



Several university club sports teams are in action this week.
Sports, page 12

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

Concerns about entering an unstable workforce have led more students to participate in Teach For America than ever before.
Tuesday in News



Critics say the FAFSA does a poor job of assessing a student's financial need.
Tuesday in News

TECHNOLOGY

Official: Landlines remain for safety

Some universities mull cutting lines to save money

By Naheil Qudah
 Staff Reporter

College students like to carry technology with them. They are replacing desktops with laptops, CD players with MP3 players and maps with GPS systems.

Knowing that most students have cell phones, some universities have started eliminating landlines from dormitories, and TCU

may join them in the future.

Heather Miller, the assistant director of Residence Life, said the university has discussed the possibility of removing landlines from dormitories.

"It decreases costs and our landlines are hardly ever used," Miller said. "So really, what's the benefit of having them?"

However, the consensus in the Office of Residential Services is that landlines need to be made available for the sake of safety, Miller said.

Travis Cook, the university's director of business services, said the ability to track cell

phones' locations on campus is limited. Landlines provide a way for emergency authorities to receive a call and track what address and floor of the building it came from, he said.

Cook said the university maintains roughly 2,200 telephone ports, each one costing \$14.09 per month. For a four-month semester, the estimated costs total up to nearly \$124,000.

Miller said the eventual elimination of landlines could be possible in the future as long as the university is sure it can communicate with students in case of an emergency.

"As long as we can perfect our emergency

response, and say that this is completely safe and we're not missing anything, I don't see why not," Miller said.

The dorm rooms at the University of Missouri have been free of landlines for the past two years, said the university's director of marketing and communications Terry Robb. The change was permanent, and there has been no discussion of reverting to the old ways of landlines, he said.

"The wireless revolution has hit," Robb said.

SEE LANDLINES · PAGE 2

TOP DVD SALES

- 1 Pinocchio
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 - 5 Australia
 - 6 Milk
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 - 8 The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
 - 9 Rachel Getting Married
 - 10 Cadillac Records
- Billboard



Read about the sights, the sounds and the songs of the South by Southwest music festival.
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PECULIAR FACT

HOUSTON — Teen-age boys, are you tired of embarrassing questions about when you last changed underwear? Japan's space scientists may have just the answer — a line of odor-free underwear and casual clothing.

— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

63 34
 HIGH LOW
 T-Storms

Tomorrow: Windy
 52 / 35
 Sunday: Frost
 68 / 55



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

WORKING COWBOY



Danny Meyer, supervising groundskeeper for the east side of campus, stands beside the front gate of his 50-acre ranch in Buffalo Springs, about 100 miles from the university. After work, Meyer spends a couple of hours each night riding one of his five horses around his ranch.

Man balances campus, ranch life

By Rose Baca
 News Editor

3:30 a.m. and Danny Meyer is already awake.

4 a.m. and he's walking out the door of his two-story log cabin.

5 a.m. and he's headed southeast on U.S. 287 in his yellow Volkswagen Beetle.

6 a.m. and Meyer pulls into his parking spot on campus, 101 miles from the front gate of his ranch.

As supervising groundskeeper for the east side of campus, Meyer leaves his

country home in Buffalo Springs, where ranch land is rolled out like a lumpy blanket, and enters the concrete jungle that is Fort Worth.

Each weekday, Meyer is all too pleased to make his two-hour drive to work. The odometer on his car reads more than 174,000 miles, a hefty number considering it's only nine years old. After a long and what Meyer says is a relaxing drive, his car turns onto University Drive and he is elated to see the campus again, just as pretty as it was when he left it the day before.

Besides the opportunity to work out-

To see more photos of Meyer's ranch, visit **DailySkiff.com**.

doors, Meyer's favorite part of the job is making the campus look a little better each day — and he's been feeling that way for almost 20 years.

Meyer was working as a supervisor at the Wichita Falls Parks & Recreation department, where he was a part of the team that created the falls in Wichita

SEE MEYER · PAGE 2

Band to serve as example

Austin competition to bring national attention to program

By Elle Cahalan
 Staff Reporter

The university Marching Band will receive national recognition after being selected as one of five college bands nationwide to have a prerecorded performance played at the College Band Directors National Association conference in Austin this week, a university official said.

Bobby Francis, director of bands at the university, said the band was among the five chosen this year, based on a performance of "We the People," which includes several American folk tunes.

Francis said the performance will be used as an example for other marching bands. This is the third important honor the band has received in two years, Francis said.

The wind symphony performed live at the national conference in Michigan two years ago, he said. The wind symphony also performed at the American Band

Masters Association convention three weeks ago, he said. The band was one of two invited to perform.

"This is going to let every college band director in the nation see the TCU band," said Brian Youngblood, the university's associate director of bands.

The judges look for marchers who maintain alignment, are designed well, are entertaining and exhibit an overall high level of performance, Youngblood said.

Youngblood designs the formations of the marching band on campus and writes the alignments for more than 20 high school bands, many of which are nationally recognized, Francis said.

"The honor brings further national recognition to the TCU band program," Francis said. "It's an affirmation of the things we have been trying to accomplish for the past nine years."

Francis said none of these honors would be possible without the talented students that the band recruits.

"They work hard and sacrifice a lot," he

SEE BAND · PAGE 2

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Junior teaches kids to dance

By Alexis Mladenoff
 Staff Reporter

As pop star Lady Gaga says in her song, just dance.

That was junior modern dance major Summer McGowan's goal as coordinator of her Project Junior Giveback program, Just Dance.

McGowan recently met with about 65 students at Oakhurst Elementary School in Fort Worth to teach first graders the art of movement through dance.

"It's creative movement; it's not actually a technical dance class," she said. "But it's something that just gets kids moving ... and introduces dance to them in a fun way."

McGowan said she thought it was important to teach children to keep an active lifestyle in an innovative way and she wanted to teach students kinds of movement that are different from the traditional styles of dance, such as jazz, hip-hop and ballet.

Jared Cobb, assistant director of TCU Transitions and mentor for McGowan's



Courtesy of JARED COBB

Summer McGowan, a junior modern dance major, works with first graders at Oakhurst Elementary School in Fort Worth to explore creative dancing as an alternative way to exercise.

Just Dance program, said the Project Junior Giveback program is intended to let students define "give back" in their

SEE MCGOWAN · PAGE 12

EPA

Fort Worth example for green buildings

By Mark Bell
 Staff Reporter

The Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program has ranked the Dallas-Fort Worth area fifth in the nation of cities with the highest number of energy efficient commercial buildings in 2008.

Although no buildings on campus were classified as commercial buildings, the university strives to stay on the leading edge of energy efficiency, a physical plant official said.

George Bates, physical plant manager of electrical systems, said the university has saved a lot of money over the past 10 years by keeping up with new developments in energy efficiency.

"We spend over \$6 million a year on electricity so it gets our attention," Bates said. "We try to minimize cost whenever possible."

SEE ENERGY · PAGE 12

Top Ten

Most efficient buildings (with annual energy cost savings in millions):

1. Los Angeles	\$87.2
2. San Francisco	\$83.8
3. Houston	\$70.6
4. Washington	\$42.2
5. Dallas-Fort Worth	\$31.9
6. Chicago	\$42.4
7. Denver	\$32.9
8. Minneapolis-St. Paul	\$36.3
9. Atlanta	\$16.4
10. Seattle	\$16.3

Source: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS

Student group to showcase members' art projects

By Elle Cahalan
Staff Reporter

ArtOrg, the student run organization that promotes its members' work and encourages them to enter local, national and international exhibitions, is hosting its first show this weekend, the organization's president said.

Simone Riford, a junior painting major and president of ArtOrg, said the goal of the ArtOrg exhibit this weekend is to support member's work as well as the organization itself.

"We want to promote artist involvement on campus and get people interested in the art community," Riford said.

Mario Galicia, a senior studio art major and ArtOrg member, said he thinks the exhibit will bring people together, show off the talent of artists on campus and get the name of the organization out in the public. Galicia will also be photographing the event.

Megan McBurnett, a junior studio art major who has a sculpture in the show, said ArtOrg presents a great opportunity for art students on campus. "It's really important, if you

ArtOrg First Art Show

When: March 27 to April 10
Where: First floor of Moudy Building North

love something, to get as involved and committed to it as you can," McBurnett said.

ArtOrg has about 20 steady members, and at each meeting the group goes through recent exhibition opportunities and discusses potential member involvement in them, Riford said.

Putting the exhibit together has not been easy, she said. But she said she feels accomplished.

"It's been a great experience for everyone to go through the process of putting on a real art show," she said.

The exhibition will feature ceramic works, sculpture, painting and photography, all by ArtOrg members. McBurnett described the collection as eclectic and inspiring.

ArtOrg is also in the process of putting together a yearly publication of student art, Riford said.

MEYER

continued from page 1

Falls, when he came across an advertisement in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for a groundskeeping position on campus.

Meyer said the fringe benefits were appealing, the family-member tuition discount afforded to employees was a plus, the chance to continue to work outdoors sounded good and the commute didn't bother him one bit.

At the time Meyer was living in Sunset and driving 140 miles every day to get to Wichita Falls and back.

Meyer said the city wanted its employees to live within ten miles of the job, which gave Meyer a couple of options: Move closer to work, or drive 101 miles to the university.

By May 1989, Meyer had made his decision.

Robert Sulak, director of landscaping and grounds, interviewed Meyer for the position. He said it was easy to tell that Meyer liked this type of work and still gets much enjoyment out of it.

But this wasn't the first time that Meyer surrounded himself with the walls of curriculum.

Before his mother died, Meyer promised her that he would earn a college degree. And so he did. Meyer

graduated from Tarleton State University in Stephenville with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture education in 1970.

"I made her a promise and I wanted to stick with it," Meyer said.

After graduating, Meyer taught agriculture education at Northwest High School in Justin for ten years, before transferring to Denton High School, where he taught for four more years.

After several years of teaching, Meyer was ready to move on, and after his outdoor experience in Wichita Falls, the TCU grounds seemed to be a perfect fit. Meyer said the campus is like his second home. He's had job offers over the years and has even been offered a teaching position ten miles from his house, but Meyer says he's happy where he is and to him it's that simple.

"I love it," he said. "If I didn't like it I wouldn't be here."

But if Meyer could be anywhere else, he would be riding horseback on his ranch.

Driving down a gravel road toward home, he sees almost nothing except miles of open space in every direction. Then, there it is, as he crests the top of the hill, a green-roofed log cabin with a wraparound porch. The home stands isolated in this hilly country, a slight change of scenery from what Meyer spends

his work hours in. He said it is his "dream home," and never fails to excite him.

The day Meyer and his wife, Donna, stumbled upon the house more than a year ago was around the same

"Everybody that knows me knows that I'm a cowboy."

Daniel Meyer
supervising groundskeeper

time Meyer found out he had bladder cancer.

Donna Meyer said that her husband was so blue at the time he almost decided not to undergo the cancer treatments.

"We drove in the front gate and both of us looked at each other and said, 'we're home,'" Donna Meyer said.

His wife told him if they were going to put themselves on the line to get the house he would have to get treated — and so he did, and he is now cancer free.

"Now I got the place I always wanted," he said. "And we'll be happy for the next hundred years."

The Meyers' 50 acres of ranch land is inhabited by five horses; Whistle Britches, Rusty, Gray Lady, Precious and Danny Meyer's favor-

ite, Pepper.

Danny Meyer said anyone who has ever met him knows that he will talk horses to anyone that will listen. By the time he comes home from work each day the sun is down and his ranch is dark, but that doesn't stop him from going horseback riding for a couple of hours every night.

"Everybody that knows me knows that I'm a cowboy," he said.

He said once he reaches his front gate after his long drive home he forgets about everything else. His Physical Plant cap goes off and a cowboy hat takes its place.

"I can't wait to get (to the university) every morning, and I can't wait to get home," he said. "When I turn in my driveway I thank the good Lord that I have the place that I have, that he lets me do what I want to do."

As Danny Meyer nears the age of 63, there is no use telling him to slow down. He's battled cancer, was almost struck by lightning twice and has been thrown from a horse so many times he's lost count.

Living to an old age seems to run in the family and Danny Meyer said he wants to live to be 106 years old and ride until the day he dies.

"I want to die while I'm out riding," he said. "Get off my horse one day, sit under a tree and just go to sleep and never wake up."

BAND

continued from page 1

said. "It's a huge commitment."

Youngblood said he is also excited about the band's performance at football games. The band strives to be successful on the field to support the team, while putting on a good show for students, Youngblood said.

J.P. Wilson, a junior music education major, said it is a big honor to be recognized by col-

lege band directors across the country as one of the nation's best college marching bands.

"It shows a lot about the hard work and dedication of our members and staff," he said. "I am definitely proud to be associated with the Pride of TCU."

Other chosen bands include the University of Arizona, Colorado State University, Western Carolina University and University of California, Los Angeles.

LANDLINES

continued from page 1

He said that the university did not save any money by cutting landlines since they had previously provided their own phone services rather than relying on an external telephone company. However, students have saved about \$15 per month by not having to pay for the activation of their landlines, he said.

Miller said TCU no longer requires students to have landlines in their dorm rooms or set up a voice mail.

Miller said the university's communications system is evolving to

NUMBERS		
2,200 Dorm telephone ports.	\$14.09 Cost of each port per month.	\$124,000 Total estimated cost of landlines per semester.

adapt to the overwhelming spread of technology, for example, through the use of TCU ALERT, a campus-wide e-mail and text-messaging system.

All official university communication needs to be done through e-mail and by telephone, so the move away from landlines has made it imperative for students to keep the univer-

sity up to date with their cell phone numbers, she said.


Ashley House, a senior history major who moved off campus, said landlines may be necessary on campuses where cell phone reception is not reliable. However, enough people at TCU have cell phone coverage to make landlines unneeded here,

she said.

"I never used my landline," House said. "Not once."

Colton Blake, a freshman music education major, said he has rarely used the landline in his dorm room.

"I've used it a couple of times, to look for my cell phone," Blake said.



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April 2009

TCU Barnes & Noble Bookstore

OPINION

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The Skiff View

Rarely used landlines not worth their cost

Billboards across town promote the university as being “ahead of the curve.” It is time to apply that attitude to the campus communications system.

Some universities are eliminating landlines in dormitories to cut costs. University officials have asked students, faculty and staff to find ways to tighten the belt. What better way to save money than to eliminate landlines in dorm rooms and campus apartments, where they have become negligible?

Travis Cook, the university’s director of business services, said the university’s 2,200 telephone ports each cost \$14.09 per month. The cost of maintaining those landlines adds up to nearly \$124,000 per semester. That is money that could be directed to financial aid or other campus needs. Officials said landlines are being kept for safety concerns, considering that emergency authorities are limited in their ability to track a cell phone call on campus. However, most students mainly use their cell phone to make calls and do not remain in their dorm room all day, meaning that in case of an emergency they would likely call from a cell phone anyway.

The university is aware of the magnitude of cell phone usage. Although landline ports are enabled, the university no longer requires that students set up a landline or a voice mail in their dorm room. It also implemented the TCU ALERT system to send e-mails and text messages to students in case of an emergency.

If the university is clearly at the cutting edge of technology, why not admit that dorm landlines are simply not pragmatic anymore? It’s time to pull the plug.

Web editor Julieta Chiquillo for the editorial board.

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

Plan unsaddles U.S. businesses from unnecessary cost burdens

You’ve heard the naysayers complaining that President Barack Obama’s \$634 billion down payment on health care reform costs too much. We’re in a global economic crisis, they say. How can we afford it?

But, having opposed reform for years, their argument for leaving our health care system broken doesn’t compute. By looking at costs but not benefits, they pretend not to know what the advantage of health care reform really is — and why it’s a major benefit to us all.

Think of it this way. You wouldn’t balance your checkbook by counting the checks you’ve written then ignoring the deposits you’ve made. That’s exactly what many opponents of the Obama plan do, even though they know good health care is intrinsically linked to the health of our economy.

Take housing. Recent surveys of homeowners in foreclosure showed that 25-50 percent fell behind on their payments because of a medical crisis. That means at least 1.5 million households are at risk of losing their homes each year thanks to the high costs of medical care.

What’s astonishing is that most of the people who fell behind had insurance — but not enough to cover the full costs of their medical treatment.

Health care costs have been rising by 6 percent each year, families now spend on average nearly \$13,000 per year for their insurance.

We can’t compete internation-

ally with other businesses when their governments offer publicly funded health care — something only the U.S. doesn’t have, among all the industrialized countries in the world.

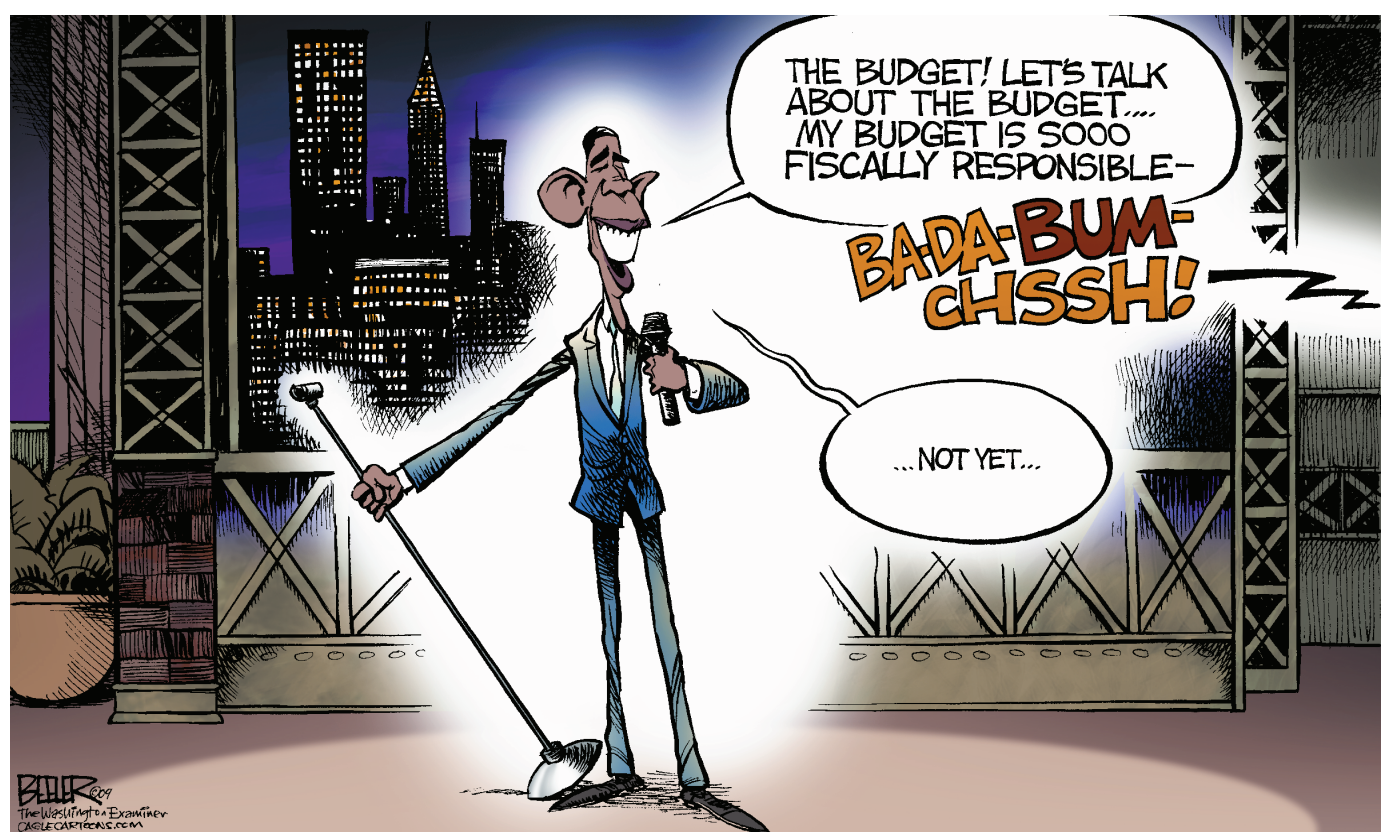
Put that one simple fact in the context of today’s news: The Big Three automakers could save \$1,000 or more in overhead costs on every car they build just by moving their plants from Detroit to Windsor, Ontario. We need to level the playing field now or face further job losses as businesses outsource in order to survive.

There’s another problem with making our health care dependent on where we work. When times get tough and unemployment rises, millions more end up with no coverage.

It’s simply unacceptable that access to medical care is dependent on a job. Obama’s plan would tackle these issues. Health insurance would be portable so people wouldn’t lose coverage if they lost or switched jobs. He’d also keep American businesses healthy by getting the most burdensome costs of health care off their books.

The naysayers had it wrong all along. The question isn’t can we afford to reform health care right now, but can we afford not to?

Richard Parker is president of Americans for Democratic Action, a lecturer in public policy and senior fellow of the Shorenstein Center at Harvard’s Kennedy School. This was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.



THE TONIGHT SHOW with BARACK OBAMA

Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

POINT • COUNTERPOINT

Was Perry wrong to reject jobless aid?

Stimulus money would hurt Texas economy

Extra money would help the unemployed



SHANE RAINEY

Everyone knows the economy is not in the best of health, but uncertainty is fanning the flames of recession thanks to every news media outlet scooping doom and gloom on an already paranoid society.

The federal government has used this hysteria to push its budget agenda, attempting to suffocate the recession in taxpayer dollars.

Thankfully, not all politicians are willing to be a government lap dog, and Gov. Rick Perry should be applauded for saying, “Thanks, but no thanks,” to the almost \$556 million for unemployment claims that were earmarked in the stimulus package.

The rationale is simple. With federal money, there are strings attached. Accepting this money would have negated state laws on unemployment eligibility, allowing groups such as college graduates without a work history and persons who have chosen to quit their jobs for “compelling reasons” to claim unemployment.

According to Perry, this money would have run out in as soon as two years. The state would then be stuck with the bill for this increased spending after the stimulus money is gone. Furthermore, the package would create higher unemployment taxes on businesses, which could result in an increase on goods.

On top of all this, the federal

government is spending money it does not have, making it all the more vital that states not have red ink on their budget sheets.

According to a December NBC Dallas-Fort Worth story, Texas has an \$11 billion surplus — an impressive feat given the economic climate. Making drastic changes is not a good idea.

It really all boils down to two underlying issues. First, accepting the money would be another step toward expanding the welfare state that President Barack Obama seems to so desperately desire, and that is not in the best interest of Texas taxpayers.

Expanding the unemployment benefits only serves to make citizens that much more dependent on government.

Secondly, it would be yet another case of looking to the immediate future instead of investing in the long term, a tactic — used by the last administration as well — that got us into this mess in the first place.

Accepting these unemployment funds would create a bill to be paid at some point, further dumping responsibility on future generations. If Perry had accepted it, he would have left the tab to his successor.

In the new era of responsibility touted by our president, Perry should be applauded. By not contributing to the creation of a welfare state and avoiding the massive debt this plan would create, the governor took responsibility and acted in the best long-term interest of his state’s taxpayers.

Shane Rainey is a sophomore chemistry major from Fort Worth.



KATIE MARTINEZ

After all the tough talk Gov. Rick Perry did regarding the great stimulus rejection of 2009, he had to reject something, but for goodness’ sake — unemployment benefits?

Perry rejected the plan on the premise that it would create a bill for the state later on down the line because of what he would have you believe are completely unreasonable changes to the current unemployment criteria.

Namely, it would allow people who were laid off from a part-time job to actively seek part-time employment while receiving benefits, instead of the currently required full-time. It would extend benefits to recent college graduates who are unable to find work, and laid-off workers with dependents would be allotted a slightly higher benefit than singles. It would also alter the compelling reasons clause for persons who have had to quit their job to include having been the victim of domestic abuse.

Under the current system only one out of five laid-off workers in Texas are eligible for unemployment benefits, the lowest percentage of any state in America according to the Center for Public Policy Priorities.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas forecasted that as many as 300,000 Texans will

lose jobs this year. At the current rate of qualification, 240,000 of those people will not qualify for any unemployment benefits.

People have said that these policies are akin to creating a welfare state as though the people who have been laid off from their jobs in Texas are lazy bums. That isn’t the case. These are hard-working people, many of whom have been at the same company for 10 years or more. All of a sudden — from one day to the next — they find themselves cleaning out their desk.

Some are lucky enough to get a severance package that will pad their landing slightly and may extend their health care benefits for some period of time, but others walk away with nothing.

The biggest problem these people face is that it’s not possible to go out and get a job the next day. There is very little hiring going on. Even restaurant and janitor positions, when they open, are inundated with applicants.

These are people who have paid taxes all their life; income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes. Don’t they deserve a helping hand in return when they desperately need it to stay afloat?

Rejecting the stimulus funds earmarked for unemployment is like cutting off our nose to spite our face and is a prime example of how partisanship has become a plague to everyday Americans.

Opinion editor Katie Martinez is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Fort Worth.



Do the crime rates around campus make you feel less safe?



“No, I have always felt safe. Campus security has definitely increased since I have been on campus. Still, always being aware of your surroundings is the best way to avoid putting yourself into a bad situation.”

Will Leahy
 junior psychology major from Carrollton



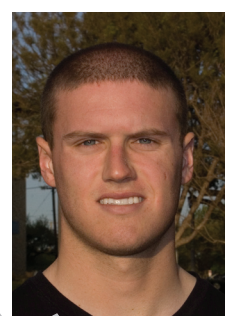
“I feel safe walking on campus when I see emergency phones and campus police in the area. I always take advantage of Froggie 5-0.”

Addie Leins
 freshman nursing major from Irving



“No, I feel pretty safe. I park my ‘68 Camaro in the freshman parking lot and so far it has been safe too.”

Jacob Clark
 freshman biology major from Aledo



“You definitely have to be careful when walking around the neighborhoods surrounding campus — especially women.”

Eric Deal
 senior biology major from Houston



“I don’t live far from the library and I always drive because I am scared to walk alone. If more people constantly walked to campus, I would feel safer.”

Michele Bruning
 sophomore fashion merchandising major from St. Louis



“I don’t have many belongings, like a car. We have enough security, too, so I feel pretty protected. It’s a friendly campus.”

Travis Least
 freshman electrical engineering major from Flower Mound

NEWS

AFGHANISTAN

U.S. troops confront disciplined insurgents

By Philip Smucker
McClatchy Newspapers

ASMAR, Afghanistan — When the young American lieutenant and his 14 soldiers glanced up at the rock face, they thought that the major who had planned the mission must have been kidding.

Elijah Carlson, a strapping, blue-eyed Southern Californian and self-proclaimed “gun nut,” gripped the crumbling rock, tugged backward by 90 pounds of ammunition and gear. “If we fall back, we are dead!” he whispered to Lt. Jake Kerr, the platoon leader.

In seconds, a rock shot loose beneath one soldier's boot and dropped 20 feet onto another soldier below, sending him tumbling 15 feet to the base and cracking his bulletproof side plate.

What transpired over the next 16 hours was the kind of clash that's led Kerr's commanders in the Army's 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y., to conclude that there's no “victory” waiting around the next bend in Afghanistan, only a relentless struggle with a fleet-footed, clever enemy. For Kerr, a recent West Point graduate who specialized in counterinsurgency, it was the first face-off with an often-elusive opponent and a case study in the complex politics of rural Afghanistan.

Kunar, where Combat Company of the 1st Battalion of the 10th Mountain Division's 32nd Infantry Regiment is stationed, is one of the most violent provinces in Afghanistan. Asmar is just 10 miles from the border with Pakistan's Bajaur Tribal Agency, which has been a sanctuary for al-Qaida and Afghan Taliban leaders.

The mission was to disrupt the men and weapons infiltrating from Pakistan and root out their staging bases in Afghanistan. The Americans had hoped first to confer with village elders, but after intelligence indicated that insurgents were in the area, they moved in with heavy machine guns.

Kerr's platoon moved for three hours in the darkness. Each time they thought they'd reached the peak, the land shot up farther. The unit came across enemy fighting positions, piled high with rocks and littered with food wrappers.

“If we fall back, we are dead!”

Elijah Carlson
American soldier

Afghan and American intelligence reports said these were “Bakt Ali's men,” insurgents who lay claim to nearby villages in central Kunar. Ali is a senior Taliban guerrilla leader in Kunar who's thought to have direct ties to Abu Ikhlas al-Masri, an Egyptian al-Qaida leader in Pakistan. At each dug-in position, Kerr recorded the GPS coordinates of unmanned enemy positions, down to the 10th digit.

As dawn broke over the rocks, company commander Maj. Andy Knight, of Ann Arbor, Mich., set out on foot in the valley 700 feet below. Kerr would provide support from his eagles' nests as Knight attempted to clear two villages where, he said, residents had complained of insurgent intimidation. Accompanied by a reporter, Knight and a detachment of Americans and 14 Afghan soldiers stepped carefully along mud dikes, greeting Afghan children and their parents with a cordial “Sengay?” — “How are you?”

What Kerr, from Lake Placid, N.Y., heard from his perch above the valley was a surprise: Unseen men along the valley floor were shouting to one another like an oral tag team, passing the news that “the Americans have arrived.”

Within minutes, three men — one in a white shalwar kamis (a loose pajamalike shirt and pants), another in a black one and a third in a brown shawl and gray pants — sprinted down the valley from the west with machine guns toward Knight's patrol, which was walking

along a dry, rocky streambed about 1,000 feet away.

Kerr, 25, part of a new generation of American warriors schooled at West Point in the raw lessons of fighting counterinsurgencies in the Islamic world, spotted them instantly.

“They were running at Major Knight with AK-47s,” Kerr said after the battle. “We opened up on them, and they began firing. But we had the three men outgunned, and they dove for cover in the streambed.”

In the valley, the hiking party splashed through irrigation channels and dove for cover amid tall bushes that lined the stream. The chatter of machine guns fired from both sides echoed off the ridges and stone walls.

Knight, who played tight end on the Army football team, shot past in a blur to the front of the marching party. He didn't yet know that two of the insurgents had been hit. They were pulling themselves on their bellies through the rocks, desperate to reach a bend in the stream.

Within five minutes, two Apache attack helicopters buzzed the valley, scanning for enemy positions and listening to Kerr direct them to the target. “I was shooting tracers down at the two fighters crawling in the stream, and the other man in a brown shawl was shooting back,” Kerr said.

Hidden behind a wooden shack, Knight's party could see the two Apaches sweep down, ripping up the stream bed. The insurgents had slipped just out of Kerr's sight, however, back up a bend in the stream and away from Knight's party. When the Apaches unleashed their Hellfire missiles, the men already had vanished.

With constant translations of the enemy radio chatter in Pashtu, picked up through electronic eavesdropping, and the major's narration of the battle, events appeared to turn. “I think one of them is badly injured,” Knight speculated. “They will have to make a decision to drag him out



Major Andy Knight, of Ann Arbor, Mich., examines a map of Asmar, Afghanistan with Lt. Eric Forcey, 23, of Lynchburg, Va.

or leave him.”

The U.S. forces, augmented by the 14 Afghans, were deliberate, at times cumbersome. From above, Kerr's men heard radio traffic indicating that the insurgents had slipped into a larger village farther up the ravine.

The choppers returned from refueling. Once in the village, the Afghan soldiers went house to house, room by room. A cluster of women and children stood on a rooftop. “This is a virtual ghost town, sir,” came Poe's report. An Afghan interpreter sniped: “It almost always ends this way.”

Kerr and his men were tired and frustrated. No one had found the fugitives' “blood trails,” which he'd hoped to follow.

As his men packed in their heavy weapons and began to pull back down the mountain, the insurgents' radio traffic intensified.

“We could hear them actually counting our numbers, and they

were saying that they would hit us.

A commander told them to wait until we were grouped.” The insurgents apparently wanted to target only the departing forces and to avoid destroying the village.

Kerr's team hiked back down the ridgeline, descended about 1,000 feet into the riverbed, linked up with Knight's fighters in U.S. jeeps and reached for water bottles.

Suddenly, an Afghan interpreter, monitoring radio traffic, heard Bakt Ali's commander order the attack. Kerr dove for cover. The pavement exploded with rocket blasts and fire from massive PK machine guns. Carlson, 23, from Torrance, Calif., dropped to his knees, curling into a fetal position under a dirt ledge with his machine gun trained on the crest of the mountain he'd scaled earlier. One U.S. soldier was hit in the groin as he leapt for cover.

But Kerr's platoon's work was about to pay dividends.

With a rush of satisfaction, Kerr reached into his pocket and pulled out the GPS coordinates of the enemy positions he'd scribbled down that morning. From six miles away at their base in Asmar, a 10th Mountain artillery battery unleashed a torrent of 105 mm howitzer shells onto the enemy positions. In the twilight, .50-caliber machine guns blazed.

The day was over. No one was going back to hunt for the living or the dead. The insurgents had lost fighters, but they'd proved to be a wily, disciplined and mobile force.

The U.S. and Afghan forces had had a reality check. If they didn't already know it, they now understood why they'd been unable to have a peaceful discussion with the village elders. Bakt Ali's forces owned the villages, and until last Thursday, they more or less controlled the entire ravine. It would take more than better maps for the Afghan army and its U.S. allies to wrest control of them.

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Exonerated inmates face side effects

By Heather Ratcliffe
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Antonio Beaver never stopped smiling the day he got out of prison.

His family bought him a new suit. The St. Louis circuit attorney gave him an apology. A waitress put a cherry on his ice cream at lunch.

"I came out with a clean spirit and clear mind," Beaver said.

But as the hugs and good wishes faded, Beaver, 43, began a surprisingly difficult battle to rebuild his life after serving a decade in prison for a robbery he did not commit.

He is among a small but growing legion of the exonerated — former inmates who often find themselves treated like other ex-cons while carrying the added psychological scars of unjust treatment and years that cannot be replaced.

Beaver struggled to connect with family, friends and work. He turned to an alcohol habit he thought he had kicked in prison.

He was luckier than some. He was freed by DNA testing, which made him eligible for state compensation. But his despair persists.

"I guess I expected more — a home, transportation, a decent job," Beaver said in a recent interview. "I have to seek and find and struggle. I could have had all that if a decade wasn't taken out of my life."

He was speaking from behind bars again. Last fall, he was sentenced to nine months in the St. Louis County Justice Center after a drunken-driving crash.

National experts say Beaver's struggle is common for those unlucky enough to be wrongfully convicted but lucky enough to prove it.

Usually, they leave prison with a handshake, their release papers and nowhere to go. Advocates say there is usually more help — like counseling and temporary housing — provided to parolees who actually did commit crimes.

The nonprofit Innocence Project, based in New York City, is known for its work in helping inmates win release. But that's just the start.

"Most are terribly grateful, and

looking forward to reuniting with their families and communities," said Cheryl Pilate, a Kansas City attorney who works with the Midwestern Innocence Project. "But the reality is they are wounded inside on many levels and these scars are not visible sometimes for years."

She said depression, anxiety, substance abuse and paranoia are typical.

Since 1989, the Innocence Project has counted 234 convicts exonerated nationally by DNA evidence. There is no known count of those cleared in other ways, such as the discovery of new evidence or the recanting of a witness.

"I have to seek and find and struggle. I could have had all that if a decade wasn't taken out of my life."

Antonio Beaver
former inmate

Time stops for all prisoners while their children grow up, parents die, marriages fail and careers disappear. But the exonerated bear an extra burden.

"They were labeled rapists and murderers — the worst of our society, and they have done nothing wrong," Pilate said. "That eats at them every day."

They all suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, John Wilson, a psychologist at Cleveland State University, said, in the manner of torture victims or combat veterans.

Wilson said some re-incarcerate themselves, retreating to a stark bedroom and refusing to go outside. Some hesitate to go out in public without a "witness." Some carry newspaper clippings to prove their new status.

Beaver spent 10 years in prison for a 1997 carjacking near the Gateway Arch before DNA showed that the injured robber's blood in the car was someone else's. He was released March 29, 2007.

He said he found work sorting parts for a manufacturer in St. Charles but was fired two months later; he blames the stigma of prison. He quit the next job, laundering hospital linens, as too disgusting.

Kate Germond, executive director of the Centurion Ministries, in Princeton, N.J., an advocate for wrongfully convicted, said: "Unfortunately they are not emotionally prepared for life, and they blow these jobs. People grow impatient with them. It's hard for people to accept their limitations. You have to let them come out of their cocoon when they can."

Twenty-five states offer restitution to some exonerated convicts.

Steve Toney, now 62, exonerated in 1996 after 13 years in prison for a St. Louis rape, said he cannot keep a home or car even though he collects restitution and a disability pension.

"I'm up and the next minute I'm down," he said. "I'm holding on to what I can."

Pilate understands. "Every aspect of their life was managed in prison," she said. "They were not given the ability to mature, grow or make decisions for themselves."

Wilson said money "doesn't take away the pain or scars" that drive some to die drunk, or high, or commit suicide. He called for a concerted national counseling program tailored to the unique needs of the exonerated, as was done for Vietnam veterans.

"What's the responsibility of our justice system who took their freedom to attempt to restore their well-being?" Wilson asked. "That's a very important moral question that begs an answer."

More than anything, the advocates say, the exonerated grieve the time lost with their families.

Darryl Burton's daughter, Tyneisha Lee, was 1 year old when he went to prison in 1985 in a St. Louis murder case. Within months of his release after an overturned conviction last year, Burton, 47, visited her.

"There's no way to get it back," Lee said. "I can't be 10 years old again."

Supported by faith and family, wrongly convicted man forgives

By Heather Ratcliffe
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Darryl Burton wrote hundreds of letters from behind bars to judges, lawyers, politicians and journalists before he penned the one that changed his life.

He wrote to God.

"You know I'm innocent," Burton wrote, although he didn't believe in God at the time. "Help me get out of this place, and I'll tell the world about you."

Burton, 47, said God came through, and now he's trying to hold up his end of the bargain. "I told Jesus that I'd go anywhere," he said. "I plan to do just that."

Since his St. Louis murder conviction was overturned in August, Burton has visited colleges, radio stations, churches and the Missouri capital to tell his story. Invitations have come from as far as Russia.

He said many expect to hear anger. But, he said, "I'm not bitter. I'm better. I have peace that surpasses understanding."

Experts say Burton benefits from two key advantages: faith and family.

"The folks who do the best have strong family ties when incarcerated and when they are released," said Kate Germond, director of the Centurion Project, in Princeton, N.J., an advocacy group for the wrongly convicted.

Said John Wilson, a psychologist at Cleveland State University who works with the exonerated, "That is so restorative, to reconnect with loving people who didn't reject you."

A spiritual conversion — no matter the religion — also stabilizes life, Germond said.

Burton's story starts in 1984, when neighbors whispered his name to St. Louis police after a man was shot at a gas station. Burton, then 21, thought it would



ROBERT COHEN / St. Louis Post-Dispatch via MCT
This is the only time Darryl Burton finds himself behind bars since his release from prison last August as he tours an offender re-entry housing program in north St. Louis on Feb. 19. Burton was released from prison after serving 24 years for a murder he said he never committed.

be cleared by the end of the day. It took 24 years.

While waiting for a miracle, Burton learned to survive prison.

"Some of the things I saw in there and had to live through are unbelievable," he said. "I did whatever I had to do to survive."

With little hope left, Burton said, he found peace in penning his request to God. He began reading his Bible and studying Jesus.

"He spoke about forgiveness to people who harm you," Burton said. "I knew I had to follow this man. I started praying for the people who hurt me, and I was free."

Two years after his conversion, lawyers from Centurion took his case. They won a hearing based on evidence that key witnesses lied in court. In August, a judge overturned the conviction.

Burton found that freedom wasn't easy, either.

He didn't qualify for state compensation. He re-entered society with a change of clothes, release

papers and \$1,000 he saved from prison wages.

Burton moved to Kansas City to be near his attorneys. They helped him find counseling, health care and housing, and bought him his first cell phone.

"I'm like a child," Burton said, "learning how to do everything again."

He said he filled out dozens of job applications but got no calls. No one would give him a chance to explain his lack of work experience. He got his first break in December from a sympathetic manager at a business that slaughters hogs.

"I just couldn't do it," he said. "I'm a vegetarian."

Despite his struggles, Burton hopes to do more than cope. He said he has a mission to spread the Gospel and help friends he left behind.

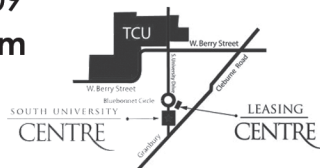
"I want to continue to tell the story because I'm not the only one," Burton said. "There are other people in prison who are innocent."

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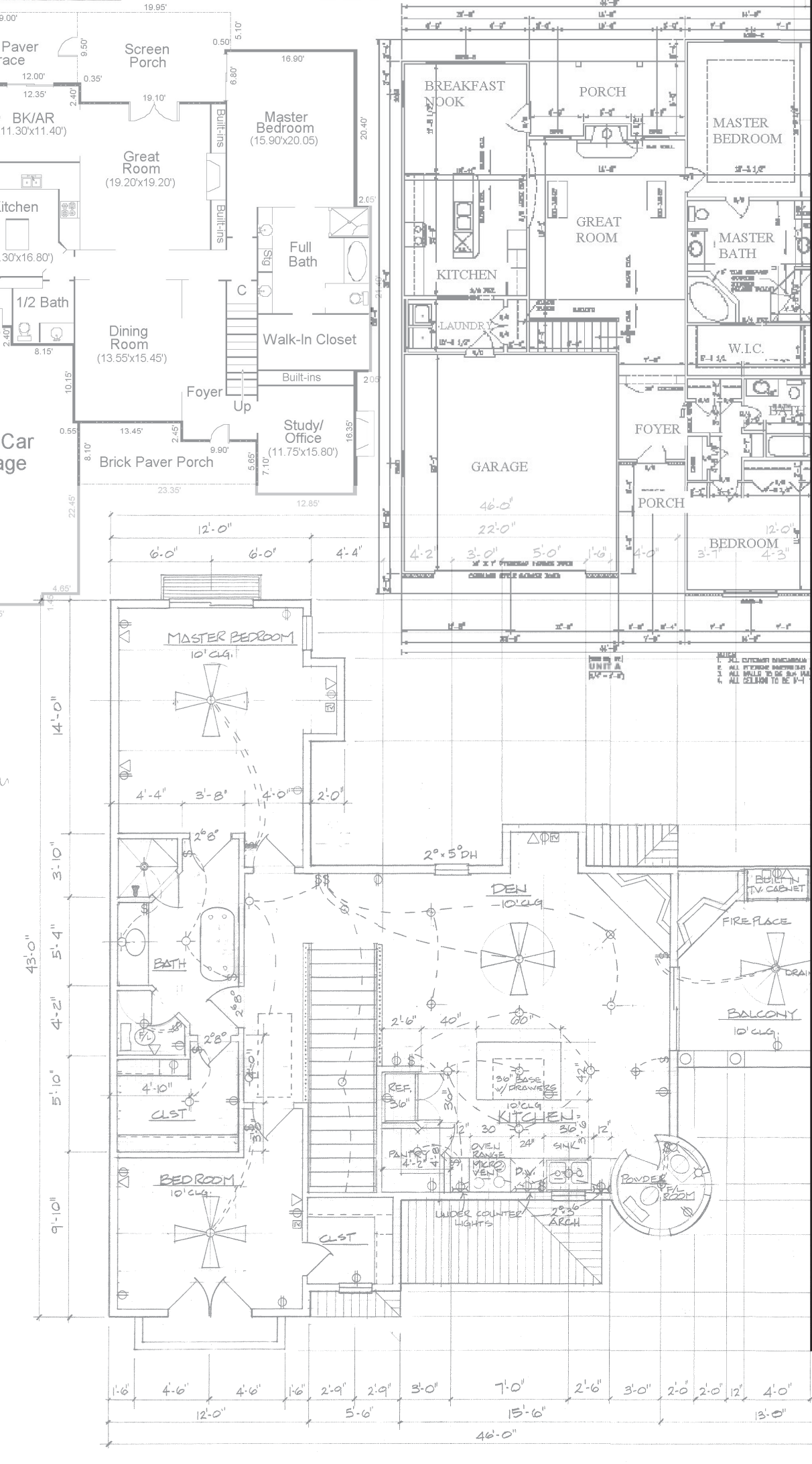
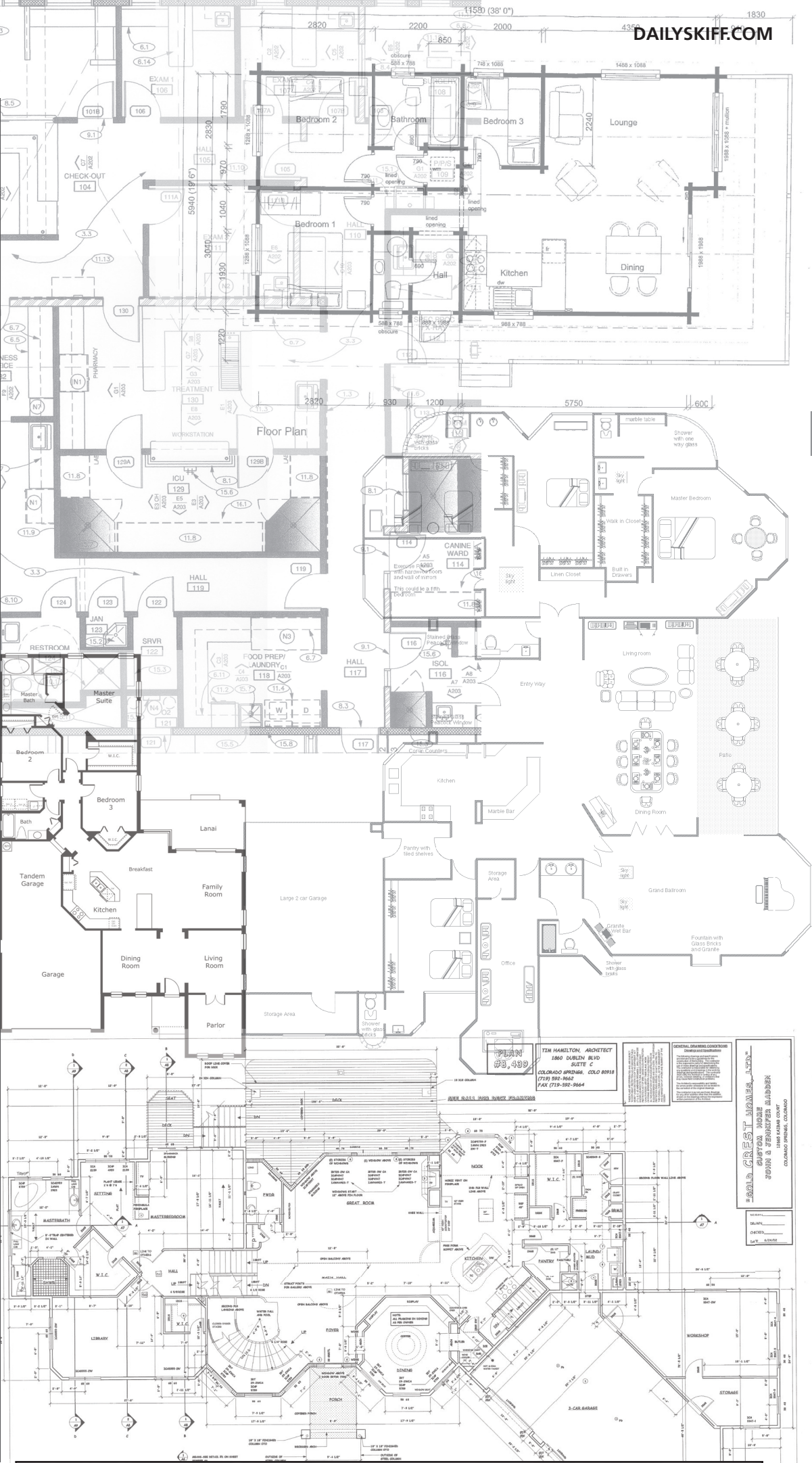
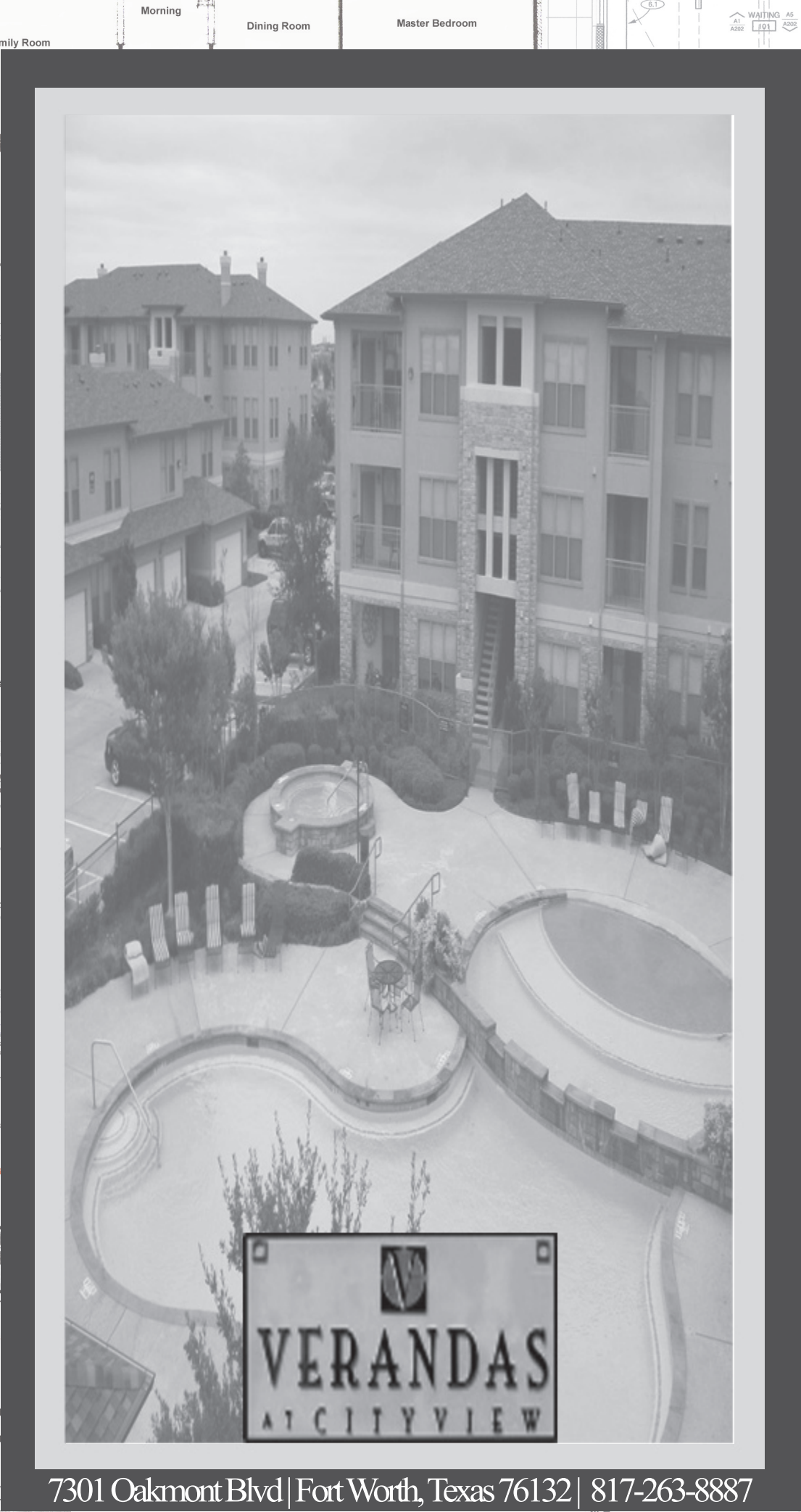
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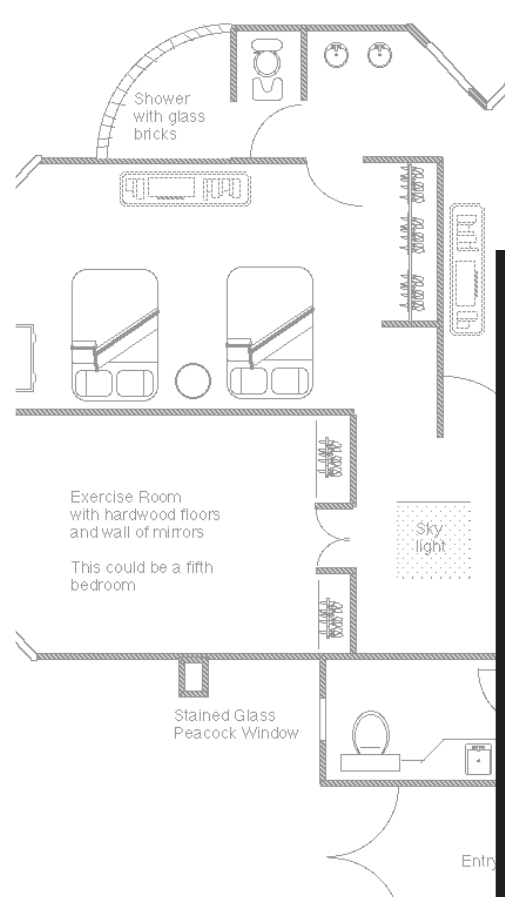
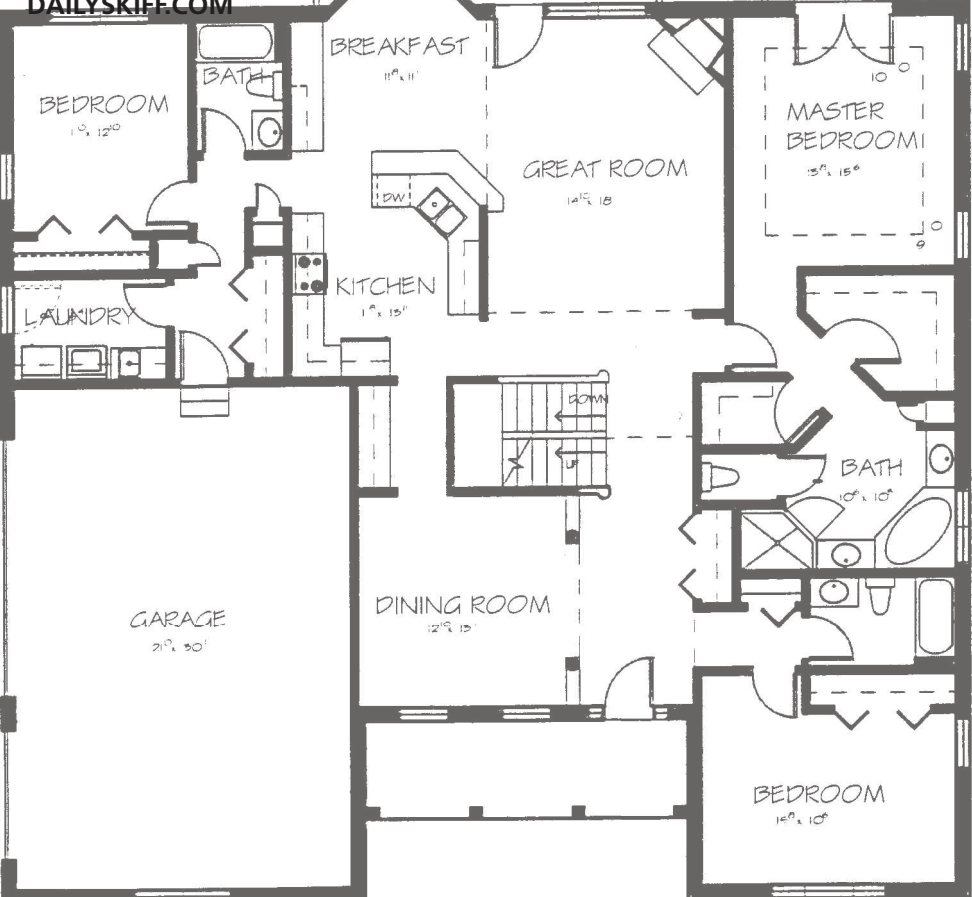
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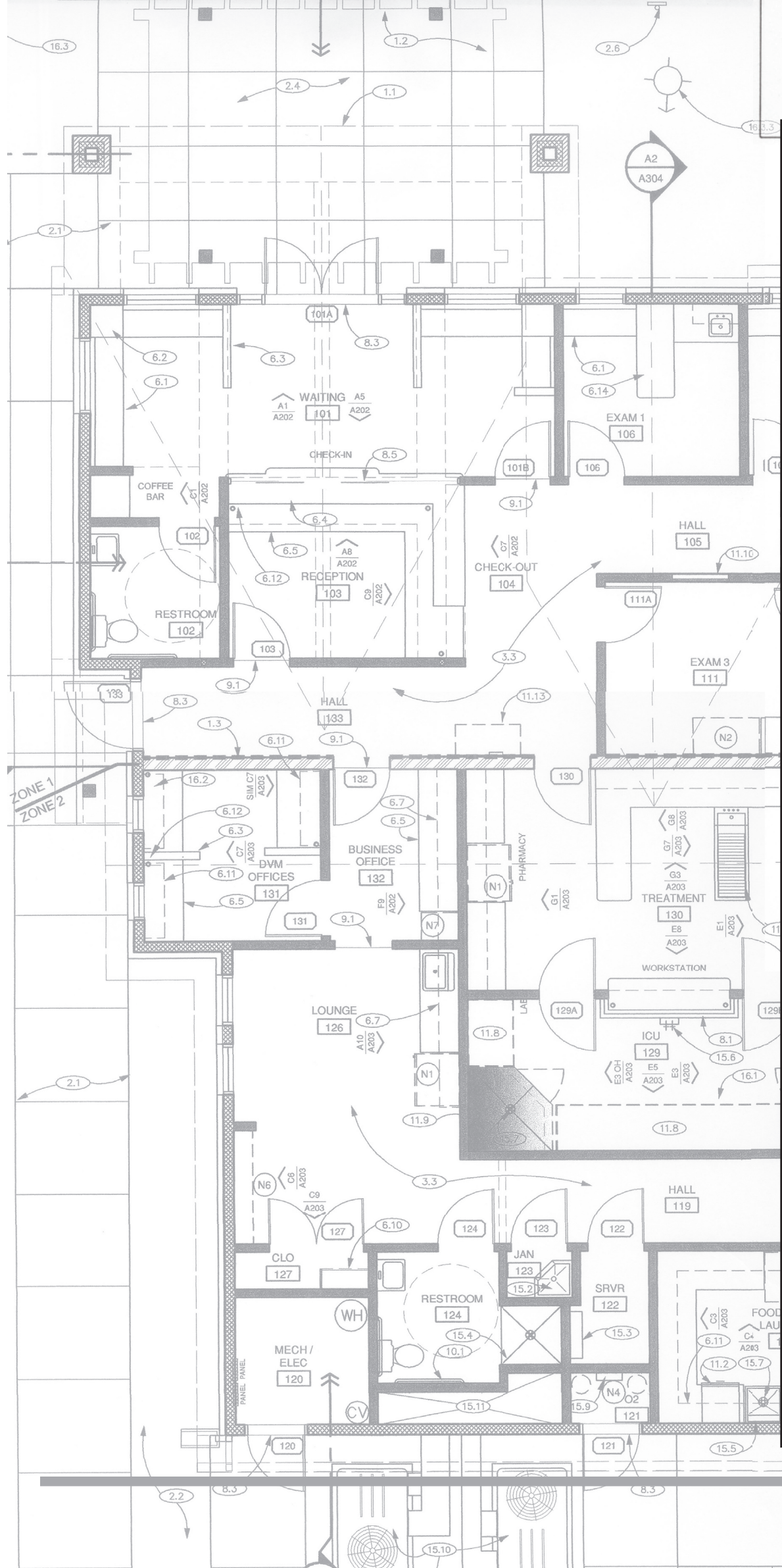
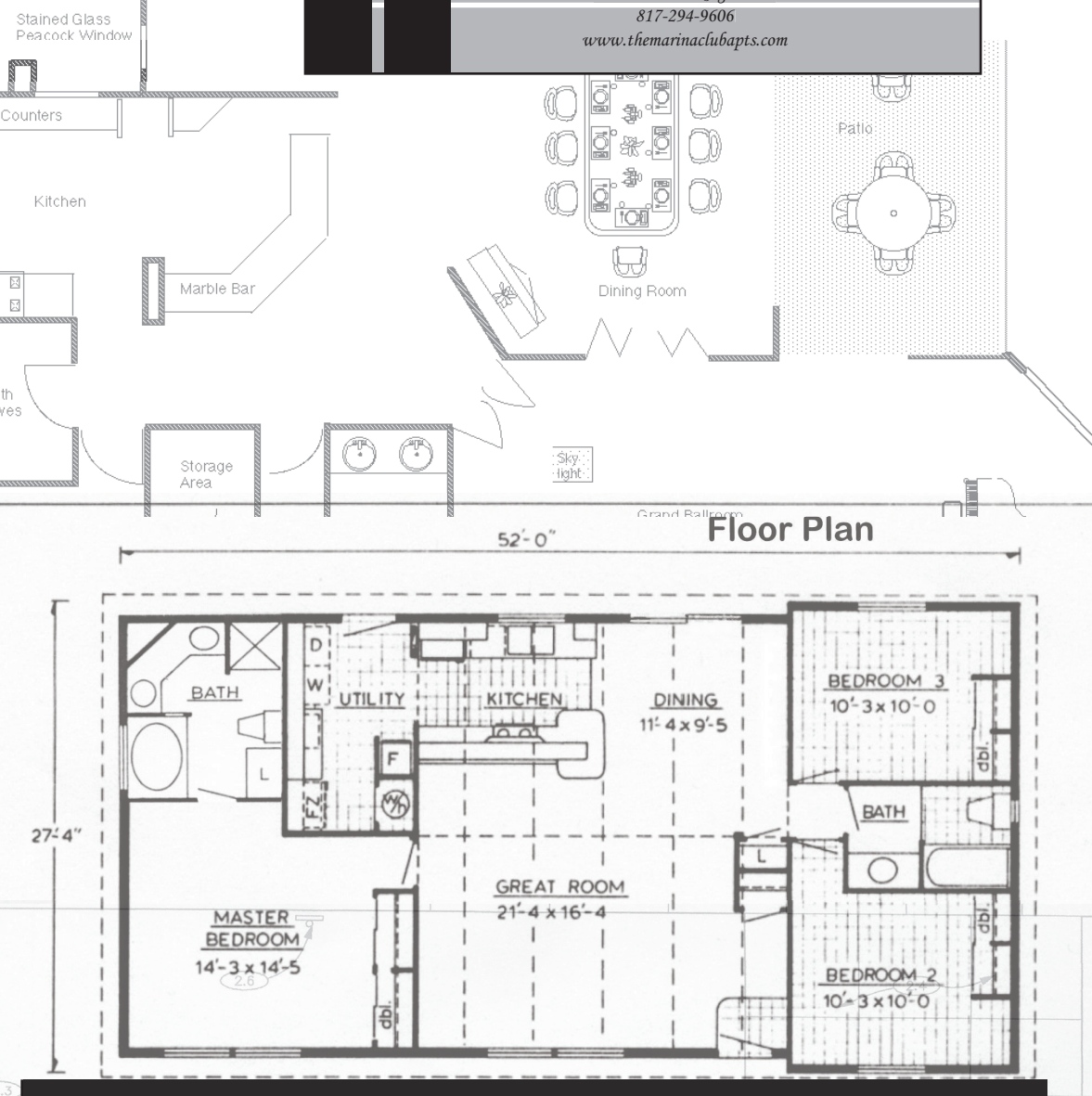
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MOVIES



General W.R. Monger (Kiefer Sutherland) left, convinces The President (Stephen Colbert) that his monster attack plan is more workable than launching nuclear weapons in DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens."

Jack Bauer morphs into Yosemite Sam for animated role

By Rick Bentley
McClatchy Newspapers

LOS ANGELES — Kiefer Sutherland knows his acting limitations.

He's comfortable stepping into heavy dramatic roles, as in the feature films "Mirrors" or "The Sentinel." And his tougher-than-torture character of Jack Bauer on the Fox series "24" has almost become a second skin.

When it comes to being funny, Sutherland is painfully aware he can't create laughs on his own, which is why he will only tackle comedy through animated roles. Case in point: "Monsters vs. Aliens," which opens Friday.

"All of us can be funny at a dinner party. But the gift of timing and the training of the great comedians is a real talent," says Sutherland during an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel. His promotional stop here is the latest in a series of visits around the globe by the 42-year-old Canadian actor to promote the new animated feature.

"Comedy is not something in me. I don't have that kind of gift. And, to my own detriment, I get quite self-conscious quite quickly, which a comedian cannot have."

Kiefer Sutherland
Gen. W.R. Monger in "Monsters vs. Aliens"

Though dramatic roles feel more natural to Sutherland, he enjoys getting the chance to show his funny side through animated work because there's no pressure. He knows his voice work can be re-recorded until it is just right to make the audience laugh.

In "Monsters vs. Aliens," Sutherland portrays the character Gen. W.R. Monger. The voice he supplies for the no-nonsense military leader sounds like a mix of R. Lee Ermy's drill sergeant in "Full Metal Jacket" and the rootin' tootin' cartoon hombre Yosemite Sam.

Monger's the gatekeeper for a motley crew of monsters. The Patton-ish general must call on

his oddball charges to help save the world from an alien invasion.

Previously, Sutherland's been heard in television shows "Family Guy" and "The Simpsons," plus the feature film "The Wild."

Until "Monsters vs. Aliens," Sutherland's voices all sounded like Sutherland.

"Almost all of the animated stuff I have done before, they had always wanted my voice to sound like my voice," Sutherland says. "They wanted it to be recognizable. When I came in to do this, I told them I had this idea for the voice of the character."

He admits the inspiration for the voice came from his favorite cartoon character, Yosemite Sam.

Whether the role calls for only his voice or all of him, Sutherland picks parts he wants to play using the same yardstick: The story must affect him. He knew he wanted to be an actor the first time he saw the animated classic "Bambi."

"As much as I cried at the end of the film, I was just amazed at how much I felt. So animated movies were the doorway to this genre of entertainment I fell in love with," Sutherland says.

What he specifically liked about "Monsters vs. Aliens" was that it was geared to young people with a message that it's all right to be different.

"It was not only all right to be different, but the thing that about you that might make you feel uncomfortable or weird might be your greatest quality," Sutherland says.

Most of Sutherland's life these days is devoted to "24." There has been talk of a theatrical film version.

"We thought it would be kind of cruel and unusual punishment to ask these writers to write the equivalent of 12 films a year and then say, 'By the way, in your off time come up with an unbelievable idea that is so superb we could justify making a feature film out of it.' We collectively decided that when this show was finished, then we would take on — if anybody still wanted to see it — the idea of making a movie," Sutherland says.

And speaking of "24," if the world were threatened by creatures from outer space, it would only make sense that Jack Bauer would be the one to try to save the day.

At the notion of such a scenario, Sutherland smiles and says: "I think Jack Bauer would be the first person the aliens took out."

After another pause, he adds, "But he would figure out how to be back for the sequel."

3-D not alien concept in Hollywood

By John Anderson
Newsday

As a polymorphous, mutating one-eyed blob named B.O.B., Seth Rogen's role in "Monsters vs. Aliens" is in three dimensions, but otherwise bears no resemblance to human-kind. He's electric blue, quivers like Jell-O and is far funnier than mere people. B.O.B. may represent the future of movies. So doesn't Rogen feel like a traitor to his species?

"I do!" said the large-scale comedy star, linchpin of such live-action hilarity as "Knocked Up" (and who previously voiced one of "Kung-Fu Panda's" Furious Five). "Actually, I feel like I'm just ahead of the curve. I feel all other comedy is obsolete!"

He's kidding, but "Monsters vs. Aliens," which opens Friday, is, in a sense, dead serious. DreamWorks calls "MvA" its first animated film totally authored and photographed in 3-D via a process that been dubbed InTru 3-D.

In a story that imagines that the government has been keeping a variety of monsters secret from the public for 50-odd years, Will Arnett voices the half-fish/half-ape Missing Link, Hugh Laurie is Dr. Cockroach, Stephen Colbert is the president. And playing a 50-foot femme fatale code-named Ginormica is one of Hollywood's tinier stars — Reese Witherspoon.

"She's tiny and they made her enormous. I'm a genius and they made me brainless," Rogen said. "That's kind of the joke."

What's not in Hollywood's commitment to 3-D animation. All big-budget cartoons are now being made in 3-D. The presumption is that the only thing theater owners have left — the only means by which they can lure audiences out of their homes and away from their flat-screens — is the experience of

three-dimensional entertainment. It's the last-chance saloon of mass entertainment — at least, of the kind enjoyed en masse.

But panic is the mother of entertainment innovation. The original mass-market 3-D was a reaction against television, which was assumed to be the death knell for the movie theater. Back in the 1950s, though, the hassles outweighed the benefits.

"3-D didn't work for the same reason early sound didn't work," said Bruce Goldstein, repertory director of Manhattan's Film Forum, partner in Rialto Pictures and a programmer of numerous 3-D series. "The technology was too cumbersome, the audiences didn't like the glasses. But it was a big sensation momentarily. The first big 3-D film was 'Bwana Devil,' which was a complete piece of garbage, but just the novelty was a sensation."

But two things happened, Goldstein said: Cinerama, which required its own investment in screens and equipment, virtually throttled 3-D in its cradle (Cinerama debuted in 1952; the golden age of early 3-D was 1953-54). What really killed 3-D was CinemaScope, which was easier, and required just a different screen and a different lens, Goldstein said. With 3-D films, two projectors were used simultaneously (Cinerama required three) and the prints had to be perfectly synchronized — if a frame was lost in one print, for example, it had to be cut out of the other.

As a consequence, there had to be an intermission, because both projectors were always in use. And the light throw and angle of seats to the screen had to be correct.

Now, the technological problems have been solved. Right? Not quite.

"We have 14 or 15 3-D titles coming out this year and the question is, will there be enough shelf

space?" said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "With the credit crunch, it's harder to get money for theaters to upgrade to digital, which you need to have 3-D. We have to have the number of theaters catch up with the technology."

"But the audience is there. Every time we've seen a movie come out in 3-D or in IMAX, we're finding that moviegoers are totally willing to pay the premium," he said.

The one consistent problem with 3-D has been a reliance on gimmickry, rather than quality; as has been proved so often, audiences won't go to a movie that is terrible no matter how many dimensions it's in.

"Every time we've seen a movie come out in 3-D or IMAX, we're finding that moviegoers are totally willing to pay the premium."

Paul Dergarabedian
box-office analyst

"Monsters vs. Aliens" may not have the most novel of plots — the monsters, Ginormica included, are freed by the Army only after the evil alien Galaxharr (Rainn Wilson) threatens to conquer the earthlings.

But the visuals are impressive. And while he's obviously partial, Rogen says he thinks "Monsters vs. Aliens" has it all together.

Has he seen the film? Watched it with other human beings? "I did," he said. "They seemed to like it. They were mostly Hollywood people, so I don't know if I would quite call them human beings."

Some 3-D Comin' at Ya

It's hard to evaluate what the best 3-D movies might be, as the definition of the format has changed over the years, but here are a few milestones in the now half-century-long effort to make things fly off the screen and into your eyeglasses.

House of Wax (1953)
Warner Bros.' response to the 3-D landmark "Bwana Devil" was directed by the great, Andre de Toth, who was blind in one eye and thus couldn't experience the effects of his own three-dimensional horror-thriller. Vincent Price starred as the maddened killer whose museum displays his paraffin-coated victims.

Gorilla at Large (1954)
For a cheesily titled entry into the 3-D canon, this mystery boasted quite the cast, including Anne Bancroft, Lee J. Cobb, Raymond Burr and Lee Marvin. Fortunately for them, the flick is remembered best for its special effect.

Dial M For Murder (1954)
Using 3-D sparingly, Alfred Hitchcock created an intricately plotted thriller in which a jealous and homicidal Ray Milland plots the ruination of his adulterous wife (Grace Kelly) and her lover (Robert Cummings). Interest in 3-D faded, though, and a 2-D version was released.

The Polar Express (2004)
Ambitious but cast with creepy characters, Robert Zemeckis' Christmas movie was released as IMAX's first full-length, animated 3-D feature, and the returns from the 66 IMAX theaters accounted for 25 percent of the returns from a total of 3,584 2-D theaters.

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OPINION

Want to be a film critic? Some tips to successful writing

By Robert W. Butler
McClatchy Newspapers

"How can I become a film critic?"

You wouldn't believe how many times a week I'm asked that question.

Apparently I have a dream job, at least to those who don't know that, for the last two years, newspaper movie critics have been dropping faster than halter tops at a "Girls Gone Wild" shoot.

Regardless of the profession's uncertain future, movie criticism is perceived as a cool gig.

And it is. Were it otherwise, I wouldn't have stuck with it for more than three decades.

But the original question remains: How does one become a movie critic?

If you're talking about professional criticism — writing about film for pay — the odds of landing a gig are only a little better than those of winning the lottery.

Regardless of the profession's uncertain future, movie criticism is perceived as a cool gig.

But if you're talking about writing criticism as a hobby, as an exercise, as something you can post on your blog for others to peruse and argue about ... well, that's an ambition I encourage.

Because writing criticism — not

just of movies but of music, art, literature — is the Charles Atlas of brain trainers.

As I've often told classrooms of students, the act of watching a movie changes when you know you're expected to produce a 500-word essay about it in an hour.

You really start paying attention. The act of watching, though, is only the beginning. Criticism — any writing for that matter — is about organizing your thinking.

It is not about having the right opinion but about the ability to express and defend the opinion you have.

It is about being informative and about being entertaining.

Like most things worth doing, it rarely springs forth fully formed. You have to work at it. Often it

means stopping and starting over.

But I think it makes you smarter. The student who can write good criticism is also going to produce a killer college entrance essay and flourish in a university environment.

My advice for those who want to give it a try is not to delay. Start today.

Next time you come home from a movie pumped by what you've seen, sit down and write.

Years ago one of my editors thought up the three questions reviewers should ask themselves while writing:

1. What is the artist (filmmaker, novelist, etc.) trying to do? The answer can range from the idealistic ("Make the ultimate existential statement") to the crass ("Make a movie so trashy it will earn mil-

lions from gullible ticket buyers").

2. How well did he or she do it?

3. Was it worth doing? This one is the deal breaker. Well-made trash is still trash. On the other hand, is it any worse than well-meaning "art" that gets bogged down in its own pretentiousness?

More advice to wannabe Eberts: Read other critics in newspapers, magazines and online.

Do you have a favorite reviewer? Analyze what it is in his or her presentation that appeals to you. See if you can produce something in a similar style.

Write in different formats. Write long essays, short capsule reviews and medium-length pieces that might run in a newspaper.

Throw the occasional changeup. Rather than an overall critique, focus on the elements that make up a

movie. Write about the acting style. About the use of music. About the construction of the narrative. About how the camera is used.

Clock yourself. After watching a movie, give yourself an hour, or 30 minutes, or just five minutes in which to bang out a review. A deadline is a great motivational tool.

Expand your comfort zone. Go see movies you normally wouldn't, and write about them, if only so you can make fun of them.

None of this will guarantee a job in film criticism. But it will help you organize your brain, tap into your creative potential (few things are as satisfying as writing something that makes people laugh) and expand your vocabulary and interests.

Beats vegging out.

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NEWS

Service programs like Peace Corps gain students' allure

By Erica Perez
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — Eric Sandow is poised to graduate with a geography degree in May, but career plans A and B — graduate school or a land-planning job — aren't panning out.

So the 28-year-old University of Wisconsin-Parkside student is seriously considering a pursuit he's had in the back of his mind for years: the Peace Corps.

The troubled economy and President Barack Obama's call to service are helping create a surge of interest in the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and other service opportunities. Meanwhile, the U.S. House recently approved the largest expansion of government-sponsored service programs in years.

Both Peace Corps and AmeriCorps provide modest compensation, student loan deferment and a small scholarship at the end that members can use to pay off debt or pursue more schooling.

"With the job market being the way it is, and my situation, I could definitely do that for two years, then see what the economy's like and in the process maybe help some people out," said Sandow, who has contacted a Peace Corps recruiter and is mulling over an application.

The Peace Corps saw a 16 percent increase in applications last year over the previous year, said Christine Torres, spokeswoman for the organization's Chicago office.

AmeriCorps saw a tripling in the number of applications in the first two months of the year, said Sandy Scott, spokesman for the Corporation for National Community Service, the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps and other programs. Some 9,000 people applied in February, compared with 3,000 applicants in February of last year.

And the bill approved by the House would spend about \$6 billion over five years to expand Ame-

riCorps, increasing the number of positions from 75,000 per year to 250,000.

People in search of jobs see AmeriCorps as a way to get modest compensation while doing service. Also, people who see increased suffering because of the recession want to reach out, Scott said.

"It's sort of a positive perfect storm of unprecedented need and opportunity to expand national service," Scott said.

"When's a better time than when you're 22 and don't have a lot of connections to up and leave your family for two and a half years?"

Megan Wagner
Peace Corps volunteer

The Peace Corps also has experienced an Obama effect: A spike in applications during the inauguration period. On Jan. 20 and 21 of this year — Inauguration Day and the day after — the organization received 432 applications, compared with 157 on those two days in 2008.

Marquette University senior Megan Wagner, 22, sent in her Peace Corps application a week before she traveled to Washington for Obama's inauguration. While Obama's words did not provide the inspiration for her decision, the moment made her feel happy about her choice.

"I was really, really proud of the decision that I had come to by myself to do some kind of international service, that my skills and my compassion would impact other people," she said. "I see a lot of hope in Obama and his family."

Wagner was nominated for the Peace Corps in February. The Wausau, Wis., native will begin teaching

secondary-level English next March somewhere in central Asia — she doesn't yet know which country — for 27 months.

"When's a better time than when you're 22 and don't have a lot of connections to up and leave your family for two and a half years?" she said. "I'm looking for a challenge, to learn another language, and be bicultural. ... I can't imagine the person I'll be when I come back out — to be 25 and to start embarking on a family and career. I really think my time in the Peace Corps will set the standard for the person I will be."

Marquette University's career services center has seen an increase in the number of students applying for service or volunteer positions, said Kristin Finn, the center's employer relations manager.

Finn has seen increased interest in the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach for America and local programs such as Admission Possible, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income young people in greater Milwaukee earn admission to college.

While the economy wasn't a factor in Wagner's decision, the tight job market was one reason many Marquette students are considering a long-term service commitment instead of a private-sector job, Finn said.

For Sandow, the economy was a factor. He's working an internship in the Racine County planning and development division, delivering pizzas at night and taking 24 credits in the hopes of graduating in May.

His first post-graduation plan was to enter an accelerated teacher-certification program, but he needs to complete additional credits to be eligible and would have to take out loans to pay for the program. Without finding a land-planning job either, he has revived a desire to serve in the Peace Corps — one that he had considered years ago.

"I really have an interest in dif-



Megan Wagner, 22, a senior at Marquette University, pictured Saturday on Marquette's campus, will be going to Asia as a Peace Corps volunteer next March to teach English.

ferent cultures and different areas of the world," Sandow said. "I want to teach social studies, and this might be an opportunity to get different information and bring that back."

He's also interested in the benefits. Peace Corps volunteers can defer or even cancel a portion of their student loans. During their

service, they are paid modest living expenses, and when they complete their service, the Peace Corps provides just more than \$6,000 to spend however they want.

AmeriCorps members earn a minimal living allowance and receive a scholarship of \$4,725 upon completion of service to pay for college or

pay back student loans. That amount would increase to \$5,350 under the recently passed House bill.

"I think it's a really viable option for people," Sandow said. "It's not really something that's advertised, even in school. I think schools need to advertise it more, with the job market the way it is."

Job clubs offer hope, help in difficult economic times

By Barbara Brotman
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Joy Maguire-Dooley listed her guidelines for the job club. Talk about what you hope to do in the future. Show enthusiasm. No negativity.

"You cannot have Joy and negativity in the same room," she said.

Each person would get two minutes to speak.

It would take nearly three hours.

There were 70 unemployed men and women at this meeting of Naperville's Community Career Center job club, squeezing into rows of stacking chairs, standing along the wall, sitting on the floor and on desks. A year ago Maguire-Dooley, director of adult services for Lisle Township, who runs this club and another offered by the township, might have seen 20 or 30.

The dismal economy has transformed lives, throwing people who have lost their jobs into strange new worlds filled with job club meetings and online job searches, where a returned phone call is an accomplishment and a face-to-face interview a triumph.

That world is all around us. It is at your local Panera Bread, where a gathering of well-dressed men and women of a certain age may be an "accountability group" making sure everyone is following through on their job search plans.

It is in your e-mail inbox, where messages asking you to join someone's professional network are postcards from the land of unemployment.

And it is here in a Naperville, Ill., office building, in a meeting room where one after another, men and women rose, their impressive credentials painting an eloquent picture of how far the economy has fallen. Whole careers are summed up in a sentence.

Carolyn Kasper of Palatine, Ill., was having a hard time with the no-negativity rule. A former planner of corporate-sponsored events for GM, she has been trying to convince potential employers that she would be happy to accept an entry-level position



Joy Maguire-Dooley, foreground, director of Adult Services for Lisle Township Youth and Family Services, leads the discussion during the Lisle Township Job Club in Naperville, Ill.

in another field. So far, none has been convinced.

"I don't want to say it's very discouraging," she said. "But it is."

Cindy Roy of North Aurora, Ill., who had been laid off from a job in purchasing for a plant that made labels, offered the day's glimmer of good news. She said she had just been hired to do crowd management for the Chicago Cubs.

It is only a seasonal position, but there is always the possibility it might lead to something full time.

"I look at it as the opportunity of a lifetime," she said.

She will be interacting with vast numbers of people. Talk about networking.

The other job club members were still searching for their opportunities. They gave their two-minute presentations, one eye on the stop-sign paddle a fellow club member waved at the longer-winded.

Even in two minutes, personalities came through clearly. Salesmen bounded up, cheerfully booming out greetings. Techies murmured shyly.

A former telecommunications manager for a bank took the floor with a loud, clear voice,

but concluded in disappointment with his presentation.

"It's my first time here," he said. "Next time I'll do better."

There will likely be a next time, and a next time after that. People come back, and attend other job clubs and networking events on other days, in hopes of getting that precious gem of networking: a contact.

Maguire-Dooley has people include in their talks the names of target companies where they would like to work, in hopes that someone else at the meeting will know someone there. It works. Again and again, people raised their hands after a presentation.

"I know someone there."
"See me afterwards. I have a name."

Success is measured in small increments.

"I had two face-to-face interviews last week," Edward Johnson, II, a business systems analyst from Geneva, Ill., reported.

"And I had my resume hand-carried to a hiring manager."

The crowd murmured approval. "Wow," someone said.

On it went, highly qualified unemployed person after highly qualified unemployed person.



FEATURES



Brick by brick, TCU students are helping a local family's dream of owning a home come true. Tuesday in Features

Austin gets plugged in for SXSW

Bands, fans descend on city for festival

By Bibek Bhandari
Staff Writer

Road Closed. Detour.

The sign on Sixth Street in downtown Austin was a clear indication that something was going on. The place was the epicenter of the South by Southwest music festival.

Sixth Street was a musical mecca with an estimated 1,900 bands during the five-day musical mayhem that started March 18. More than 400 bands played Saturday — some for the first time and others for the third or fourth — in the 87 designated venues throughout Sixth Street and the sur-

rounding neighborhood.

As the afternoon dust settled down, the sounds only became louder and the sights more vibrant on the fourth day of SXSW. Men and women, most of them in tight jeans and imaginative T-shirts and many with piercings and colorful tattoos, strolled downtown with a purpose — to listen to some good music.

Music was everywhere. From the crowded Sixth Street to the comparatively calmer neighborhood near San Jacinto Boulevard and West Second Street, people walked toward the places their ears led them. Though there was music for every style — rap and hip hop, pop, bluegrass and electronic — rock and punk sounds reverberated through every other club or bar.

While some people enthusiastically lined up to listen to their favorite bands, others took a chance and hopped into a place that didn't have a cover charge.

People lined up in two separate lines at Emo's, one of the popular live music venues on Sixth Street, to hear a band from Australia.

A few blocks away, a crowd of people lounged on the rooftop of a bar, gawking at women on the street. And on the same block, the Dizzy Rooster welcomed a large crowd with a "no cover" poster at its entrance. Here, people were more interested in talking among themselves and watching the men's college basketball game between the University of Texas and Duke University than listening to Waltz for Venus, a rock band from Indianapolis.

While Sixth Street swarmed with people, venues off the popular destination were relatively calmer. Only countable fans were present at Solid Gold's performance at Club 115, but two hardcore fans of the Minneapolis band in their Solid Gold T-shirts and Ray-Ban Wayfarers made the crowd dance to their infectiously catchy brand of rock.

SXSW attracted musicians from all around the globe. Holger, a group from Brazil, danced to Solid Gold's music and mingled with the crowd while waiting for their turn to play at Club 115. Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant, known locally as the Rio, hosted six bands from the United Kingdom on Saturday as a part of International Music Industry Week. While female artist GoldieLocks mesmerized the crowd with her rapping style, The Gin Riots livened the ambience with "The Polka," one of their blistering punk rock songs. Austin club Elysium hosted "Japan Nite" on Friday and Saturday showcasing various Japanese musicians.

A group of musicians performed in the middle of Sixth Street. Armed with guitar, trumpet, violin and vocals, they performed for free in front of a large crowd.

But Sixth Street and its musical neighborhood were not only about music.

The smell of food, the sights of stores promoting SXSW souvenirs and tattoo shops attracted a large audience. Hungry stomachs prowled pizza shops and mobile hot dog trailers on Sixth Street and sat on sidewalks. As they gobbled their food, conversations about shows and bands were heard at every appetite junction.

As the lights dimmed at the venues and final calls were made, people exited with memories hanging in their heads, talked about the shows and their likes and dislikes. By 2:30 a.m., the crowds were thinning out. People disappeared into dark corners that were brightly lit up only a few hours before. The sounds of music faded with the hollering of drunks stumbling off into the night. The only sight left over from a night of music was the trash that covered Sixth Street — a reminder of the sea of people and the sights and sounds of SXSW.



BIBEK BHANDARI / STAFF WRITER

Tara Egan-Langley sings with British band The Crimea for a set at The Rio last week in Austin during the South by Southwest Music Festival. The performance was presented by The International Music Industry Week, a showcase of music from the United Kingdom.



BIBEK BHANDARI / STAFF WRITER

The closed streets provided a venue for street performers who played free impromptu performances for fans.

Student's work opens hearts and ears to cause

By Luke Urban
Staff Reporter

As a child, Elizabeth Boschini said she read books which portrayed deaf children as different and passive. Now given the chance to write her own books, she wanted to portray them as normal people in control of their lives.

The senior speech pathology major has authored two books, "Ellie's Ears" in May 2008 and "Happy Birthday to My Ears" in June 2008. "Ellie's Ears" is about an 8-year-old girl with bilateral implants, a hearing aid placed partly behind the ear and a second part surgically planted under the skin. She explains them and her hearing loss to a new student in her third grade classroom, Boschini said.

Boschini, who is Chancellor Victor Boschini's daughter, said her desire to work with the deaf started in fifth grade when she met a girl named Lauren Farnsworth. Farnsworth had a profound hearing loss and used a cochlear implant for hearing and listening in the classroom.

The cochlear implant allowed Farnsworth to listen and interact like a normal fifth-grade student, Boschini said.

There was a large population of students that didn't have the opportunity to receive cochlear implants to listen or talk, Boschini said. She learned sign language to

communicate with the students.

"I became a teacher and a friend to those students," Boschini said.

Speech pathology professor Lynn Flahive said she has known Boschini for two years, serving as her academic adviser, professor and clinical supervisor. In that time Flahive had seen Boschini's "motivation and passion" through her work," Flahive said. In addition to taking her classes, Boschini also does course selection and has given clinical assignments through the speech pathology program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Boschini teaches at a preschool for deaf children in Coppell called The Hearing School of the Southwest. Boschini said she also worked at camps for deaf children.

Boschini and Rachel Chaikof, the illustrator of the books, have been friends since meeting through the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on Facebook, Flahive said. Chaikof has a bilateral cochlear implant and attends the Savannah College of Art and Design as a photography major.

"Elizabeth is extremely passionate about her field of study and truly wants to make a difference in the lives of children," Chaikof said.

A parent of one of Boschini's former students at The Hearing School of the Southwest, Candice Bailey, said her son Blake has had the implants since he was 3 years

old. Candice Bailey said it has been great that Blake reads the books with his family to friends so they can better understand his disability and implants.

Boschini has received a positive response to her book at deaf-related events, receiving e-mails of pictures of children wearing "Ellie's Ears" gear and "Happy Birthday to My Ears" T-shirts on the day they receive their cochlear implants for the first time, Boschini said.

Boschini said the profits from the T-shirts are donated to Hear See Hope, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for research of a condition called Usher syndrome, a leading cause of deafblindness that affects both hearing and vision.

Boschini, who will graduate this spring, plans to earn a master's degree in speech-language pathology and pursue a certification as a listening and spoken language specialist.

ROSE BACA / NEWS EDITOR

Elizabeth Boschini has written two children's books that deal with hearing loss.



AMANDA RINGEL / Staff Designer

SPORTS & NEWS

BILLY KNOWS BEST

Players in minors can bolster your lineup



BILLY WESSELS

So here we are just 10 days away from the first pitch in the 2009 baseball season.

Hopefully, you have done most of your drafts by now. There are some perks to picking your team late in spring training, like getting the most up-to-date injury news and finding out who has been optioned to the minor leagues.

But even those players who are going to spend some time in the minors are valuable as late round draft picks.

A perfect example is Tampa Bay Rays pitcher David Price. Price made his major league debut September 14, and pitched 14 innings, earning a 1.93 ERA over five appearances during the regular season. But he really made his name in the playoffs, coming out of the bullpen to help the Rays get to their first World Series. Even though he is starting the year in the minor leagues, expect Price to return to the majors in the middle of May and still get 23-25 starts, win about 10 games and have an ERA around 3.20 and a WHIP of 1.30.

Another guy I like who will probably start the year in the minor leagues is Baltimore Orioles catcher Matt Wieters. I took this 23-year-old switch hitter with my first minor league pick in my keeper league. The door was open for Wieters to slide

into the starting catcher role in Baltimore at the end of last season, but the O's picked up veteran backstop Gregg Zaun to buy Wieters some more time to develop. He won't need much more though, the rookie is hitting .343 in 18 spring training games so far this preseason. Expect Wieters to join the major league club by June at the latest and get about 350 at bats, which is plenty of time for him to hit 15 home runs, collect 55 RBIs and hit about .290.

The Skiff-sponsored fantasy baseball league had its draft over Spring Break. I really do think I have the team to beat right now with first basemen sluggers Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals and Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies, and starting pitcher Chad Billingsley of the Los Angeles Dodgers and reliever Brad Lidge of the Phillies.

The best pick of the draft, in my eyes, was Rays designated hitter Pat Burrell with the 149th overall pick. Burrell has been pretty consistent over his career and expect a .260 average, 31 home runs and 92 RBIs.

I think the worst pick was Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones with the 27th overall pick. It seems like Jones is always hurt and this year won't be an exception. Look for a .300 average, 17 home runs and 72 RBIs.

The season is almost here and I am getting antsy. If you haven't drafted yet, get to drafting and I'll be back next week with more advice.

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

ENERGY

continued from page 1

Bates said the university installed energy-efficient lighting in all buildings 10 years ago. More efficient chillers were installed around the same time, dropping from an 800 kilowatt per ton usage to 550 kilowatt per ton, Bates said.

All new buildings and renovated buildings have also been equipped with energy-efficient windows and variable-frequency drives, Bates said. According to PlantServices.com, a variable-frequency drive can run motors that generate electricity at less than full speed when full power isn't needed.

Lauren Pitcher, communications specialist for Energy Star, said 126 buildings in the Metroplex earned the EPA's Energy Star rating in 2008, saving more than \$30 million in energy costs.

Energy Star buildings typically use 35 percent less energy

and emit 35 percent less greenhouse gases than average buildings, Pitcher said.

Replacing old heating and cooling systems can save up to 30 percent in energy costs a year and replacing fluorescent lights with more energy efficient bulbs can save millions in kilowatt hours, Pitcher said.

After the upcoming renovations of Milton Daniel Hall and Moncrief Hall, all current planned building renovations will be complete, Bates said.

Scharbauer Hall, scheduled for completion in December, will meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating by the U.S. Green Building Council, a stringent rating system, Bates said.

According to the Council's Web site, LEED standards include such criteria as reducing water usage in a building, indoor chemical and pollutant source control and reuse or recycling of construction waste.

McGOWAN

continued from page 1

own ways. As the program is in its first year, the Transitions team wanted students to create different angles of contributing to society with their programs.

After presenting her idea to the Transitions team, McGowan said she was awarded \$150 to proceed with her project. She used some of that money to purchase handkerchiefs for the students to use in one of her dance techniques, she said. The students hold the handkerchiefs in different formations allowing them to make creative movements with their bodies, she said.

Cobb, who used to be a physical education teacher at Oakhurst Elementary, said he helped McGowan get in contact with the school.

Julie Vidrine, TCU alumna and first grade physical education teacher at Oakhurst Elementary, said McGowan's creative move-

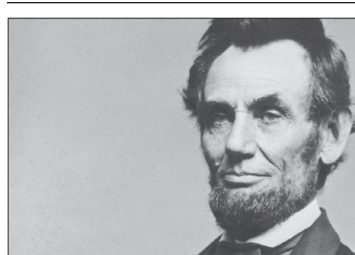
ment program lets students exercise without even realizing it. She said the first grade class often does dance-related activities, but this is the first time a TCU student has come to instruct a class.

McGowan said she loved being able to share her passion for dance with children in the community and knew she was doing something good when she saw the smiles on the children's faces during her activities.

Caitlin Daetwyler, a junior modern dance major who helped lead the dance class with McGowan, said she has taught creative movement classes to children before.

"My ultimate goal was to make sure that Summer didn't get overrun by the 65 first-graders," she said.

McGowan said she is going to teach more creative movement dance classes at Oakhurst Elementary in April and May to continue her contribution to the community.



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QUICK SPORTS

Club baseball team to face SMU

The TCU club baseball team will be playing at SMU 2 p.m. Saturday.

Sophomore Bobby Wilson, the president of the team, said the club is 1-3 on the season so far after playing both North Texas and Texas A&M twice.

Wilson said the team is well-rounded and has a good mix of players.

"We're a young team with a lot of freshmen and sophomores," he said.

The team's goal this season is to establish itself with strong play in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Wilson said.

Women's volleyball club travels for conference tournament

The TCU women's volleyball club will be playing at the campus of Texas A&M in their conference tournament all day Saturday against teams like A&M,

Texas, Baylor and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Lyndsie Gregorie, co-captain of the club, said the team is in the Southwest Intercollegiate Volleyball Association and only takes a certain number of its members to each tournament.

The team has gone to six tournaments this year and has improved since the start of the year, Gregorie said.

"We're trying to take the team to the next level," she said. "It's the last tournament of the season and we're taking 11 girls to it," Gregorie said.

Men's lacrosse team to face Texas A&M

The men's lacrosse team will face Texas A&M at 2 p.m. Sunday at the intramural fields.

Junior Erik Sandstrom, vice-president and co-captain of the lacrosse club, said that the team's experience has contributed to the development of the program.

"Our future looks really bright;

we only graduate two seniors this year," Sandstrom said.

The first weekend of Spring Break the club beat a nationally ranked Claremont team in California, Sandstrom said.

Texas A&M is the top team in the conference and is still strong despite suffering injuries early in the season, Sandstrom said.

The team will wrap its season up against Baylor and Sam Houston within the next two weeks, Sandstrom said.

Men's soccer club to play exhibition Sunday

Although there is no formal game this weekend, the men's soccer club will be playing at 3:15 Sunday at Rolling Hills Park.

Sophomore Matthew Smith, the soccer club's president, said the team is 5-3 in the season.

Smith said during the spring the team mainly plays against former collegiate soccer players instead of current college clubs.

The main season comes in the fall when the club plays other university teams like Texas A&M and the University of Texas, Smith said.

"We have a lot of seniors that are graduating this semester," he said.

Smith said he is hoping more freshmen will join the squad next year to add to the club's core of players.

The team usually plays 10 to 11 games per season and has two or three games left this year, Smith said.

— Staff reporter Luke Urban



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ETC.



Today in History

The University of Oregon defeats The Ohio State University 46-33 on this day in 1939 to win the first-ever NCAA men's basketball tournament.

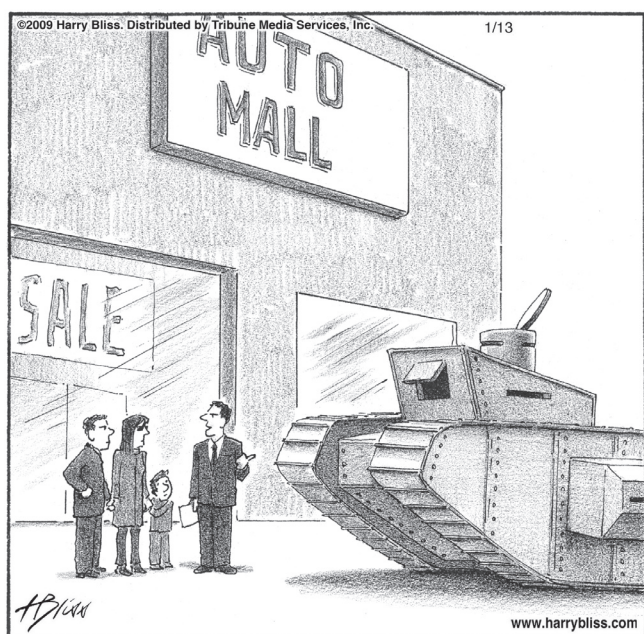
— History Channel

Joke of the Day

Q: What do you get if Batman and Robin get smashed by a steam roller?
A: Flatman and ribbon.

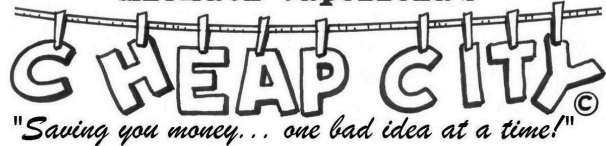
Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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Michael Capozzola's



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

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

See Tuesday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Thursday's Solutions

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

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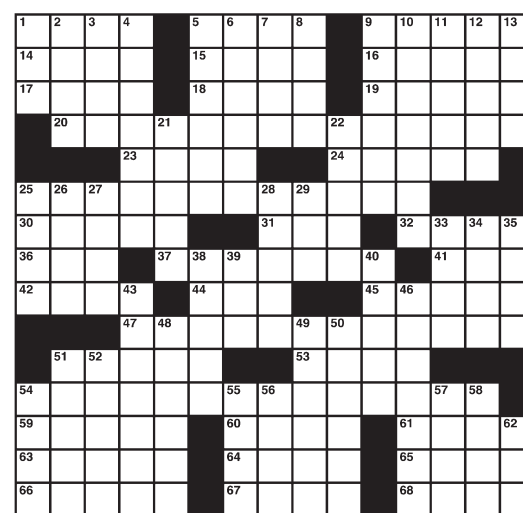
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ACROSS

- 1 Place for storage
- 5 Own (up)
- 9 PBS's "The Gourmet TV Show"
- 14 Pamplona runner
- 15 Vista: search engine
- 16 Three-layer snacks
- 17 Quaff
- 18 Pond denizen
- 19 Inspector on the telly
- 20 Undercover cop?
- 23 Drama award
- 24 Storytelling slave
- 25 Introduction to "SeinLanguage"?
- 30 Campus limbers
- 31 Who, in Quebec
- 32 Babe in the woods
- 36 Wyo. neighbor
- 37 Vue and Aura, in the auto world
- 41 Gp. with Bucks and Bobcats
- 42 Houston shuttle letters
- 44 T'ai
- 45 Weakened
- 47 Words to roust an oversleeping ecclesiastic?
- 51 New drivers, typically
- 53 Musical with the song "The Gods Love Nubia"
- 54 Cannery worker's credo?
- 59 Battery connection
- 60 Mope
- 61 '60s quartet member
- 63 It can pick up a plane
- 64 Catalina, e.g.
- 65 Placekicker Jason
- 66 Sanctify
- 67 Roe source
- 68 vu



By Spencer Corden

3/27/09

DOWN

- 1 Elm et al.: Abbr.
- 2 React to a kneelapper
- 3 Part of a wet quintet
- 4 Dad-blasted
- 5 A right may cause one
- 6 One skipping church?
- 7 Have the main role
- 8 "Smooth Operator" singer
- 9 Domestic class, briefly
- 10 Triathletes
- 11 Concealed
- 12 Models
- 13 Belgian river
- 21 Deep chasm
- 22 Bride follower
- 25 One who used to spend markkaa
- 26 Eye layer
- 27 His...: big shot
- 28 Outfit
- 29 Pelt
- 33 Author Quindlen
- 34 "Yeah, right!"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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3/27/09

- 35 Diminish
- 38 "Don't... surprised"
- 39 Holy day: Abbr.
- 40 Any ABBA singer
- 43 Meeting plans
- 46 Protected, as a home
- 48 Walks on stage
- 49 Spanish stewlike dish
- 50 Put on the line
- 51 Relating to pitch
- 52 Eat away
- 54 Zinger
- 55 Greek letters
- 56 Compensate for oversleeping
- 57 Low-lying area
- 58 Key with four sharps: Abbr.
- 62 Org. with an online DoctorFinder

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TCBCCollege (Trinity Chapel) Services: 9:30 & 11am; college: 11am.

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SPORTS



See a recap of the baseball team's weekend series against San Diego State. Tuesday

BASEBALL

FIRE AWAY Visiting Aztecs to kick off home stand

By Michael Carroll
Sports Editor

They say home is where the heart is. But the Horned Frogs are hoping home is where the wins are starting with tonight's series opener against conference opponent San Diego State.

Baseball season will officially kick into high gear for the Horned Frogs this weekend when they begin a string of seven straight home games in a span of 10 days. The homestand will tie the team's longest of the season. The team has another extended stay in late April.

A 14-6 record to start the season, not including last night's contest against Baylor, had the Horned Frogs ranked 16th in Baseball America's Top 25 rankings.

The series against SDSU (16-8), winners of nine of their last 11 games, will be the Horned Frogs' second bout against another Mountain West Conference team this season. The Horned Frogs took two of three from Utah last weekend in Salt Lake City and currently sit in fourth place in the conference.

Last season, the Horned Frogs shredded SDSU for 30 runs during a three-game series in San Diego, but only managed to walk away with two wins.

At the conclusion of this weekend's series, the Horned Frogs will have a two-day lay-off before hosting the UT Arlington on Wednesday night. The Horned Frogs bested the



Sophomore Greg Holle throws a pitch during the game against Stephen F. Austin on Tuesday. Holle pitched five innings of the game, which the Horned Frogs won 10-2.

TCU vs. SDSU

Where: Lupton Stadium
Game 1: 6:30 p.m.
Game 2: 4 p.m. Saturday
Game 3: 1 p.m. Sunday

Mavericks 11-3 in Arlington on March 3.

A series against conference-leading New Mexico next weekend will conclude the Horned Frogs' lengthy stay in Fort Worth.

Aztec ace to pitch tonight

San Diego State right-handed pitcher Stephen Strasburg, a potential No. 1 overall pick in June's MLB Draft, is expected to take the mound for the Aztecs tonight.

The 6-foot-4-inch, 220-pound junior, who frequently eclipses 100 mph on the radar gun, has

been almost unstoppable this season. In five starts, Strasburg is 4-0 with a 1.57 ERA.

He has struck out 74 batters in 34.1 innings of work, giving him an average of 19.4 strikeouts per nine innings of work. The NCAA record for strikeouts per nine innings in a season is 16.8.

— Sports editor Michael Carroll

QUICK SPORTS

2009 football schedule released

For the second straight season the Frogs will be playing 12 straight weeks, but unlike last year, all games will be on Saturdays.

Also, the team will be alternating between home and road games every week this season.

Two times are yet to be set:

the two road games on the East Coast against Virginia and Clemson.

All of the Mountain West Conference games will be televised on Versus, CBS College Sports or the Mtn. TV deals are still in the works for the two games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents.

— Staff writer Billy Wessels

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 12	Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.	TBA
Sept. 19	Texas State	Fort Worth	6 p.m.
Sept. 26	Clemson	Clemson, S.C.	TBA
Oct. 3	SMU	Fort Worth	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Air Force	Colorado Springs, Colo.	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	Colorado State	Fort Worth	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	BYU	Provo, Utah	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	UNLV	Fort Worth	3 p.m.
Nov. 7	San Diego State	San Diego	3 p.m.
Nov. 14	Utah	Fort Worth	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 21	Wyoming	Laramie, Wyo.	1 p.m.
Nov. 28	New Mexico	Fort Worth	Noon



Offensive linemen participate in a drill during spring practice earlier this month.

“So, that’s when the fight broke out...”



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