institute opposes the bill because it believes it might discourage responsible social drinking because the devices

would be set below the legal blood-alcohol level of 0.08 to account for margin of error.

"Putting alcohol detectors in all cars would effectively eliminate Americans' ability to have a glass of wine with dinner, a beer at a ballgame or a champagne toast at a wedding. We all want to get dangerous drunk drivers off the roads, but to do this we should focus on policies that target drunk drivers, not all Americans," said Sarah Longwell, managing director of the ABI.

I agree with Longwell's argument. I do not want to have my personal freedoms infringed upon because of irresponsible drivers that choose to drive under the influence. It angers me in the same, less threatening way that in elementary school a teacher would punish the whole class for misbehaving even though the deviant

The proposed bill, supported by nine U.S. senators, is called, Research of Alcohol Detection Systems for Stopping Alcohol-related Fatalities Everywhere, or ROADS SAFE. The bill would provide \$60 million over five years in funding for research on devices that could detect alcohol on a driver's breath at the touch of the steering wheel.

behavior is usually done by only a select few.

Although I agree, I cannot overlook the fact that more than 10,800 people were killed in alcohol related crashes in 2009, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion website. Could having a device that would prevent drivers under the influence of alcohol from getting behind the wheel save lives? Yes.

According to supporters of the bill, it could save thousands of lives, but simply putting these devices in new cars is not going to do the trick.

First, in the bill, the alcohol detection device is optional. This outlines a weakness of the bill because those people who have the most potential to drive under the influence would probably not choose the optional device.

Second, what about older cars that would not have this technology? Impaired drivers could certainly still endanger others if they get behind the wheel.

There also is the accuracy of the device to consider. The ABI fears the device would catch drivers who might actually have a blood-alcohol

level below the legal limit so it can account for margin of error. What is this margin of error going to be? It could prevent drivers who are not legally impaired from getting behind the wheel.

Ultimately, the devices would not be an effective prevention method unless it is mandated that all cars must be equipped with one. At the moment, I am not comfortable having such a device in my car, not because I plan to drive while impaired in the future, but because I feel I should not have my rights infringed because of others' bad choices.

I understand things can be more complicated, but a good lesson for drivers is to just not get into the car when they are under the influence.

Heather Noel is a junior news-editorial journalism and history double major from Fort Worth.

Internet helps in finding political info



Bailey McGowan

Everybody isn't doing it, but the majority is.

At least that's what it appears to be from the results of a Pew Research Center study conducted during the 2010 midterm elections. According to the study, 73 percent of adult Internet users went online in 2010 to get news or information about the 2010 midterm elections or to get involved in the campaign in some way.

The Internet has revolutionized political activity in a positive way by giving the common person access to everything from campaign progress to donation possibilities to fact-checking.

But discretion is always necessary with any source. According to the study, 56 percent of Internet users said it was difficult for them to determine what was true when it came to political information online.

This isn't any different from what one reads in a newspaper or a magazine or a campaign

pamphlet. Active reading and a personal interest in one's own ideals and views should be reason enough to take a role in our country's election process.

High ideals aside, the Internet makes it that much easier to connect with others who share one's political views, and 54 percent of online adults agreed, according to the study. Forty-four percent went as far as to say that the Internet makes it a lot easier.

It should be easier to access information about candidates and our representatives. The Internet provides a sort of citizen watchdog positioning and Americans are taking advantage of their tools.

Political video viewing increased to 31 percent in 2010 from 19 percent in 2006, and 35 percent of online adults looked for information online about candidates' voting records or positions on issues, according to the study.

Remember the stereotype of John McCain as an ancient, technologically defunct person? He has both a verified Twitter account and a Facebook page. Whether he personally updates them is beside the point.

He recognizes the importance of an online representation, just like "Eisenhower Answers America" commer-

cials helped Dwight Eisenhower's 1952 campaign as did Bill Clinton's 1992 participation in MTV's Choose or Lose initiative.

The Internet also offers a living archive of information on leaders of the past. In seconds, one can see videos of Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon or George H.W. Bush. People can see what made these and other leaders effective or deceptive. The Internet brings a new relevancy to history and how one can use it.

Another beauty of online politics lies in its ability to cater to the individual's schedule. Gone are the days when viewers would plan their days around primetime television. Television programming is almost always available online, sometimes within minutes of the original airing.

The Internet is more than just the social portal for the latest pictures uploaded to Facebook or tweets from Charlie Sheen. It's the way to be connected to ideas and movements that can topple whole nations with a simple invite, as seen in Egypt.

Everybody isn't following politics online, but they should.

Bailey McGowan is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Burkburnett.

Hop on the TCU 7th Street Shuttle every Friday and Saturday from 6pm to Midnight and get from the TCU campus to the 7th Street entertainment district in 17 minutes.

WORTH HILLS • UNIVERSITY UNION • ED LANDRETH HALL
MOVIE TAVERN • SUPER TARGET • MONTGOMERY PLAZA

817.215.8600 • The-T.com • FACEBOOK.COM/TheFortWorth

StudentAffairs
TCU

TEXAS

Lawmakers propose soda tax to reduce waistlines

By Rebecca Jeffrey
News Now

Texas lawmakers are proposing a tax that would increase soda prices one cent per ounce for both diet and regular soft drinks. Brownsville State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. originally introduced the tax as a way to increase the Texas budget while decreasing taxpayers' waistlines.

However, some university students are split when deciding whether the extra 20 cents for a 20-ounce bottle of soda is worth the hit to the pocketbook.

Brendon Mullen, a sophomore business major, said the tax would not affect his spending habits. He needs the four sodas he drinks per day to get his caffeine kick, he said.

But for Richard Thomas, a first year graduate student studying religion, the tax would decrease the number of sodas he buys.

"It absolutely would [affect my spending habits]," Thomas said. "I'd probably go from drinking two a day, to one a day, to maybe even none a day, or one every

other day."

Registered dietician Amy Goodson said she thought people who love soda will probably continue to buy soda, despite the increase in price.

According to *The New York Times*, the average American drinks almost a gallon of soda per week. At that rate, Americans would pay \$1.20 extra each week in soda. In one year, a soda consumer would average a contribution of about \$65 to the government as a result of the tax.

Goodson said the soda tax is consistent with what the government is already attempting to do for all non-nutrient rich foods.

"Your foods that aren't necessarily nutrient-rich like sugary cereals and cookies and things that you don't need actually have food tax on them...so it kind of lines up with what [the government] already [does], they're just charging more," Goodson said.

A decrease in soda consumption would be beneficial to Americans' health as well as their pocketbook, she said. Goodson said soda

is detrimental to your health because it lacks nutrients.

"It's full of sugar; there's no vitamins, no minerals, no fiber, so we call that an empty calorie," she said. She added that diet sodas are no different.

Many times a person gets a diet soda for a sugar fix, she said. But diet soda only contains artificial sweeteners which may taste sweet, but won't always curb the craving, Goodson said. The result may be overconsumption of other high-calorie, high-sugar foods later in the day.

Currently 64 percent of Americans are overweight, she said. By 2030 it is projected that number will be up to 86 percent, Goodson said.

"You're either going to pay for it now in your soda tax, or you're going to pay for it later in disease," she said.

However, the health issues caused by sodas have not been a concern for Mullen, he said.

"I drink diet but...everything in this world can kill you so I'm going to enjoy my soda," he said.

JAPAN

Concern over tap water radiation grows

By Elaine Kurtenbach
and Shino Yuasa
Associated Press

Radiation leaking from Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear power plant has caused Tokyo's tap water to exceed safety standards for infants to drink, officials said Wednesday, sending anxiety levels soaring over the nation's food and water supply.

Residents cleared store shelves of bottled water after Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara said levels of radioactive iodine in tap water were more than twice what is considered safe for babies. Officials begged those in the city to buy only what they needed, saying hoarding could hurt the thousands of people without any water in areas devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

"I've never seen anything like this," clerk Toru Kikutaka said, surveying the downtown Tokyo supermarket where the entire stock of bottled water sold out almost immediately after the news broke, despite a limit of two, two-liter bottles per customer.

The unsettling new development affecting Japan's largest city, home to around 13 million people, added to growing fears over the nation's food supply.



LEE JIN-MAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan's Self-Defense Force members stand by with a water supply tank for residents in quake-stricken Urayasu, Chiba prefecture, near Tokyo, Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

Radiation from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant has seeped into raw milk, seawater and 11 kinds of vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower and turnips, from areas around the plant. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it was halting imports of Japanese dairy and produce from the region near the facility. Hong Kong went further and required that Japan perform safety checks on meat, eggs and seafood before accepting those products.

Officials are still struggling to stabilize the nuclear plant, which on Wednesday belched black smoke from Unit 3 and forced the evacuation of workers, further delaying attempts

to make needed repairs. The plant, 140 miles (220 kilometers) north of Tokyo, has been leaking radiation since the quake and tsunami knocked out its crucial cooling systems.

The crisis is emerging as the world's most expensive natural disaster on record, likely to cost up to \$309 billion, according to a new government estimate. Police say an estimated 18,000 people were killed.

Concerns about food safety spread Wednesday to Tokyo after officials said tap water showed elevated radiation levels: 210 becquerels of iodine-131 per liter of water — more than twice the recommended limit of 100 becquerels per liter for infants.

IMAGE MAGAZINE

ON STANDS NOW

GRAB AN IMAGE DAY: MARCH 28

Read all about:

Sex Talk: sex on campus

Falling Whistles & Invisible Children

Spike Heels: Theatre TCU's risqué play

Study Abroad: pictures & the impact on students

NATIONAL

Oil spill investigation finds blowout preventer was flawed

By Harry R. Weber
and Michael Kunzelman

Associated Press

The blowout preventer that should have stopped the BP oil spill cold failed because of faulty design and a bent piece of pipe, a testing firm hired by the government said Wednesday. The report appears to shift some blame for the disaster away from the oil giant and toward those who built and maintained the 300-ton safety device.

At least one outside expert said the findings cast serious doubt on the reliability of all the other blowout preventers used by the drilling industry.

The report by the Norwegian firm Det Norske Veritas is not the final word on the Deepwater Horizon disaster last April that killed 11 workers and led to more than 200 million gallons of oil spewing from a BP well a mile beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

But it helps answer one of the lingering mysteries nearly a year later: why the blowout preventer that sat at the wellhead and was supposed to prevent a spill in case of an explosion didn't do its job.

The report cast blame on the blowout preventer's blind

shear rams, which are supposed to pinch a well shut in an emergency by shearing through the well's drill pipe. In the BP crisis, the shear rams couldn't do their job because the drill pipe had buckled, bowed and become stuck, according to the DNV report.

The 551-page report suggested that blowout preventers be designed or modified in such a way that the shear rams will completely cut through drill pipe regardless of the pipe's position.

The blowout preventer was made by Cameron International and maintained by Transocean Ltd.

The report suggested that actions taken by the Transocean rig crew during its attempts to control the well around the time of the disaster may have contributed to the piece of drill pipe getting trapped.

"This is the first time in all of this that there has been a clear design flaw in the blowout preventer cited," said Philip Johnson, a University of Alabama civil engineering professor who did not take part in the analysis. "My reaction is, 'Holy smokes, every set of blind shear rams out there may have this problem.'"

In response to the report, Cameron spokeswoman Rhonda Barnat said the blowout preventer "was designed and tested to industry standards and customer specifications." She added, "We continue to work with the industry to ensure safe operations."

In a statement, Transocean said the findings "confirm that the BOP was in proper operating condition and functioned as designed." It added: "High-pressure flow from the well created conditions that exceeded the scope of BOP's

design parameters."

BP spokesman Daren Beaudo said the oil company supports efforts by regulators and the industry to make blowout preventers more reliable.

Speculation on why the blowout preventer failed has persisted during the year since the disaster.

Documents emerged early in the probe showing that a part of the device had a hydraulic leak, which would have reduced its effectiveness, and that a passive "deadman" trigger had a low, perhaps

even dead, battery.

DNV noted loss of fluid and weak battery power in its report, but did not seem to cite those problems as significant causes of the blowout preventer's failure.

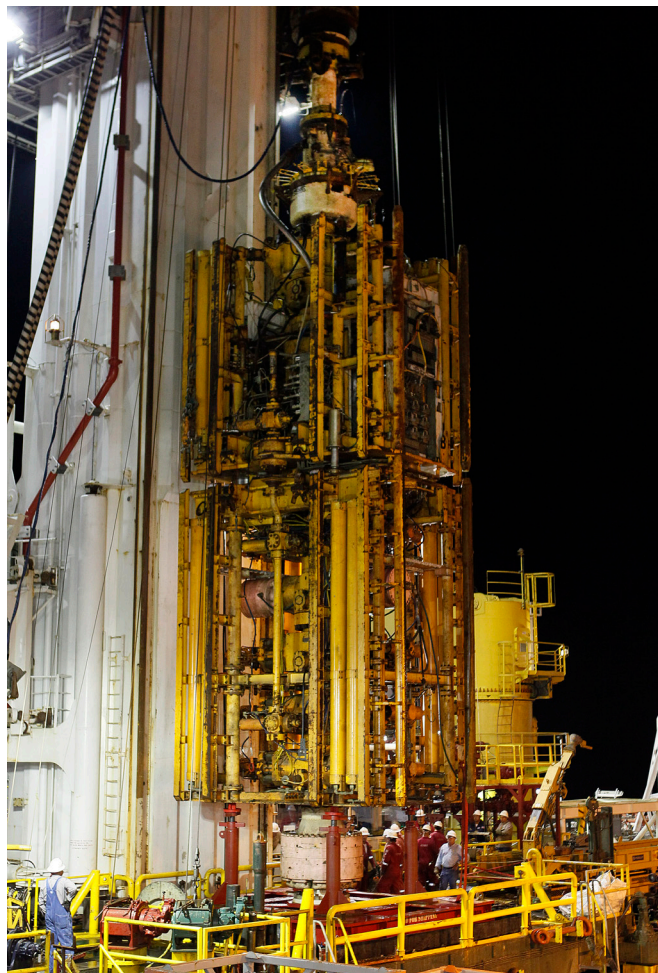
Johnson, the professor, said the report indicates that the blowout preventer had a design flaw that may have gone unnoticed by the entire industry, not just by Cameron.

The firm's tests also indicated that some back-up control system components did not perform as intended. It rec-

ommended the industry revise its procedures for periodic testing of back-up systems.

The blowout preventer on the BP well was raised from the seafloor Sept. 4. Testing began at a NASA installation in New Orleans in November.

Representatives for Cameron and Transocean were among an army of interested parties that were allowed to monitor DNV's examination of the device. BP, the Justice Department and lawyers for plaintiffs in lawsuits over the disaster also were allowed.



PATRICK SEMANSKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers watch as the Deepwater Horizon blowout preventer stack is lifted onto the deck of the Helix Q4000 on the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Louisiana on Sept. 4, 2010.

Stella & Dot is your dream internship in fashion and social selling. Get hands-on, resume building experience learning real world skills in marketing, sales, e-commerce, public relations, public speaking and fashion merchandising — all while you earn a great income. As a Student Stylist, not only will your training include the functional skills you need to market and sell our jewelry online on your own ecommerce website and at Trunk Shows, you'll also get a general fashion and social selling education.

learn more & apply online
www.stelladotintern.com

stella & dot
ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM

A paid internship in fashion and social selling

Join us for an Information Session

Guest Speaker: **Jessica Nelson, Director of Merchandising**

Date: Thursday, March 24th

Time: 5:30 pm

Place: Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel, 200 Main Street

RSVP for this information session at:
<http://texaschristian.eventbrite.com>

Come, bring your friends
and win FREE jewelry.

stella & dot www.stelladotintern.com

WEIRD NEWS

Associated Press

Bostonian finds dog alive in her burned-out home

BOSTON (AP) — A Boston woman who thought her beloved dachshund was gone forever after a fire destroyed her apartment a month ago has found the pet living in the wreckage of her burned-out home.

Terisa Acevedo moved in with relatives after the Feb. 23 fire. She returned to the apartment Monday after her landlord asked her to turn off the alarm on a vehicle in the driveway.

The 24-year-old Acevedo heard scratching, pulled away the plywood covering the doorway and found the year-old pup, Lola. She says Lola jumped

into her arms and set off a flood of tears. She says the dog was a little skinnier than she remembered.

Veterinarians say the dog somehow found food and water in the home and is expected to fully recover.

Coyote delays jets at busy Atlanta airport

ATLANTA (AP) — Authorities say a coyote wandered onto a runway in Atlanta, delaying flights for a few minutes at the world's busiest airport un-

til ground crews chased the animal away.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that the flights were briefly delayed Tuesday afternoon at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the coyote was spotted on the south side of the airport around 3:30 p.m.

She said an airport vehicle chased the animal into a ravine, and flights resumed after about five minutes.

The airport is ranked the world's busiest by the industry group Airports Council International.

Boston turns former bathroom into eatery

BOSTON (AP) — A former public bathroom in an historic Boston park is being turned into a sandwich shop.

Don't get grossed out. The 660-square-foot "Pink Palace" on Boston Common built in the 1920s hasn't been used as a rest-

room in decades.

City officials announced Tuesday they have agreed to a 15-year lease with the Florida-based Earl of Sandwich chain for a take-out operation at the site. The goal is to open the shop later this year or early next year following renovations.

Boston Parks Department Commissioner Toni Pollak says the project is a chance to preserve the historic mausoleum-like structure while bringing new life to the Common.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

Sponsored by:

PATHEM

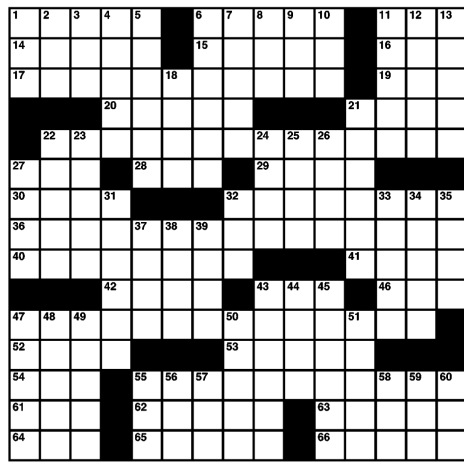
Sponsored by:

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Sponsored by:

ACROSS

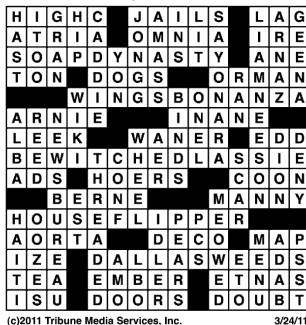
- 1 Soaking spots
- 6 Mideast ruling family name
- 11 Field call
- 14 Language that gives us "kayak"
- 15 Abu
- 16 She played Beatrix in "Kill Bill"
- 17 Romantic evening components, perhaps
- 19 Strain
- 20 Reason-based faith
- 21 Film in Cannes
- 22 California Gold Rush staple
- 27 Watering hole
- 28 23-Down was one: Abbr.
- 29 "Able was ...": palindrome start
- 30 Try in court
- 32 Came around regarding
- 36 Alien statutes
- 40 It can make a star shine
- 41 4-Down titles
- 42 Stadium take
- 43 Like sashimi
- 46 Cause of star wars?
- 47 Wurlitzer whirlers
- 52 27-Across offerings
- 53 Plant moisture buildup
- 54 Quaint stopover
- 55 Decide once and for all, and what one can do to the ends of 17-, 22-, 36- and 47-Across
- 61 Hens do it
- 62 Novelist Jong
- 63 Blue Cross competitor
- 64 Yellow
- 65 He passed Lou in 2009 to become the Yankees' all-time hit leader
- 66 Pulitzer writer Kidder



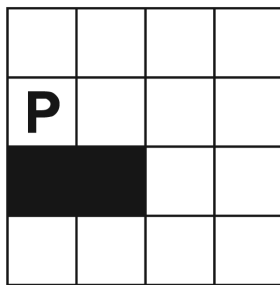
By Don Gagliardo and C.C. Burnikel 3/24/11

- 2 Darth, at one time
- 3 Large cask
- 4 Gandhi, for one
- 5 Directs
- 6 Attaches to the house
- 7 SeaWorld performer
- 8 Did nothing
- 9 Symbol of honesty
- 10 Bad-mouth
- 11 Sweetie pie
- 12 Whirlpool brand
- 13 Like some slippery floors
- 18 Sally in space
- 21 Anglers' baskets
- 22 "So I was wrong"
- 23 2009 Peace Nobel
- 24 Leslie Caron title role
- 25 Sub
- 26 British weapon designed in Czechoslovakia
- 27 Three-time Masters champ Mickelson
- 31 Ruffles features
- 32 Had
- 33 Challenged
- 34 Campfire base
- 35 buco

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



- 37 Snatch
- 38 -Rooter
- 39 "A Clockwork Orange" narrator
- 43 New Jersey's state tree
- 44 Top server
- 45 Burrowing marsupial
- 47 Puts in the can?
- 48 Radii neighbors
- 49 Homeland of 23-Down's father
- 50 Volleyball great Gabrielle
- 51 More elusive
- 55 Dr.'s study
- 56 Were now?
- 57 Cassis apéritif
- 58 Seventh Greek letter
- 59 Mandela's org.
- 60 Mary Ash, cosmetics company founder



"Pembroke Welsh Corgi"

How to play:

Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a single continuous spelling path that moves horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.

Wednesday's Solution



"Norwich Terrier"

Sample



"Freeze"

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

Directions

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

See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Wednesday's 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

GET TIPS AND MORE SOLUTIONS AT WWW.SUDOKU.COM

NATIONAL NEWS

Associated Press

New-home sales plunged in February to record low

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of new homes plunged in February to the slowest pace on records dating back nearly half a century, a dismal sign for an already-weak housing market.

New-home sales fell 16.9 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 250,000 homes, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. It's the third straight monthly decline and far below the 700,000-a-year pace that economists view as healthy.

New-home sales now account for just 5 percent of total home sales so far this year. They typically represent closer to 15 percent in healthier housing markets. There were just 186,000 new homes available for sale in February, the lowest inventory in more than four decades.

The median price of a new home dropped nearly 14 percent to \$202,100, the lowest since December 2003. The median is now 30 percent higher than the median price of resold homes — twice the typical markup.

In response, homebuilders are cutting their selling prices and building more inexpensive homes, pushing down sales prices. They are struggling to compete with a wave of foreclosures, which has lowered the price of previously occupied homes. High unemployment, tight credit and uncertainty over prices have also kept many potential buyers from making purchases.

"Falling housing prices of existing homes are robbing demand for new houses and until that changes, the housing market will be in trouble," said Yelena Shulyatyeva, an analyst at BNP Paribas.

Last year was the fifth straight year of declines for new-home sales after they reached record highs during the housing boom. Economists say it could take years before sales return to a healthy pace.

Poor sales of new homes mean fewer jobs in the construction industry, which normally powers economic recoveries. Each new home creates an average of three



MATT YORK/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this March 21, 2011 photo, the fenced off entrance of the Sonterra subdivision is shown in Queen Creek, Ariz. The 18-lot subdivision lies dormant with no homes being built. Sales of new homes plunge to record low Wednesday, March 23, 2011, a dismal sign for an already-weak housing market.

jobs for a year and \$90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Many builders are waiting for new-home sales to pick up and for the glut of foreclosures to be reduced. But with 3 million foreclosures forecast this year nationwide, a turnaround isn't expected for at least three years.

"We fully expect further price declines in order to help clear inventory from the market although this problem is more acute in the existing home market than the new home market," said Dan Greenhaus, chief economic strategist for Miller Tabak + Co.

Homebuilders have taken notice. Residential construction has all but halted. Builders broke ground last month on the fewest homes in nearly two years. And building permits, a gauge of future construction, sank to their lowest in more than 50 years.

Film legend Elizabeth Taylor dies at 79 in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor, the violet-eyed film legend whose sultry screen persona, stormy personal life and enduring fame and glamour made her one of the last of the classic movie stars and a template for the modern celebrity, died Wednesday at age 79.

She was surrounded by her four children when she died of congestive heart failure at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where she had been hospitalized for about six weeks, said publicist Sally

Morrison.

"My mother was an extraordinary woman who lived life to the fullest, with great passion, humor, and love," her son, Michael Wilding, said in a statement.

"We know, quite simply, that the world is a better place for Mom having lived in it. Her legacy will never fade, her spirit will always be with us, and her love will live forever in our hearts."

"We have just lost a Hollywood giant," said Elton John, a longtime friend of Taylor. "More importantly, we have lost an incredible human being."

Taylor was the most blessed and cursed of actresses, the toughest and the most vulnerable. She had extraordinary grace, wealth and voluptuous beauty, and won three Academy Awards.

TEXAS NEWS

Associated Press

Hispanics now majority in Texas public schools

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Hispanic students for the first time make up the majority of students enrolled in Texas public schools.

The Texas Education Agency reports Hispanic students this school year account for 50.2 percent of the state's 4.9 million children enrolled in public schools, including pre-kindergarten and early childhood education. Hispanics last year made up nearly 49 percent of the students.

"This is a continuation of a trend that's been developing for a number of years," Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Ratcliffe told the El Paso Times. "Our Hispanic population is our fastest-growing group of students."

Currently, there are an estimated 2.48 million Hispanics students in Texas public schools.

With Texas lawmakers dealing with a projected \$15 billion budget shortfall in the next two-year spending period, funding cuts for public education have been discussed.

Steve Murdock, a former U.S. Census Bureau director and past state demographer, has said that if the state does nothing to change the education system, the average Texas household in 2040 will be at least \$6,500 poorer than it was in 2000 and about 30 percent of workers will not have

a high-school diploma.

According to the data, two of every three public school children in Texas are minorities.

"The future of Texas, for anyone looking at this, is tied to our minority population and our young population, and how well they do is really how well Texas is going to do," Murdock recently told lawmakers about the demographic changes the state faces.

State Sen. Jose Rodríguez, a Democrat from El Paso, said that Texas will have to invest in education in order to compete.

"The greatest challenge (is) how do we provide the educational opportunities for these Hispanic students, the future labor force of the state," he said.

Police tape: Dallas mayor said his wife had knife

DALLAS (AP) — A tape that Dallas Mayor Dwaine Caraway fought to keep secret showed that he told police his wife, a state representative, had a knife during an altercation between them at their home earlier this year.

"She just went too far tonight," Caraway told police on the tape, which was released Wednesday by the city of Dallas.

The tape was made public after a judge refused to issue a temporary injunction Tuesday night that would have blocked the disclosure. Caraway sought the injunction after Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott informed the city that it had to release the tape and other material generated by police after the Jan. 2 incident.

Caraway, who was mayor pro tem at the time, told police that he and his wife, Rep. Barbara Mallory Caraway, were arguing over whether some aprons should be thrown away. After he barricaded himself in the family's game room, she slid a knife through a crack in the door, he said.

"I don't think Barbara has intentions of hurting me, but, in the midst of a fit of rage, you never know what happens," he told police.

The conversation occurred in an unmarked police vehicle that contained a recording device. Caraway testified during a hearing Tuesday that he didn't know the conversation was being recorded.

No charges were filed as a result of the incident, which occurred after football-watching party at the home.

Caraway was elevated to the mayor's post when Tom Leppert resigned last month to run for the U.S. Senate.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

35¢ PER WORD; 45¢ PER BOLD WORD PER DAY
www.tcudailyskiff.com/classifieds TO PLACE YOUR AD

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

STUDENT BARTENDER WANTED.
Showdown Saloon 817.233.5430

FOR RENT

FOR SALE OR LEASE 3425 Westcliff Rd
South. 4/2. 817.366.9681

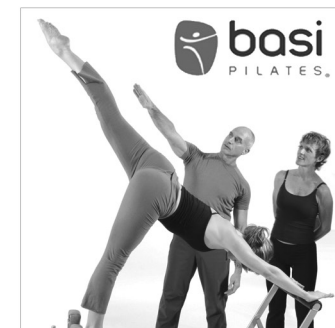
Skiff Advertising
817.257.7426
dailyskiff.com



Coming April 2011: Get Pilates Certified!

BASI Pilates® Teacher Training
Full Comprehensive Certification or Mat Certification

Hosted by The Pilates Center in Fort Worth
Taught by renowned BASI Faculty



BASI Pilates® is a leading Pilates education academy
with a reputation for innovation, dedication and academic excellence.
www.BASIPilates.com

6320 CAMP BOWIE BLVD. | FT. WORTH, TX 76116
WWW.THEPILATESCENTER.NET
817.737.2673

SPORTS

BASEBALL

There's a tune to TCU's at-bats

By Brittany Rainville
Staff Reporter

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game" isn't the only song Horned Frog fans hear at Lupton Stadium during a baseball game. Walk-up songs in baseball have become an important aspect of the game and vary in genres from hip-hop to rock to country.

Senior pitcher Steven Maxwell said he chose the punk rock song "Firestarter" by the English band Prodigy. He said he decided to keep his song from last year because he had a good season.

"It's kind of a random song but it really gets me pumped up," Maxwell said.

Sophomore third baseman Jantzen Witte and junior infielder Taylor Featherston went a different route with hip-hop music.

Witte, who is also using his song from last season, chose "Work" by Gang Starr. Witte said it takes him a while to choose a walk-up song because he had to narrow it down to his favorite.

Finding a song that will work for the audience is also a challenge, Witte said.

"You pick it before the season so you try to imagine what it will sound like and

you don't want it to be too pump up because there's a lot of situations when the game is kind of boring," he said.

"It's kind of a random song but it really gets me pumped up."

Steven Maxwell
Senior Pitcher

"Turn it Up" by Chamillionaire is a new tune this season for Featherston. Last year he walked out to "Smile" by Slim Thug. He said he chose these songs because the rappers are from near his hometown in Houston and he wants to "represent H-Town."

When it comes to pleasing the crowd, Maxwell said he is more concerned about what is going to energize him and his teammates.

"I guess in a way I'm kind of selfish and I want something that really gets me and maybe the guys playing behind me going versus something that gets the crowd going," Maxwell said.

Maxwell said music is very important to him and his song applies to other aspects of his life, not just baseball.

"If I want to chill out then I'll listen to some chill music but if I want to get fired up in any kind of situation then I'll go with Prodigy," he said.

Witte said "Work" is also relevant to his life outside of baseball.

"Everyday is a grind and I'm working it out," Witte said.

As players strut up to the plate to their song of choice, a video plays on the screen of them performing a short routine.

Witte said when making those videos, they did not have music playing so for most of the players what they're doing on the screen doesn't really match up to their song.

"It's kind of awkward, there's no music playing or anything you just kind of stand there by yourself and there's a camera on you for like 30 seconds and you're standing there and you try to think of something so I like tried to act like it was a sword," he said.

Unlike many of his teammates, Featherston says his song and dance match up perfectly.

"It actually does go with my routine on the screen, even though there was no music playing when they filmed it, it worked out," Featherston said.

FOOTBALL

Johnson fits 'undrafted' NFL mold



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

TCU alumnus and former wide receiver Bart Johnson scoring a touchdown during the Rose Bowl.



Ryan Osborne

Former TCU wide receiver Bart Johnson was a sneaky kind of football player — and not in a bad way. I'm not sure if he intended to be, but he sure seemed to do a lot of it during his four-year career with the Frogs.

First, he snuck past college recruiters in high school. His only Division I football offer was from Harvard. Johnson opted to be a walk-on wide receiver for the TCU scout team.

Then, he snuck past the scout team and depth chart, and found himself as a starter for a top 25 FBS football program.

From there, Johnson snuck past the record books and found himself as the program's all-time leader for most consecutive games with a catch.

But now comes the hard part for Johnson: sneaking onto an NFL roster.

Johnson worked out at TCU Pro Day a couple weeks ago in front of more than 30 NFL scouts and coaches. He had a nice workout. Johnson caught some passes and completed bench press reps. Still, though, there's no conceivable reason as to why an NFL franchise should draft Johnson.

Listed at 6 feet, 195 pounds, Johnson is guaranteed to be either smaller, slower or less athletic than six rounds worth of wide receiver prospects coming out of college.

No team is likely to waste a

fifth or sixth round draft pick on a player like Johnson if a player like Johnson's former teammate and wide receiver/return specialist Jeremy Kerley is still available at the time (which Kerley very well could be).

Then again, no team drafted Wes Welker (New England Patriots), Danny Woodhead (New England Patriots) or Blair White (Indianapolis Colts). Those guys look like they should be selling footballs at Dick's Sporting Goods from 9 to 5 on weekdays. Instead, they're catching footballs in the NFL on Sundays. They haven't just found a niche on their teams, they've found important, valuable roles and have become key cogs in their respective offenses.

Where did they come from?

Three years ago, Woodhead was playing for Chadron State, a Division III school in Northwest Nebraska. Welker and White played college ball for mediocre FBS teams at Texas Tech and Michigan State, respectively.

Johnson's background — playing in back-to-back BCS games and having his team finish No. 2 in the final BCS poll his senior year — makes him look like the Reggie Bush compared to the Woodhead-Welker-White trifecta.

He may not be as fast as those three, but his lack of speed is more than made up for by his big game experience and, of course, his hands, which come in handy at the receiver position (no pun intended).

And it's hard to have a better pair of paws than the one Johnson has. The guy just doesn't drop passes. Ever.

Plus, if there ever was somebody who wouldn't quite

mesh with the flashy, off-the-field celebrity personas of the NFL (just as Woodhead, Welker and White don't) it'd be Johnson, whose West Texas drawl is as native to the Lone Star State as the cowboy boots you'll usually find him in.

Johnson has the potential to be the no-name, intangible-filled, chain-moving receiver that comes out of nowhere early in the NFL season and leaves writers, bloggers and fans scratching their heads wondering where Team X found him.

So make it easy on yourselves, NFL general managers, coaches and scouts.

Johnson is gift-wrapped to perfection and sitting on your front porch as this year's Woodhead.

This isn't a sales pitch to draft Johnson, but good advice to at least sign him as a free agent or invite him to mini-camp. Give him a chance and if it doesn't work out, cut him.

No harm, no foul.

If Johnson never plays a down in the NFL it won't matter.

His legacy at TCU is already sealed because just like he snuck by the recruiters and the depth chart and the record books, the walk-on turned starter snuck past the secondary of the Wisconsin Badgers in the Rose Bowl and found himself on the receiving end of the school's first ever touchdown in the game's most hallowed sanctuary.

Two hours later, Johnson and his teammates found themselves on the receiving end of a Rose Bowl Championship.

Ryan Osborne is a freshman journalism major from Lawton, Okla. and a writer for SportDFW.com.

HELPING STUDENTS STUDY SINCE 1998



Monday
\$1.50 Domestic Drafts & Well Drinks

Tuesday
\$1.50 Domestic Bottles & Well Drinks

Wednesday
\$1.50 Domestic Drafts & Well Drinks
\$2.00 Import Drafts

Thursday College Night
\$1.00 Domestic Bottles & Well Drinks
\$2.00 Import Bottles + \$2.50 U "Call" Its (until 11pm)

Friday & Saturday
\$2.50 U "Call" Its (until 11pm)
\$3.00 Long Island Teas (all night)

Sunday
\$1.50 Domestic Drafts & Well Drinks

Specials are subject to change without notice. TCU does not encourage the consumption of alcohol. If you do consume alcohol you should do so responsibly, and you should never drive after drinking.

LIBRARYBARS.COM FIND US ON FACEBOOK

611 HOUSTON ST · 817+885+8201 · 4PM-2AM (WED-FRI) · 7PM-2AM (SAT-TUE)

+++++
ENJOY OUR DAILY
SPECIALS
+++++
AVAILABLE OPEN-CLOSE
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
+++++

SPORTS

BASEBALL

Don't hand the Phillies the NL Pennant before opening day



Allen Kellogg

As opening day for Major League Baseball looms closer, don't crown the Philadelphia Phillies as the National League pennant winner just yet. Last year's World Series champion San Francisco Giants are in a good position to make another World Series run, while the NL Central should be an exciting divisional race down to game 162 of the regular season. Here's a full breakdown of the NL's divisional races:

NL East

With the Phillies landing Cliff Lee in the offseason, they are the clear favorites to win the East division and the NL. Their rotation has four aces, and barring injury, Philly will win the division title. Losing Jayson Werth to the Washington Nationals takes some punch out of

the lineup, but Ryan Howard, Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley will be able to shoulder the offensive load.

The Atlanta Braves separated from longtime manager Bobby Cox when he retired after 24 years of managing service. The addition of Dan Uggla to the Braves' lineup helps to fill the power void, but it is not enough to allow Atlanta to compete with the Phillies. The best hope for the Braves will be a wild card playoff spot.

The Florida Marlins have a Cy Young candidate in ace Josh Johnson, while the rest of the rotation should be strong if healthy. Hanley Ramirez is the lone star now that Uggla has left. The Marlins' lineup, however, is too young to weather the strain of a 162-game season. The Marlins will be a long shot for a wild card spot.

The New York Mets and Nationals are both hampered by bad management. Mets' ace Johan Santana is gone until at least July after shoulder surgery to repair a tear in his anterior capsule. The Mets owe \$18 million on bad contracts to Oliver

Perez and Luis Castillo, and the team can only hope Jason Bay and Carlos Beltran return to all-star form after recovering from injuries.

The Nationals' best hope is to wait a year for Stephen Strasburg to recover from Tommy John surgery. The addition of Werth should add some pop to the lineup for the Nats, but Liván Hernández and Jason Marquis at the top of the pitching rotation won't be enough to even compete in this division. The Mets and Nats will fight to stay out of the cellar of the NL East this season.

NL Central

The Cincinnati Reds won the division last season and appear to be on the right path to doing it again. Their rotation is led by Edinson Volquez followed by inning-eaters like Bronson Arroyo and Johnny Cueto. Potential MVP candidate Joey Votto leads a good, but not great, offense. The Reds should repeat as NL Central champs.

The St. Louis Cardinals' main concern will be how can they afford to pay Albert Pujols at the end of the year. Pujols is

a free agent at the end of the year, and he will be after an A-Rod-sized contract. The Cards' other major problem is the loss of pitcher Adam Wainwright for the entire season. The Cardinals' biggest strength is manager Tony La Russa. La Russa knows what it takes to get teams to the postseason, and the Cardinals are set to win the NL wild card.

The Milwaukee Brewers are going for it all this season. Management knows they won't be able to afford Prince Fielder at the end of the season, so they decided to go for all the marbles by acquiring Zack Greinke from the Kansas City Royals and Shaun Marcum from the Toronto Blue Jays. Greinke was injured and will be out until the end of April. The Brewers' back end of the rotation and bullpen are not strong enough to sustain a playoff race, but they may compete for the wild card.

The Chicago Cubs' rotation has a big question mark in the talented but hotheaded Carlos Zambrano. If Zambrano pitches well — and stays composed

— and Alfonso Soriano and Carlos Peña can have above average seasons, the Cubs are at least a long shot to make it into October.

The Houston Astros are in a rebuilding phase after trading Roy Oswalt to the Phillies, and the farm system is still in the bottom tier of the MLB. If there is any solace for the Astros, fellow divisional bottom-feeders, the Pittsburgh Pirates, have been rebuilding since 1992 — their last winning season.

NL West

The World Series champion Giants have one of the best rotations in baseball. Tim Lincecum and Matt Cain lead the strongest starting rotation in baseball outside the Philadelphia city limits. However, the Giants' offense has questions. They maximized their performance at the right time in the World Series but struggled to score runs during the regular season and throughout the playoffs.

The Colorado Rockies have the best offense in the division, anchored by Troy Tulowitz-

zki. Their pitching staff after Ubaldo Jimenez has some questions. The Rockies should fight for a wild card spot.

The San Diego Padres traded their best player, Adrian Gonzalez, to the Boston Red Sox. Without him, their offense could be pitiful. Padres fans can take comfort in a young developing pitching staff, at minimum.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' pitching staff is strong with Highland Park product Clayton Kershaw, Chad Billingsley and Ted Lilly. New manager Don Mattingly takes over for Joe Torre. Mattingly has some big shoes to fill, but if everything goes right for the Dodgers, they will be able to compete for a wild card spot.

The Arizona Diamondbacks are in rebuilding mode and don't seem to have the assets to be competitive this season. The addition of Armando Galarraga won't be near enough to shore up a woeful pitching staff.

Allen Kellogg is a sophomore journalism major from Alexandria, Virginia.

**WILLIAMS
TREW**

REAL ESTATE SERVICES



3051 Ryan Place
3 Bedrooms 2 Baths
\$159,000



2520 University Dr.
2 Bedrooms 2 Baths
\$229,000



3655 Shelby Drive
3 Bedrooms 2 Baths
\$299,000

**We Cater To
Buyers and Sellers!**

Joseph Berkes
joseph@williamstrew.com
817-570-9453

Spencer Perry
spencer@williamstrew.com
817-862-4480

**Your climb to the top
starts with the Skiff**

Now accepting applications for:
Advertising Director | *Skiff* Editor-in-Chief
Image Editor-in-Chief | Web Editor-in-Chief

To apply, go to dailyskiff.com/jobs
Application Deadline: April 1
Selection Date: April 8

OPINION

NFL scouts would be wise to give Bart Johnson a chance in the pros.

SPORTS

BASEBALL

There's a rhyme and reason to players' walk-up songs for at-bats.



STEPHEN PINGRY / NCAA PHOTOS

Junior Edgar Crespo will compete at the NCAA Men's Swimming & Diving Championship for the second straight year. Crespo will compete in the 100- and 200- breaststroke in Minneapolis this weekend.

Crespo represents TCU in NAAs, Panama in Olympics

By Kim Burdi
Staff Reporter

Junior Edgar Crespo said he began swimming lessons in his native Panama at the age of nine because his mother was scared for his safety in the swimming pool at his new school. His mother probably didn't realize she had kicked off the beginnings of Crespo's Olympic swimming career.

Crespo said he didn't want to swim at first because he was overwhelmed by the size of the pool. As he started to learn different styles of swimming, he said he began to like it.

Now, after already representing Panama in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Crespo has been selected to compete at the NCAA Men's Swimming & Diving Championship for the second straight year. He will be competing in the 100-breast-

stroke Friday and 200-breast Saturday in Minneapolis.

"My goals right now are to improve my times and give 100 percent in my two events," Crespo said. "I'm pretty excited about that because during spring break I prepared really hard."

Swimming wasn't always on Crespo's radar, however. He also loved soccer growing up, but he said he eventually chose to focus on swimming because it gave him the opportunity to travel across the world.

"After I went to high school, I loved swimming because it was giving me the opportunity to travel to different countries," Crespo said.

As an amateur, Crespo said he traveled the world competing at multiple world championships.

"I'm really motivated to represent my country, especially

in the Olympics."

He competed in the 100-breast event as a member of the Panama swim team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"The experience is not easy to talk about because it was out of this world," Crespo said. "Walking into the stadium for the opening ceremony was unforgettable for me."

Crespo said the swimming pool at the 2008 Olympics was amazing but that he had to focus on being ready to compete against all the elite athletes.

Crespo arrived at TCU in August of 2008. A friend helped him with all the paperwork and set up an interview with the coaches.

"Edgar is a humble swimmer," head swimming & diving coach Richard Sybesma said. "He is more about the team than himself. He wants the TCU program to get better,

and he wants to win for TCU."

Sybesma said Crespo ranks very highly with all the TCU athletes who have ranked nationally and internationally.

"He appreciates the opportunity to attend a university like TCU, and he takes great pride in that," he said.

Crespo being in the national championship means a great deal because it puts TCU on the map, Sybesma said. Crespo is currently ranked 16th in his event.

"He's been working on his tempo and getting ready to race the best in the country," Sybesma said.

The national championships are very hard to make, but Crespo's experience from last year will help him succeed, Sybesma said.

Crespo said TCU was the first school he visited and that it was love at first sight. He said

he appreciated the diversity of people and how everyone is from different places on campus.

"I love being here," Crespo said. "I love to give my 100 percent here at TCU as well as representing Panama."

Crespo said he only gets to go home a few times a year for holidays like Christmas. He misses his family and the people of Panama.

"Of course I miss my Panama food," Crespo said, "There is a soup called sancocho. It is chicken with just vegetables, but the taste is awesome."

When he is home, Crespo said he loves going to the beach. From where he lives, he can go to the beach on the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean.

"I have been accustomed to here and the cultural shock wasn't bad at all because I have been traveling to different

countries," Crespo said.

Crespo is a marketing major but he said he finds time to balance work with swimming. He said he tries to keep a schedule by organizing his time.

Crespo said he expects to graduate in 2012 but that he doesn't know what he is going to do yet. He said he wants to get a job and start his professional career but that he wants to keep swimming until 2016. He also is trying to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics.

"If you don't give that 100 percent, you will regret it," Crespo said. "You need to focus on everything that you're doing by relaxing and enjoy what you're doing."

Sports editor Ryne Sulier contributed to this article.