

GAMING 2

A Major League Gaming event is coming to Dallas.

BERRY BASH

BANDS, LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN WEST BERRY BLOCK PARTY,
PAGE 7



GREEN RIVER ORDINANCE



NELO



COLLECTIVE DREAMS

Nelo, Green River Ordinance, and Collective Dreams are just some of the 50 bands that are scheduled to play during the West Berry Block party on April 16th. The event will take place at five local venues, including one outdoor main stage.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DENI STOYANOVA

COMMUNICATION 3

Strategic Communication students compete in JCPenney's social media campaign.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT 3

SGA adds provision that changes the process on election fines.



TECHNOLOGY

Major League Gaming Pro Circuit to come to Dallas in April

By **Katie Terhune**
Staff Reporter

Junior Nathan Mann has a job that would make most video gamers envious. As a graphics coordinator for Major League Gaming tournaments, the accounting and finance double major will be on-site at the MLG 2011 Pro Circuit video game competition coming to the Metroplex April 1-3.

The Dallas competition will feature Halo: Reach, StarCraft 2 and Call of Duty: Black Ops. It is expected to attract thousands of participants and spectators, according to a Feb. 3 press release.

Mann will be working at the event to stream the Halo competition over the Internet live, so gamers across the country can watch the action happening on the screens. He said he started working for Major League Gaming after participating in several of the organization's local competitions.

"I played in a couple tournaments they had in Dallas, and eventually I ended up getting the job from them in 2008, and

it's stuck ever since then," Mann said.

Mann works part time, helping MLG at each of their six annual competitions. The company flies Mann and other employees around the country to help with events that occur in cities around the U.S.

"It all started when I was a kid and I got a Nintendo 64. I'd always loved playing video games."

Nathan Mann

Accounting and finance double major

This year, Dallas will be the first city to pit gamers against each other for over \$120,000 in prizes.

There will be a separate screen and spectator area for each of the three games to be played, according to Katie Goldberg, vice president of PR for Major League Gaming. The venue will also include booths letting attendees play against the professional players, and

also showcasing games that have not been released to the public.

Goldberg advised students who want to get involved to come out to the event, even if it was just to watch. She also directed interested people to Major League Gaming's official website, where they can practice against other players and test their skills.

For Mann, the video game industry was something he wanted to be involved in from an early age.

"It all started when I was a kid and I got a Nintendo 64," he said. "I'd always loved playing video games."

Mann said he got more involved with gaming in high school when Xbox Live, a service that allows people who own an Xbox to play video games over the internet with people all over the world, debuted in 2002.

"Eventually [Major League Gaming] had a tournament that was in Dallas, and I decided to go to it and see what it was like," he said.

After participating in several

competitions, his passion for video games translated into the kind of job that many gamers aspire to have.

"The company flies me out, and pays me to go across the country to work with video games all weekend," he said. "[My friends] think it's really cool, and it's a fun job to be able to do that. I think a lot of them are jealous."

Sam Kirkendoll, a senior writing and philosophy double major, said he plays around 20 hours of video games a week.

Kirkendoll said although he has never attended an MLG event, he did occasionally host tournaments in which he and his friends played against each other. He said he believed the MLG's upcoming competition may garner student attention because so many people on TCU's campus play video games.

"If you're good, you can make money," said Kirkendoll, whose friend who was a professional gamer.

"It's kind of cool that professional gaming is becoming a thing now," he said. "Where



COURTESY OF LINDS PANTHER

The Major League Gaming 2011 Pro Circuit video game competition will come to the Dallas Convention Center April 1-3.

it's going, it's going to be as big as football or baseball. It's definitely entering into the realm of professional sports."

Kirkendoll said he appreciated that the MLG competitions awarded monetary prizes to the best players.

"It takes skill. Anyone who argues that video games shouldn't be a professional sport, I'm flabbergasted why they would say that," he said. "You see people getting paid millions of dollars to play football."

Major League Gaming's 2011 Pro Circuit

When: April 1-3

Where: Dallas Convention Center

\$25 for spectators

\$280 per four-person team for Halo: Reach

\$70 per person for StarCraft 2
\$240 per four-person team for Call of Duty: Black Ops

For more information, visit majorleaguegaming.com.

NEW YORK

Bronx Zoo's missing cobra speaks out on Twitter about escape

By **Cristian Salazar**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Bronx Zoo may still be looking for its missing cobra, but a tongue-in-cheek Twitter user is charting its supposed progress.

Someone using the handle BronxZoosCobra has been tweeting to a quickly growing number of followers —

more than 85,000 by early Tuesday evening. In contrast with the user posing as the 20-inch, highly venomous snake, the Bronx Zoo had about 6,000 followers.

"On top of the Empire State Building!" BronxZoosCobra posted. "All the people look like little mice down there. Delicious little mice."

Tweets included one about "Sex and the City": "I'm totally a SSSamantha."

Another entry riffed on the weather and New Yorkers' fears of the slithering escapee: "It's getting pretty cold out. I think it's prob-

ably time to crash. Oh look, an apartment window someone left open just a crack. Perfect!"

The Reptile House at the Bronx Zoo, run by the non-profit Wildlife Conservation Society, closed Friday after zoo workers searched but did not find the Egyptian cobra. Zoo officials said Monday they were confident the snake was hiding in the Reptile House but conceded that finding it would be difficult.

"The difficulty is that the 20-inch, pencil-thin snake, which is months old and weighs less than 3 ounces,

has sought out a secure hiding spot within the Reptile House," the zoo said, describing it as a "complex environment with pumps, motors and other mechanical systems."

"It's a missing snake on the lam. It's the stuff of comedy legend."

Kris Stoever

Writer and Editor from Denver

The user behind BronxZoosCobra refused to identify himself or herself or say who was typing the tweets.

"The iPhone touch screen works just as well with a tail," the person said in an email to The Associated Press signed, "Thankssss."

Asked about the Twitter feed's popularity, BronxZoosCobra "knew it would be popular with reptilian twitterers and a mild appeal to amphibians. Surprised the

mammal response has been so huge."

Kris Stoever, a writer and editor from Denver, said she found the cobra tweeting very witty.

"It's a missing snake on the lam. It's the stuff of comedy legend," Stoever said in a telephone interview.

The only Twitter account the snake was following was the one belonging to the Bronx Zoo, (at) TheBronxZoo. The zoo's account tweeted one message on Monday saying it understands the interest in the story.

"Right now," the zoo said, "it's the snake's game."

It could take weeks before the cobra feels secure enough to come out of hiding, the zoo said.

Though the cobra Twitter feed is clearly meant to be humorous, a real-life encounter with the snake would be no laughing matter.

Jeff Corwin, a wild-life expert for the Animal

Planet cable network, said the snake may be small but "has very toxic venom" and "should be respected."

It's unlikely that the cobra, accustomed to a subtropical climate, would survive very long in the Northeast cold if it leaves the Reptile House, Corwin said.

Asked how the snake was faring in the cold, the user behind the Twitter account said: "Hiding in passerby's scarves has been working for me so far, but I'm thinking about heading to a sauna to warm up for a bit."

New Yorkers, accustomed to urban legends about alligators thriving in the sewers, shouldn't be too worried, Corwin said.

"The truth is, you can sit on your toilet with comfort and relaxation," he said. "There will be no baby cobras coming up for a nibble."

Associated Press writer Ula Ilnytsky and AP news researcher Monika Mathur contributed to this report.


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TCU GREEK WEEK
3/27 - 4/2

MARKETING

Students compete for JCPenney campaign

By Heather Noel
Staff Reporter

TCU students in the strategic communication ad competition course have worked throughout the fall and spring semesters researching and constructing a marketing campaign for JCPenney, the sponsor of the 2011 National Student Advertising Competition.

The course is team-taught by Stacy Landreth Grau, an associate professor of professional practice in the Neeley School of Business, and Bill Johnson, an instructor in the Schieffer School of Journalism. Students from both the Neeley and Schieffer schools participated in the class, Grau said.

As part of the marketing competition, JCPenney presented a case study to the students, who then divided up into teams to cover various aspects of the campaign like media planning, account planning, creative aspects, digital aspects and strategy and promotion, Grau said.

Dessa Lambert, a senior advertising and public relations major, said the class worked to create a marketing campaign including advertisements for television, print and digital platforms. The students then designed the entire marketing campaign, from research to decisions on how and where advertisements would appear, she said.

The students will send a 32-page written version of the proposed campaign to judges in early April and will give a 20-minute presentation at the district competition April 13-

15 in Oklahoma City, Okla., she said. The top two finishers out of the 19 schools competing in the district competition will move on to the national competition in June, she said.

The course was designed to resemble a marketing or advertising agency, she said. Lambert served as the account manager of the new business team, she said, which managed all the teams and ensured the long-term goals of the campaign remained clear.

"Social media is a great way to engage with our customers and invite new customers to discover JCPenney."

Kate Coultas
Corporate communication manager

Lambert said students on the class's digital team monitored the company's Twitter and Facebook accounts every couple of days. She said it was exciting to work with a client that already engaged in social media.

Grau said social media has resulted in companies interacting with consumers on a more personal level.

Kate Coultas, corporate communications manager for JCPenney, wrote in an email that from posts and polling to contests and promotion, Facebook has provided a variety of ways for corporations like JCPenney to communicate with customers.

"Social media is a great way

to engage with our customers and invite new customers to discover JCPenney," Coultas wrote.

Jacqueline Lambiasi, associate professor of strategic communication, said she believed this interaction with customers requires time and resources from any company who uses social media.

Lambiasi is not involved with the ad competition class, she said, but teaches her students about social media's use in the business world. She said she believed as more companies turned to social media, they would demand more employees with social media knowledge.

"It's a great opportunity I think for students at TCU who are in strategic communication or in marketing to try to get some great experience while they're here," Lambiasi said. "Then I think they can easily find a job because companies and organizations are turning to [social media] more and more."

Although social media would remain an important part in engaging customers, Coultas wrote JCPenney would continue its television and print marketing initiatives.

"Our social marketing initiatives are part of an overall integrated marketing approach," she wrote in the email.

Lambert said students also looked at other digital platforms like JCPenney's iPhone application which launched in 2009. The applications included alerts on sales, events and other promotional messages, according to the JCPenney website.



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

A group photo of the TCU National Student Advertising Competition team in front of Frog Fountain in the Campus Commons.

SGA

Bill to revise appeals process passes

By Sydney Hicks
Staff Reporter

A bill to revise the appeals process of student election fines passed Tuesday night in the House of Student Representatives.

According to the bill, if the Judicial Board, the organization that handles appeals for elections fines, chooses not to meet within 48 hours, the initial ruling by the Elections and Regulations Committee about the fine would stand.

Lizzy Caudill, the Elections and Regulations Committee Chair, said the Student Body Code states the Judicial Board acts as an appellate court for violations and must make decisions within 48 hours of an appeal. She said if the board chooses not to meet, there is no reason the fine should be reversed.

Jeffrey Chatman, a representative for the Class of 2014, said this bill was not a total fix and would create additional problems.

He said in the past if the Judicial Board did not meet, students would be able to get out of a fine. With this bill, students that have a good reason for an appeal of a fine might get one anyway if the Judicial Board did not meet, Chapman said.

Kari Berdelle, a representative for the College of Communication, said appeals not being heard should not be a problem if the Judicial Board does its job. This bill would serve as a "just in case," she said.

The bill passed with a majority vote.

Election Code bill passes

A bill to revise the House of Student Representatives election code passed regarding candidates campaigning for a position in the House under their minor.

Caudill said some representatives have served under their minor in the past, but SGA would prefer to fill positions in the House with people under that major. She said students could only be appointed to a position under their minor if no other qualified applicants were available.

For example, a student with a minor in the College of Science and Engineering could not run for a position in that college, but might be appointed if the position is not filled with a student with a major from that college.

Caudill said because some minors require only 18 hours, students could take all classes as a freshman and

then run for that minor as a senior, without having taken a class in three years.

Berdelle said the Student Body Code states a candidate must belong to the constituency they represent but does not specify what "belong to" means.

The bill passed with a majority vote.

House reapportions seats

A resolution to reapportion the House seats for next year's session passed with a unanimous vote.

Michael Dabbs, a representative for the AddRan College of Liberal Arts, said each year the House must reapportion seats after the number of students in each college changes. The Neeley School of Business lost a seat, and the College of Science and Engineering gained a seat.

Wiersgalla sworn in

In other news, Caroline Wiersgalla was sworn in as the new Vice President of External Affairs. Caudill said filing for positions in the general elections will begin today and end next Tuesday at midnight. Applications will be posted to the SGA website, Caudill said.

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PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Student's innovative idea serves as example

Many of us have grand ideas of extravagant events that merely flash through our minds as a thought that is quickly ignored and forgotten, but this is not the case for everyone.

To see someone who really acted on one of those whimsical brain spasms, we need look no further than TCU's own Ted Wick, who is the man behind the West Berry Block Party that is happening in April.

The event involves several of the bars and restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the TCU campus and will hold performances from 50 bands on April 16. This whole event was born after Wick looked out his window and thought it would be neat to have a music festival.

Wick collaborated with his roommate, friends and local business owners to make this collection of musical talent a reality, proving that you can, in fact, act on a seemingly crazy idea and turn it into a highly anticipated, never-done-before event.

If we all acted on our mildly nuts ideas, imagine all the cool things that would be available to us on a day-to-day basis. Granted, some ideas are unrealistic altogether, but the idea of having a big community barbecue might be just the thing.

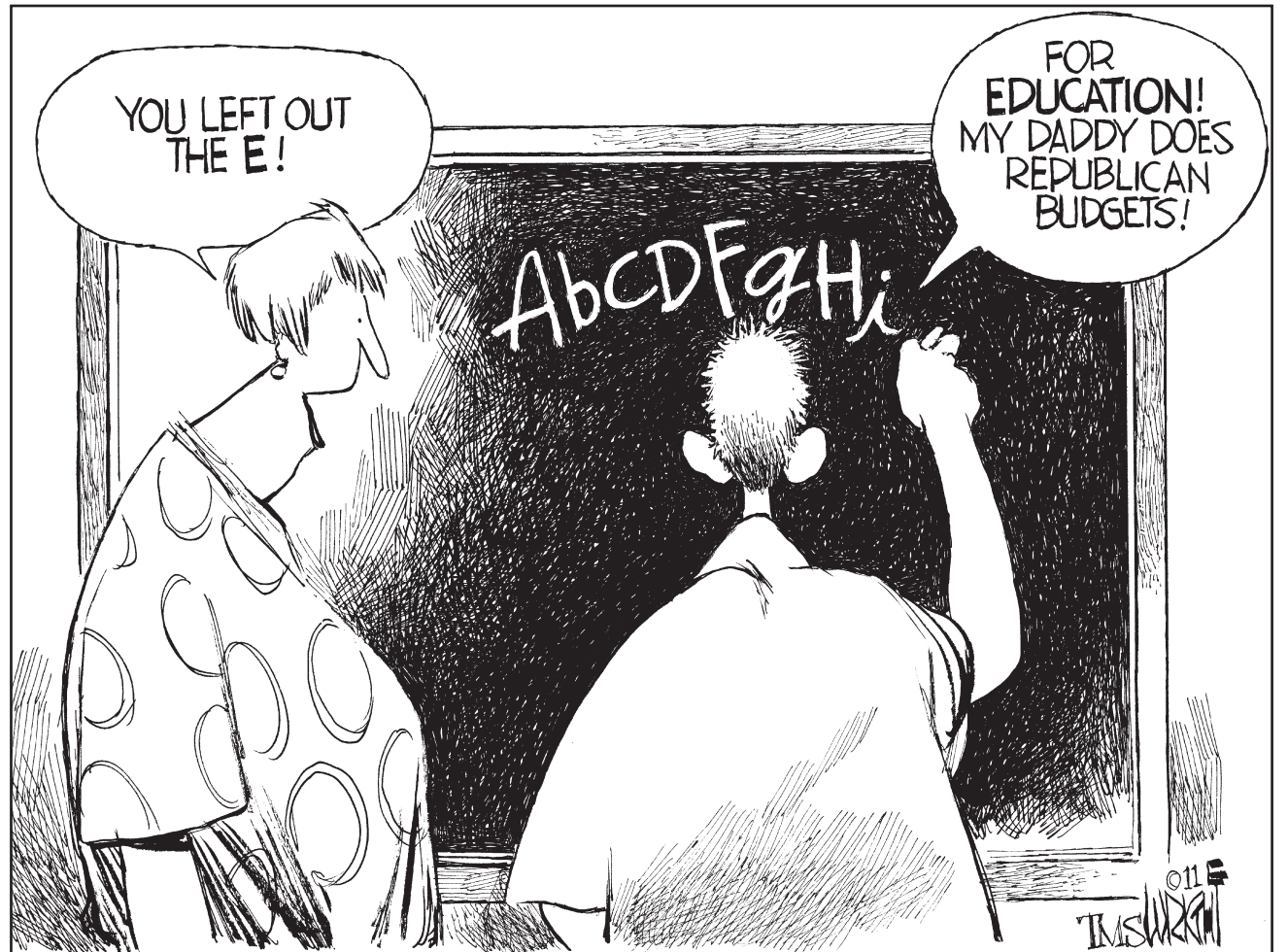
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Don Wright is a political cartoonist for the Palm Beach Post.

Assigning .xxx domain a good move



Bailey McGowan

The Internet Corporations for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) authorized the creation of a .xxx suffix for pornography websites on March 18, according to a March 19 article from *The New York Times*. The plan would eventually require the sites to register with a .xxx suffix so they aren't confused with other businesses of similar names. ICANN would not regulate the information on such sites.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legiti-

mate nature for pornography sites. While some sex industry members and religious groups are strongly opposed, the benefits of the .xxx suffix outweigh the drawbacks for a variety of reasons.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legitimate nature for pornography sites.

The sex industry claims it will be subjected to censorship by governments, and in that sense it is right. India has already declared it will not support the new .xxx suffix and will block what it calls the new red light district of the Internet.

Religious organizations,

such as Baptist Press, argue that the domain will make the spread of pornography more rapid and easier to access. That's clearly not the case when one considers that now all .xxx websites can be blocked from wandering eyes.

On the flip side, the .xxx domain will be scanned daily for viruses and create a secure site for payment. This would encourage people to use the sites because they wouldn't be concerned for the health of their computers or wallets.

Yes, pornography creates a demand for prostitution, sex trafficking and sexual assault through the feeding of sexual appetites. A domain catered for those who wish to visit those sites would prevent those who don't want to stumble upon them from doing so

accidentally.

The beauty of the Internet is its ability to give you access to any information you could possibly want. That extreme and awesome power has both positive and negative impacts. This is the same Internet that helped spark and organize the Egyptian uprising and provides us with breaking news. You can't have one without the other.

I am not a user of .xxx sites or any site that might even consider registering for a .xxx domain, but I do believe there needs to be a separate domain for such content. It can't be ignored, and through a .xxx domain name it won't be, even if it is censored by certain governments.

Bailey McGowan is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Burkburnett.



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

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STAFF

Design Editor: Akmal Marikar
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PERSPECTIVES

Program doesn't help students



Emily Atteberry

Your parents probably wouldn't have minded if they were paid \$1,000 a year to pester you.

Because that's what InsideTrack, a "student coaching" program charges — \$500 per semester — to do essentially the same thing your parents did: hover and nag.

According to InsideTrack's website, its service "enriches the student experience, improves enrollment and retention rates and provides valuable student feedback." But what does that really mean?

It offers 30-minute sessions via telephone once a week in which they ask students about progress, grades, good news and personal lives. It plans out times for students to talk to their parents. It creates a system of "reminders" for assignments.

Basically, the service lives your life for you, but better than you could live it alone.

Although InsideTrack's services sound superfluous and a bit like a money-scheme, recent studies indicate otherwise — sort of.

A study conducted by a professor and doctorate student at Stanford University, which was independent of and not funded by InsideTrack, indicated that these

coaching sessions made an impact on students' persistence, especially in males.

Tested over two years at various unnamed universities in the country, the study noted the academic differences of two "control groups" — students who received no coaching or who were athletes and those who did.

After six months, coached students were more than five percent more likely to be enrolled than the control group, which is a nine percent gain in retention. The study showed that, on average, the likelihood of a student graduating was four percent higher than those who weren't.

The study stressed the importance of retention — that is, students staying in school. But it never once mentioned actual improvement of exam scores or course grades. This omission led my confidence in InsideTrack's services to falter.

Not only do I question the tangible effects of the coaching, but I also question the coaching at all.

"Oftentimes in higher education, we assume that students know how to behave," the researchers wrote. "We assume that they know how to study, how to prioritize and how to plan."

That's where, they argue, coaching comes in.

On one hand, they're right — college can be a real academic and culture shock for incoming students who expected to be throwing Frisbees and partying all day. But the readjustment to the

reality of college is part of growing up and becoming a college student. I can't help but wonder if coaches learning these lessons for students isn't detrimental.

In one of the testimonial videos on InsideTrack's website, a student vouched for the services, explaining that the processes for applying for internships, scholarships, study abroad and various other opportunities is too convoluted for him to manage.

What happens when he graduates? Does he suddenly expect everything to be simple and pretty? Parking tickets, mortgages, applying for loans — the red-tape of life is inevitable.

Some may argue that the skills he learned while being coached could carry through the rest of his life, but I am not sure that anything is being taught to students. Rather, things are being done for them.

Despite my skepticism, I know some students may truly need these services. Those with learning or mental disabilities could be one group that could benefit from persistent life-managing.

But for the majority of students, InsideTrack's personal "coaching" is little more than having another set of parents nagging you or taking care of the "hard things" so you don't have to do them.

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

Citizenship survey results troubling



Jake Harris

Quick, who is the vice president of the United States? Which countries did America fight in World War II? Who led the civil rights movement in the South during the 1960s? If the answers to these three relatively simple questions came to your mind immediately, than you would be in the majority of American citizens, but not by much.

In a recent study done by *Newsweek* magazine, 1,000 Americans were randomly asked a series of questions that appear on a U.S. citizenship test. Thirty-eight percent failed. That means that only 620 people out of 1,000 are even eligible to live in America if they had to pass a citizenship test right now.

Other interesting statistics include these wonderful tidbits of information: Six percent did not even know where to find "Independence Day" on the calendar; 70 percent had no clue that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and 43 percent did not

know that the first 10 amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights.

Interestingly enough, in an unscientific poll accompanying an article about this subject on the *New York Daily News* website, 79 percent of respondents said they "knew all of that stuff and anyone who doesn't should be ashamed." Only seven percent honestly responded with "No way — I would have struggled with those questions."

This raises the question: is America a nation of "know-nothings?" We cannot pass our own citizenship test, but think of ourselves as relatively knowledgeable about how our government works. At a time when the world is rapidly becoming more accessible, other countries know more about America than American citizens do. Anyone who has watched "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" has seen this phenomenon — the "Jaywalking" segment of his show never fails to exploit the ignorance of many American citizens.

Having lived overseas while attending high school, I experienced this firsthand. The Japanese and Korean citizens I came into contact with while living on military bases could speak more intelligently about American politics and govern-

ment than most Americans I know of. They were also very knowledgeable about their own history. It was a sense of pride to them to be able to talk about these things because it meant they had a connection to America, a country many of them had heard about but had never visited.

The world knowledge that those people gained was incredible. This world knowledge is something that American citizens take for granted, and that is the main reason the above statistic is so alarming. We have become apathetic about our country.

That we seem to not care or want to do anything about this issue is troubling; any eighth grader could tell you who Martin Luther King Jr. was or who America fought in World War II. It is a scary thought to think that American citizens might be the people who know the least about America and they actually live in the country.

The solution for this is to emphasize our history and become more familiar with our present. But the only way to emphasize our culture is to stop being so lazy and to do it ourselves, but that does not seem to be happening.

Jake Harris is a freshman journalism major from Wahiawa, Hawaii.



SXC.HU

GANDHI

A DAY of PEACE

Bullied as a youth, he sought advice from his grandfather. What he learned would change his life.

ARUN GANDHI

Peace Activist, Proponent of Nonviolence,
Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

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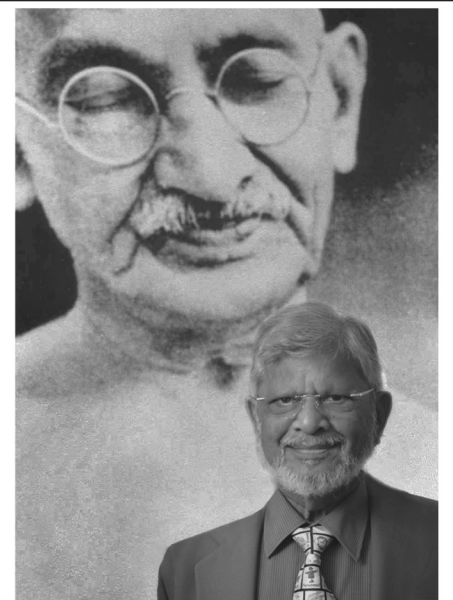
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Frog Feature

Getting to know Ted Wick, junior strategic communication major.



SARAH GREUFE / STAFF WRITER

By Sarah Greufe
Staff Writer

In the process of putting the West Berry Block Party into motion — his own idea, by the way — junior Ted Wick tells a little bit about his past with music. He said he is no rookie to planning gigs or the music business. He said he hoped a lot of people would come out to the show April 16, and if all goes well, he plans on making it an annual event.

Where are you from originally?

“Originally I am from Toronto, Canada, but I’m mainly from Houston. I only spent the first eight years of my life in Toronto. I spent my high school years in Houston, and my parents live in Minneapolis now. I have identity crisis problems all the time now with where exactly I am from.”

What are you currently studying at TCU, and where do you hope it takes you?

“Well, I’m actually studying strategic communication. It’s a great major. I’m hoping it takes me to an ad firm, PR firm or events coordinating like what I’m doing right now.”

Have you ever planned an event like this before?

“Yes, I have. I started booking local rock shows for local and regional bands back in high school. I believe it was my junior or senior year in high school when I started that. Then I started a band at that

time and the guitar player — who is my best friend — his dad started noticing what I was doing and he brought me over to the night club business. I started booking 18-and-under nights when I was 18. Then I moved on from there to 18-and-up nights. That was all two summers ago, and then last summer, that’s what I was doing — I mean, I was bringing in thousands upon thousands of people. I still continued the music thing and doing a bunch of shows. What I really realized is that I hated the night club, and I wanted to focus all my time on doing music shows.”

How did you first get involved with music?

“I guess it started when I was in eighth grade and I started going to guitar lessons. I have always been in love with music, and it has always been my goal to do something in the music industry, if possible. It’s a very hard industry to get into, and that’s why I’m going to college because I want a back-up plan. I don’t consider strat comm a back-up plan or plan B or anything, but I really want to

do music. So I got into that, and freshman year I formed a band out of high school, and I’ve been in two bands.”

Are you currently still in a band?

“No, I gave up that. It’s too much drama. I manage bands still. Currently, I manage a band called Collective Dreams. I also manage another guy, Josh Stallings.”

What kind of music do you prefer personally?

“My favorite genre would be alternative rock/indie rock. My favorite band of all time is Tool. Then No. 2 would be Dance Gavin Dance, and then I think No. 3 would probably have to be Circa Survive or Type O Negative.”

Did you have any major influences in your decision to pursue music?

“It was my parents basically telling me that I couldn’t do it. That was a main one. I’ve kind of always wanted to prove them wrong. I

think the other person that was a major influence is Peter Steele, the lead singer of Type O Negative. They were a big band in the ‘90s and then kind of fell off the face of the earth. Fun fact is they were the first band to hit platinum on Roadrunner Records, which was the record company that ended up signing Slipknot and Nickelback. Had that not happened, you wouldn’t have heard bands like Nickelback and Slipknot.”

What do you hope to see come out of the West Berry Block Party?

“I hope we have like an Austin City Limits or Lollapalooza-type music fest here in Fort Worth... It’s a music fest in Fort Worth — I mean, it’s a great city. If you look around, all this art that’s here right now is done by Fort Worth artists. We have a ton of great bands, and I think we have a great art scene here and I think it needs to be exposed. I think people forget because we are so close to Austin how great we are. I want WBBP to become big enough so that people recognize the art’s here.”

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FORT WORTH

Students bring bands to Berry Street for block party

By Sara Greufe
and Luis Ortiz

Staff Writer and Staff Reporter

TCU students have teamed up with local bands and businesses to create a music festival titled the West Berry Block Party, a spokesperson for the event said.

Junior Ted Wick, who came up with the idea for the project, said he got the idea when sitting out on the balcony of his apartment.

"I thought how cool would it be if one day we got all the bars on West Berry block together, got some acts from around the country, maybe some pretty well-known names and just had a huge day of music right next to TCU," Wick said.

The event organizers announced via Twitter that the event will now be a Tsunami relief concert. The majority of the funds will go to Disaster Relief International, with the rest of the proceeds going towards re-cooperating the cost of putting on the event.

Wick said April 16 was cho-

sen because it is the last weekend before Easter and study days before final exams. Wick said many students go out of town and pay big money for music festivals such as Austin City Limits during the school year and thought it would be a good idea to bring the music closer to Fort Worth.

"West Berry is a pretty cool area of town," Wick said. "It's not that big but it's so close to campus. This is a good way to promote the community and everything."

Wick approached his friends, band members of Collective Dreams, a local band in the area, about the idea and the group set out to make the event happen, he said. Many local businesses offered sponsorship as well as a place to hold meetings, he said.

Wick said students Bryan Lee, Travis Hildenbrand, who is in a band playing at the event, Riley Knight and Kevin Benson were all instrumental in setting up the concert. He also said he received support from John Campbell and Erin Sweeney, who are affiliated

with Stay Wired Coffeehouse.

The group approached several venues, including The Moon, The Cellar, Stay Wired, The Aardvark and Old Rip's, he said.

Co-owner of Old Rip's Cy Barcus said they always participate with charity events no matter what they are.

"We actually try to be a part of the community, part of the TCU family," Barcus said. "Just try to be good sports and good citizens."

They will feature local bands such as Green River Ordinance, Skeleton Coast and Collective Dreams.

Singer and guitarist Bobby McCubbins of Skeleton Coast said he was all for the block party and even helped book some bands for the event. His passion for music is what drove him to want to participate in the event.

"If you're actually playing for a certain cause or a benefit, it's a little more humbling," he said. "It's more like, 'Hey, let's get together and do something for a community all the way across the world.'"



For McCubbins, community is a big theme for the event. "You're going to see all these kids from TCU colliding with the whole music scene," he said. "It's going to be interesting to see all those people together at once."

Bands from Austin and San Antonio will also play at the event, he said. Wick said the main stage will be located in the parking lot of Old Rip's.

West Berry Block Party

When: April 16

Where: West Berry Street.

Concerts will be held at Old Rip's, The Aardvark, The Moon, The Cellar and Stay Wired Coffeehouse. The main stage will be the parking lot behind Old Rip's.

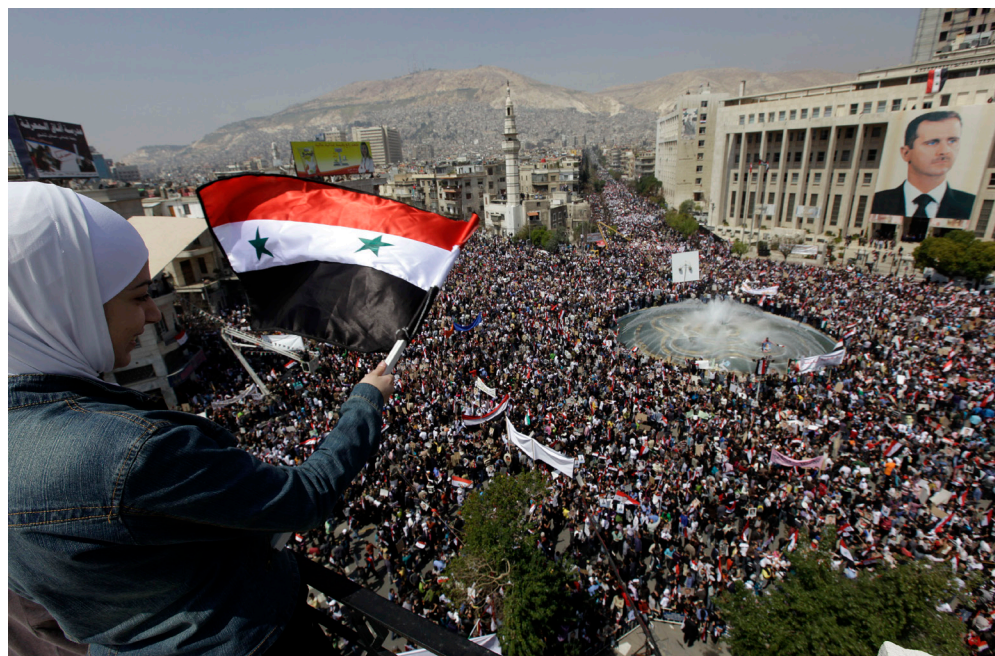
Tickets cost \$20 in advance, and \$25 the day of the event.

Note: Headlining bands include Green River Ordinance, Nelo and Collective Dreams. The majority of the proceeds will go to Disaster Relief International. Must be 18 years old to enter.

For more information visit westberryblockparty.com or facebook.com/westberryblockparty.

INTERNATIONAL

President offers concessions, fires Cabinet amid wave of unrest



BASSEM TELLAWI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-Syrian President Bashar Assad protester, waves Syrian flag as she looks to the crowd who demonstrate to show their support for their president, in Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday March 29, 2011.

By Zeina Karam
Associated Press

Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar Assad fired his Cabinet on Tuesday and

promised to end widely despised emergency laws — concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East.

The overtures, while largely symbolic, are a moment of rare compromise in the Assad family's 40 years of iron-fisted rule. They came as the government mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters in rallies

in the capital and elsewhere, in an effort to show it has wide popular backing.

Nearly every aspect of Syrian society is monitored and controlled by the security forces, and the feared secret police crush even the smallest rumblings of opposition. Draconian laws have all but eradicated civil liberties and political freedoms.

But with the protests that erupted on March 18, thousands of Syrians appear to have broken through a barrier of fear in this tightly controlled nation of 23 million.

"Syria stands at a crossroads," said Aktham Nuaisse, a leading human rights activist.

"Either the president takes immediate, drastic reform measures, or the country descends into one of several ugly scenarios. If he is willing to lead Syria into a real democratic transformation, he will be met halfway by the Syrian people," Nuaisse said.

The coming days will be key to determining whether Assad's concessions will quiet

the protest movement, which began after security forces arrested several teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall in the impoverished city of Daraa in the south.

The protests spread to other provinces and the government launched a swift crackdown, killing more than 60 people since March 18, according to Human Rights Watch. However, the violence has eased in the past few days and some predict the demonstrations might quickly die out if the president's promises appear genuine.

"People are tired from all this pressure and violence and I think if he (Assad) shows he's taken the people's demands seriously, they might stop," said a protester in Daraa who gave only his first name, Ibrahim, for fear of reprisals by security forces. "We're all waiting for his speech."

Still, tensions remained high in Daraa, where several hundred people were still staging a sit-in Tuesday, and in the Mediterranean port of Latakia,

which has a potentially volatile mix of different religious groups.

Assad, who inherited power 11 years ago from his father, appears to be following the playbook of other autocratic leaders in the region who scrambled to put down popular uprisings by using both concessions and brutal crackdowns.

The formula failed in Tunisia and Egypt, where popular demands increased almost daily — until people accepted nothing less than the ouster of the regime.

The unrest in Syria, a strategically important country, could have implications well beyond its borders given its role as Iran's top Arab ally and as a front line state against Israel.

Syria has long been viewed by the U.S. as a potentially destabilizing force in the Middle East. An ally of Iran and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, it has also provided a home for some radical Palestinian groups.

NATIONAL NEWS

Associated Press

Long blackouts pose risk to US reactors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before the nuclear emergency in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a power failure lasting for days at an American nuclear plant, whatever the cause, could lead to a radioactive leak. Even so, they have only required the nation's 104 nuclear reactors to develop plans for dealing with much shorter blackouts on the assumption that power would be restored quickly.

In one nightmare simulation presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009, it would take less than a day for radiation to escape from a reactor at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after an earthquake, flood or fire knocked out all electrical power and there was no way to keep the reactors cool after backup battery power ran out. That plant, the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station outside Lancaster, has reactors of the same older make and model as those releasing radiation at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which is using other means to try to cool the reactors.

And like Fukushima Dai-ichi, the Peach Bottom plant

has enough battery power on site to power emergency cooling systems for eight hours. In Japan, that wasn't enough time for power to be restored. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Institute trade association, three of the six reactors at the plant still can't get power to operate the emergency cooling systems. Two were shut down at the time. In the sixth, the fuel was removed completely and put in the spent fuel pool when it was shut down for maintenance at the time of the disaster. A week after the March 11 earthquake, diesel generators started supplying power to two other two reactors, Units 5 and 6, the groups said.

The risk of a blackout leading to core damage, while extremely remote, exists at all U.S. nuclear power plants, and some are more susceptible than others, according to an Associated Press investigation. While regulators say they have confidence that measures adopted in the U.S. will prevent or significantly delay a core from melting and threatening a radioactive release, the events in Japan raise questions about whether U.S. power plants are as prepared as they could and should be.

A top Nuclear Regulatory Commission official said Tues-

day that the agency will review station blackouts and whether the nation's 104 nuclear reactors are capable of coping with them.

As part of a review requested by President Barack Obama in the wake of the Japan crisis, the NRC will examine "what conditions and capabilities exist at all 104 reactors to see if we need to strengthen the regulatory requirement," said Bill Borchardt, the agency's executive director for operations.

Borchardt said an obvious question that should be answered is whether nuclear plants need enhanced battery supplies, or ones that can last longer.

Wisconsin judge halts anti-union bargaining law

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP) — The showdown over Wisconsin's law that strips most public workers of nearly all their collective bargaining rights shifted from the Statehouse back to the courts Tuesday, but it remained unclear when or even whether the measure would take effect.

The law strips away workers' rights to collectively bargain for anything except wages. It also requires most public workers to contribute more to their pensions and health insurance.



CAROLYN KASTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Feb. 27, 2007 file photo, the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant is seen in Delta, Pa. Long before a massive earthquake and tsunami unleashed a nuclear crisis in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a similar long-term power outage — whatever the cause — could lead to a radioactive leak from a nuclear reactor.

weighs in.

In Ohio, meanwhile, Republican legislators pushed legislation forward to similarly deny workers bargaining rights.

Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers pushed through passage of the law earlier this month despite three weeks of massive protests that drew up to 85,000 people to the state Capitol and a boycott by Democratic state senators. Opponents immediately filed a series of lawsuits that resulted in further chaos that might not end until the state Supreme Court

Sumi said during a hearing. "That is what I now want to make crystal clear."

Sumi also is considering claims by some officials that the law technically took effect last weekend after a state agency unexpectedly published it online.

The back and forth amplified the often angry debate between new Gov. Scott Walker, his Republican allies in the Legislature and the state's public sector unions.

TEXAS NEWS

Associated Press

Texans could get to vote on expanding gambling

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lawmakers considered 17 proposals Tuesday that could expand gambling in Texas, including building billion-dollar casinos and installing slot machines at racetracks.

The bills range from the modest addition of slot machines at existing dog and horse racing tracks to a 16-page constitutional amendment allowing development of eight Las Vegas-style destination casinos.

Dozens of people testified before the House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee Tuesday, with supporters saying that gaming taxes could put an additional \$1 billion a year into state coffers. Lawmakers are

currently grappling with a \$27-billion budget shortfall in providing existing state services. Gambling proponents said this might be the best opportunity to expand gambling in Texas in a decade.

The Texas Gaming Association is backing House Joint Resolution 112, the omnibus constitutional amendment that would license eight casinos, allow slot machines at eight racetracks and allow more gaming on Indian lands. The association says its proposal could bring in \$1.2 billion a year in gaming taxes and promote luxury resorts because of the limited number of licenses.

Bejeweled Cowboys WR Bryant sued for \$850,000-plus

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant is facing two lawsuits seeking

more than \$850,000 for unpaid jewelry bills, NFL and NBA tickets and loans.

A Tarrant County man is suing Bryant for \$588,500 worth of watches, earrings, bracelets, rings and other jewelry, plus \$15,850 worth of tickets and \$11,000 in unpaid loans. All the transactions were between June 2009 and June 2010.

Receipts signed by Bryant show that they were supposed to be paid by July 30, 2010, "or when he signs his first Marketing or Sports Contract, whichever happens first," the lawsuit said. The suit was filed in September and amended last week, before Bryant allegedly unleashed a tirade at a mall security officer concerned about his drooping pants.

Another lawsuit filed last week says Bryant owes a New York company \$246,000 for jewelry purchases made between January and May 2010.

UT's Powers defends higher education research

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The president of the University of Texas has defended research that might not have immediate commercial applications as the state faces lean budget times.

William Powers Jr., in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman, also says he supports small classes that generate less tuition and state funding than larger ones. Powers says the UT campus is "very attentive to this and very worried about it."

Powers made the comments after UT System regents reconsidered the \$200,000 a year special adviser job for Rick O'Donnell. O'Donnell, as a senior research fellow for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, argued that university research is harmful to good teaching.

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OPINION

Prediction: Texas Rangers should win the AL Pennant



Allen Kellogg

The American League appears to be much more competitive than the National League this season. Three teams in the AL East have legitimate playoff shots. My quick picks: The Boston Red Sox will win the AL East. The Minnesota Twins win the AL Central. The Texas Rangers win the AL West. The New York Yankees win the AL Wild Card. The Rangers will win the American League Pennant, which will set up a World Series showdown with the NL Champion Philadelphia Phillies. The Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera is my pick for AL MVP. The CY Young will go to the Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez, but only if he is not traded to the National League at the deadline. Here is a divisional breakdown of the AL:

AL East

After not making the playoffs last year, the Boston Red Sox brought in two superstar talents in outfielder Carl Crawford and first baseman Adrian Gonzales. Inserting these two players into the lineup gives the Sox one of the best offenses in the major leagues.

Boston's two issues revolve around the health of second baseman and former MVP Dustin Pedroia and infielder Kevin Youkilis. Can they return from their season-ending injuries and play at an all-star caliber level?

As for Boston's starting pitching, it remains to be seen whether Josh Beckett and John Lackey can return to ace form. If the Red Sox stay healthy, they are the favorites in the American League, but do not count out the Bronx Bombers.

The New York Yankees will challenge their arch rivals at every corner. The Yankees were two games from the World Series last year, and despite losing the bidding war for Cliff Lee, they remain a playoff contender. The Yankees will win the wild card behind CC Sabathia and their aging, but

deadly offense. With A-Rod, Mark Teixeira, Robinson Cano and Derek Jeter, the Yankees are a close second to Boston in the AL East.

The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline.

The Tampa Rays were decimated by free agency this offseason. They lost five starters, and despite having a pool of young talent to recruit from, they will not do better than fight for a wild card spot.

The Toronto Blue Jays led the league in home runs last year, and in any other division in baseball they could compete for a division title. The Blue Jays will not make the playoffs, but that does not mean they will not have a good season, winning 85-90 games.

Buck Showalter appears to be turning around the Baltimore Orioles, but without

starting pitching they are at least three years away from competing for a wild card.

AL Central

The AL Central has three teams fighting for the division crown: The Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins.

The Twins are by far the most balanced team with slugging first basemen Justin Morneau back from injury. The Twins will win the Central with good pitching, hitting and sound management.

Detroit's playoff hopes rest on the shoulders of MVP candidate Cabrera, who is struggling to rebuild his image after his highly publicized battle with alcohol addiction during the offseason. By adding catcher Victor Martinez via free agency, the Tigers picked up a good bat. It will not be enough — the Tigers' rotation is weak at the back end.

The White Sox have the most pitching depth in the Central, but they have to answer a lot of questions about their offense, which has been streaky over the last few years.

At the bottom of the division

are the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians. The Royals traded ace Zack Grienke to the Milwaukee Brewers and will not be competing for a playoff spot this year. However, they have quietly developed one of the deepest farm systems in the majors. Look for some of these homegrown players to make an impact in the near future. The Indians have taken a nose dive in recent years and will not relieve the pain Cleveland felt from the departure of LeBron James or the annual stench brought from the Browns. The organization had to trade away star players because they could not afford to keep them. It will be a long summer in Cleveland.

AL West

The Texas Rangers are strong candidates to repeat as AL West Division Champions. The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline. The rest of their rotation is average. The fate of the bullpen resides on whether Rookie of the Year Neftali Feliz


is a closer or starter. Feliz was set as closer, but with an injury to Tommy Hunter things could change by opening day. The Rangers are solid in the pen as long as Feliz is the closer. The offense remains the biggest strength of the club — no one else in the division can match a lineup featuring Josh Hamilton, Ian Kinsler, Nelson Cruz, Adrian Beltre, Michael Young and Elvis Andrus. The pitching is strong, but they lack the true No. 1 starter needed for a postseason run.

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim lost out on the bidding for Carl Crawford and they are in desperate need for another bat.

The Oakland Athletics have a vast pool of young talented pitchers they can call on. However, the A's stand no chance of making the postseason with Josh Willingham as their cleanup hitter.

The lone bright spot for the Mariners this season will be Hernandez, until he is possibly traded at the deadline.



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



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

McKinney commits to TCU

By Ryne Sulier
Sports Editor

A TCU source confirmed the men's basketball program will add 6'8", 250-pound forward Adrick McKinney out of Angelina Junior College in Lufkin, according to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.



McKinney

McKinney, who played his high school ball at Trimble Tech in Fort Worth, averaged 15.1 points and 8.4 rebounds for Angelina, last season.

McKinney was a McDonald's All-American nominee out of high school and a Top 25 Texas prospect.

TCU Athletics cannot comment on prospects, committed or uncommitted, until the prospect signs a National

Letter of Intent per NCAA rules. The signing period runs from April 13 — May 18.

TCU has had issues with junior college transfer players as recently as last season. Forward Sammy Yeager (Weatherford College) averaged 9.3 points and 4.3 rebounds for the Frogs in 16 games before he was booted off the basketball team by head coach Jim Christian on Jan. 11. Yeager averaged nearly 20 points per game for Weatherford College during the 2009-10 season.

Center Andre Clark was signed out of John A. Logan Community College and was ranked the fifth-best overall junior college prospect by JucoJunction.com, but was removed from the team before a Nov. 2 exhibition game against Rogers State.

Fate would have it that Clark and Frogs' 2010-11

leading scorer Ronnie Moss, who is indefinitely suspended but still listed on the roster, were former teammates at Genesis One Prep School in Mendenhall, Miss.

Rumor mill

6'8" forward Ryan Rhoomes, a New York native out of Queens, recently took a recruiting visit to TCU, according to the *Star-Telegram*. Multiple sources have apparently indicated TCU has a good chance of signing Rhoomes, according to the article. Rhoomes has offers from West Virginia, Cincinnati, Virginia Tech, Providence, Pittsburgh and TCU, according to Rivals.com. Rhoomes didn't start playing basketball until the eighth grade and chose to attend prep school for a year before attending college.

SPORTS

WEATHER

TCU-SFA postponed, tennis at North Texas canceled

By Brett Anderson
Staff Reporter

No. 15 TCU's Tuesday evening home game against Stephen F. Austin University has been postponed to 6:30 p.m. today because of inclement weather.

The Frogs took two of three games in their weekend series against the University of Houston and will play game five of their 13-game homestand against the Lumberjacks tonight. The Frogs are currently 3-1 on their homestand and have won five of their last six games after losing two road games at UT-Arlington on March 15 and at UNLV on March 18.

Junior pitcher Erik Miller (0-4, 5.17 ERA) will make his second career start for the Frogs (15-8, 2-1 MWC) on Wednesday, and junior right fielder Brance Rivera will try to push his hitting streak to 24 games. Junior center fielder Aaron Schultz also comes into tonight's game with a nine-game hitting streak after hitting his second career grand slam

and third home run of the season in a 9-1 victory over the Cougars on Sunday.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier. We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

Dave Borelli
Head coach

Miller pitched a no-decision outing in the first start of his career against Air Force on May 16 last season.

SFA's Cody Priest (0-0, 2.13 ERA) will take the mound for the Lumberjacks (18-7, 8-1 Southland), who have won 15 of their last 17 games and are tied for first place in the Southland Conference.

TCU will play its first MWC home series this weekend against Air Force following tonight's SFA game.

Women's tennis match against North Texas canceled

The TCU women's tennis team's Tuesday match with North Texas was canceled because of inclement weather. The match was an effort to finish a previously postponed match versus the Mean Green. The first match was rained out Jan. 29 at the ITA Kickoff Weekend in Berkeley, Calif.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier," TCU head coach Dave Borelli said in a TCU Athletics release. "We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

TCU will begin Mountain West Conference play with three weekend home matches at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center: TCU plays BYU on Friday, Utah on Saturday and New Mexico on Sunday. The weekend matches will close out TCU's home schedule for the season.

The Frogs are riding a three-match win streak after a 5-2 win over UT-Arlington on March 23.



CARRIE ADAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Kyle Winkler follows through on a pitch against the University of Houston on Friday night. The game against SFA that was scheduled for yesterday was moved to today at 6:30 p.m.

OPINION

Mavs' season rides on Thursday showdown with Lakers



J.D. Moore

As the final games of the season wind down in the NBA, one of the closest playoff position races in the league is for the second seed in the Western Conference. Pending the outcome of tonight's Mavericks-Clippers game, The No. 3-seeded Dallas Mavericks (52-21) have a shot to gain momentum against the No. 2-seeded Los Angeles Lakers (53-20) when the teams play Thursday.

A Mavs win tonight would give Dallas a chance to tie LA for the No. 2 seed Thursday and give Dallas the tiebreaker

with a 2-1 advantage in head-to-head matchups.

With the No. 1-seeded Spurs sliding into the playoffs with a four-game losing streak and Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and Antonio McDyess all sidelined with injuries, there now seems to be the slightest of chances the Lakers or Mavs could catch the Spurs for the No. 1 seed in the West.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

What will decide the regular season L.A.-Dallas series, and more importantly, whether Dallas is a championship contender or playoff pretender, hinges on the performance of the Dallas

offense, which needs everyone on board to put up points.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

In a 109-100 win against the Lakers on Jan. 19, Dallas veterans Shawn Marion, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry all scored 20-plus points. Kidd shot 5-for-8 from three-point land and Terry rained down deep shots, going 4-for-6 from behind the arc. That needs to be replicated to defeat the Lakers on Thursday.

A statistical argument can

be made that Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Tyson Chandler are no matches in the paint against the Lakers' Andrew Byrum and Pau Gasol.

In the case of the Mavs' 96-91 loss to the Lakers on March 12, the stats didn't lie, as the Lakers' big men out-rebounded Dallas' on the defensive glass. However, in the case of the 109-100 win on Jan. 19, Dallas had its big men perform in the clutch as Nowitzki and Chandler out-rebounded Bryum and Gasol by a total of six rebounds. More importantly, Chandler pulled down six offensive rebounds in that game, allowing for more Dallas offensive opportunities — the key to winning against the Lakers.

In the two matchups of the season so far, L.A.'s big men have outscored Dallas' big men, 73-49. If Dallas can get rebounds and get its guards

play well, perhaps there is a shot.

In addition to production from the guards and rebounding from the big men, it would be nice if the young guys stepped up, too. Rodrigue Beaubois was still getting back in game shape after breaking his foot in January and only scored two points against Los Angeles in March. Reserve guard J.J. Barea has yet to score more than seven points against the Lakers and has yet to record more than one assist against them this season.

Baubois and Barea's production will be critical against the Lakers on Thursday. While the Mavs will be playing their second game of back-to-back games, the Lakers will be fresh after having three days off since their last game against New Orleans. When the veterans are resting up during the game, Beaubois

and Barea will be the main line of defense against Los Angeles. They need to bring an offensive presence to the Mavericks in order to keep consistent pressure against the Lakers. If they can't, the Lakers will be able to rest up their star players in order to counter the stars of the Mavericks.

The path for the Mavs to defeat the Lakers is not impossible, but will be a difficult task. Dallas is capable of defeating Los Angeles, but unless the Dallas guards are sharp from the perimeter, the big men can pull in rebounds and the young players can bring consistent pressure, the Mavericks playoff path will likely include four road games in Los Angeles.

J.D. Moore is a freshman journalism major from Honolulu, Hawaii and a writer for SportDFW.com.

BASEBALL

TCU vs. SFA postponed to 6:30 tonight because of inclement weather.

SPORTS

OPINION

The Rangers look like the team to beat in the American League.



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Wide receiver Josh Boyce warms up before the Oregon State game at the beginning of the 2010 season. The Frogs lost six starters on offense and five on defense from 2010.

FOOTBALL

Patterson: 'We don't have any leadership right now'

By Nathan DeWitt
Staff Writer

Tuesday night was TCU's 10th practice of the spring, and a wet field moved it indoors to the Sam Baugh Practice Facility. With only two practices left until the April 2 spring game, head coach Gary Patterson said one thing is certain thus far: this team can't improve until leaders show up on the field.

Patterson said he has a tough job in teaching his younger players what it takes to win games in the fall, even if it is only March.

"I've got two coaches on the field telling guys where to

be, because we don't have any leadership right now," Patterson said. "And without that it's tough to get better."

TCU lost six starters on the offensive side of the ball and five on defense in 2010 — with notable losses in the trenches with left tackle Marcus Cannon, center Jake Kirkpatrick, right tackle Zach Roth and right guard Josh Vernon gone after the 2010-11 season. On the defensive end, TCU lost nose tackle Cory Grant and right end Wayne Daniels. Those are the areas where Patterson said the youngsters will have to step up, but it's important that the learning occurs now and not in August.

"We have to communicate on both sides of the football," Patterson said. "We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be. When I don't see the difference between a freshman and a senior I might as well get the freshman ready."

After two-straight BCS appearances, the Frogs came in to the 2011 season with the added luxury of the program's best ever recruiting class. It is rare for true freshman to make immediate impacts out of high school. But four-star recruits LaDarius Brown (Waxahachie) and Chuck Hunter (West Monroe, La.) might have a shot to be the ex-

ceptions once summer practice begins. But, as Patterson said, the young players will have lots of learning to do.

"We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be."

Gary Patterson
Head Football Coach

"The key to it is, they've got to learn how to play the game," he said.

When last year's seniors departed on a high note after TCU's 21-19 Rose Bowl vic-

tory, Patterson said they took with them a number of intangibles this current squad has yet replace in order to win a championship.

Rob Rang of NFL-DraftScout.com said Andy Dalton's maturity and innate leadership skills make him one of the more pro-ready quarterbacks in the class. Dalton should be graded only on one statistic: 42 career wins. Jake Kirkpatrick, the center who delivered the ball to Dalton's senior season wins, will also likely be drafted in the NFL because he set the blocking scheme for a Frogs' offensive line that allowed less than a sack a game

for the fifth-ranked offense in the country (38.3 points per game).

The 2011 football team can look at past recruiting classes and understand the number of "stars" a recruit has coming into college might not mean anything at all. But this spring, they are learning that from the coaches instead of from veteran players.

"From a leadership standpoint, we have to grow up," Patterson said. "In terms of intangibles, the biggest thing on this football team right now is that we're not close to being what we need to be in order to be a championship team."

PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Student's innovative idea serves as example

Many of us have grand ideas of extravagant events that merely flash through our minds as a thought that is quickly ignored and forgotten, but this is not the case for everyone.

To see someone who really acted on one of those whimsical brain spasms, we need look no further than TCU's own Ted Wick, who is the man behind the West Berry Block Party that is happening in April.

The event involves several of the bars and restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the TCU campus and will hold performances from 50 bands on April 16. This whole event was born after Wick looked out his window and thought it would be neat to have a music festival.

Wick collaborated with his roommate, friends and local business owners to make this collection of musical talent a reality, proving that you can, in fact, act on a seemingly crazy idea and turn it into a highly anticipated, never-done-before event.

If we all acted on our mildly nuts ideas, imagine all the cool things that would be available to us on a day-to-day basis. Granted, some ideas are unrealistic altogether, but the idea of having a big community barbecue might be just the thing.

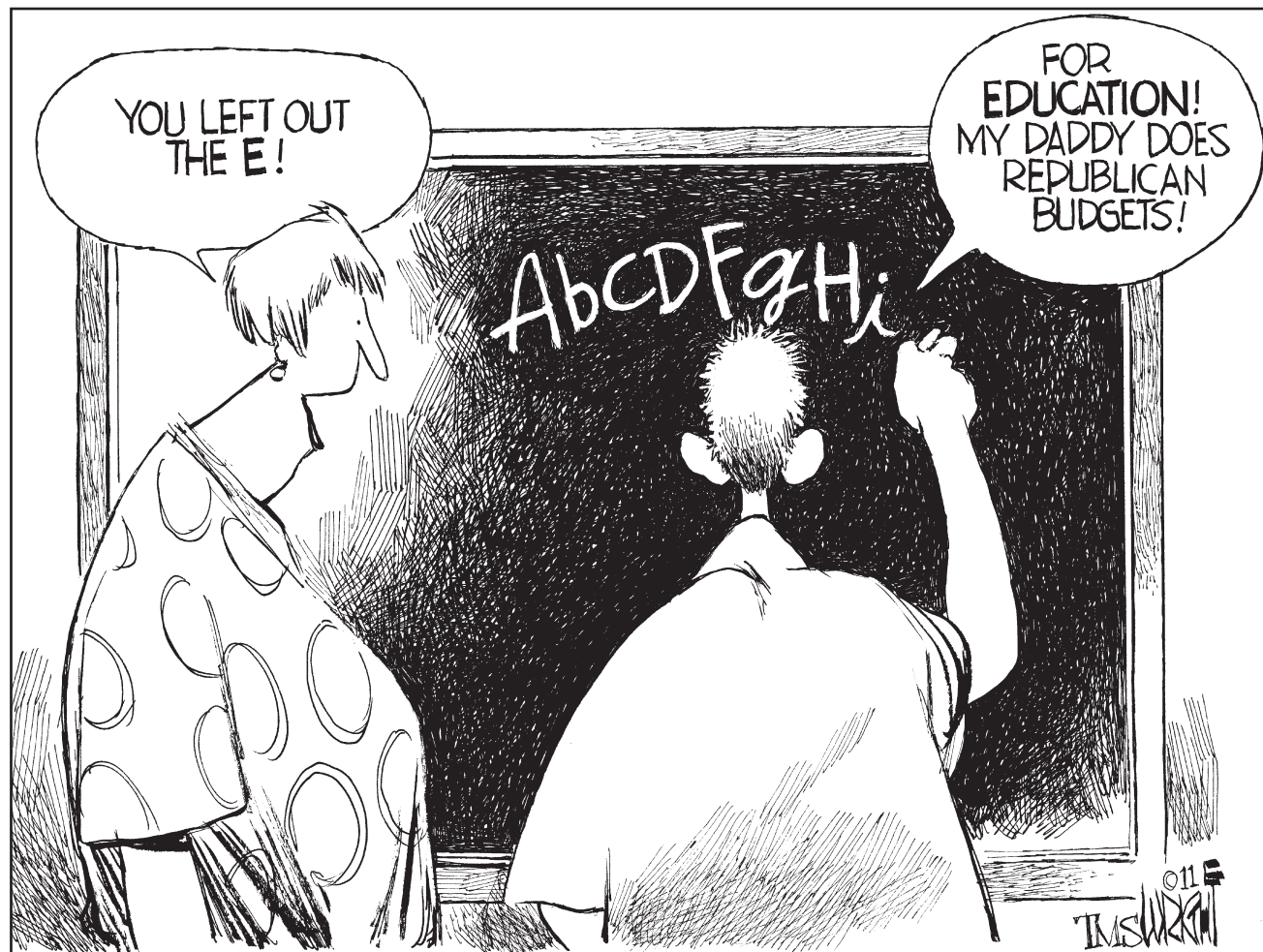
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Don Wright is a political cartoonist for the Palm Beach Post.

Assigning .xxx domain a good move



Bailey McGowan

The Internet Corporations for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) authorized the creation of a .xxx suffix for pornography websites on March 18, according to a March 19 article from *The New York Times*. The plan would eventually require the sites to register with a .xxx suffix so they aren't confused with other businesses of similar names. ICANN would not regulate the information on such sites.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legiti-

mate nature for pornography sites. While some sex industry members and religious groups are strongly opposed, the benefits of the .xxx suffix outweigh the drawbacks for a variety of reasons.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legitimate nature for pornography sites.

The sex industry claims it will be subjected to censorship by governments, and in that sense it is right. India has already declared it will not support the new .xxx suffix and will block what it calls the new red light district of the Internet.

Religious organizations,

such as Baptist Press, argue that the domain will make the spread of pornography more rapid and easier to access. That's clearly not the case when one considers that now all .xxx websites can be blocked from wandering eyes.

On the flip side, the .xxx domain will be scanned daily for viruses and create a secure site for payment. This would encourage people to use the sites because they wouldn't be concerned for the health of their computers or wallets.

Yes, pornography creates a demand for prostitution, sex trafficking and sexual assault through the feeding of sexual appetites. A domain catered for those who wish to visit those sites would prevent those who don't want to stumble upon them from doing so

accidentally.

The beauty of the Internet is its ability to give you access to any information you could possibly want. That extreme and awesome power has both positive and negative impacts. This is the same Internet that helped spark and organize the Egyptian uprising and provides us with breaking news. You can't have one without the other.

I am not a user of .xxx sites or any site that might even consider registering for a .xxx domain, but I do believe there needs to be a separate domain for such content. It can't be ignored, and through a .xxx domain name it won't be, even if it is censored by certain governments.

Bailey McGowan is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Burkburnett.



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

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Design Editor: Akmal Marikar
Advertising Manager: Courtney Kimbrough

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PERSPECTIVES

Program doesn't help students



Emily Atteberry

Your parents probably wouldn't have minded if they were paid \$1,000 a year to pester you.

Because that's what InsideTrack, a "student coaching" program charges — \$500 per semester — to do essentially the same thing your parents did: hover and nag.

According to InsideTrack's website, its service "enriches the student experience, improves enrollment and retention rates and provides valuable student feedback." But what does that really mean?

It offers 30-minute sessions via telephone once a week in which they ask students about progress, grades, good news and personal lives. It plans out times for students to talk to their parents. It creates a system of "reminders" for assignments.

Basically, the service lives your life for you, but better than you could live it alone.

Although InsideTrack's services sound superfluous and a bit like a money-scheme, recent studies indicate otherwise — sort of.

A study conducted by a professor and doctorate student at Stanford University, which was independent of and not funded by InsideTrack, indicated that these

coaching sessions made an impact on students' persistence, especially in males.

Tested over two years at various unnamed universities in the country, the study noted the academic differences of two "control groups" — students who received no coaching or who were athletes and those who did.

After six months, coached students were more than five percent more likely to be enrolled than the control group, which is a nine percent gain in retention. The study showed that, on average, the likelihood of a student graduating was four percent higher than those who weren't.

The study stressed the importance of retention — that is, students staying in school. But it never once mentioned actual improvement of exam scores or course grades. This omission led my confidence in InsideTrack's services to falter.

Not only do I question the tangible effects of the coaching, but I also question the coaching at all.

"Oftentimes in higher education, we assume that students know how to behave," the researchers wrote. "We assume that they know how to study, how to prioritize and how to plan."

That's where, they argue, coaching comes in.

On one hand, they're right — college can be a real academic and culture shock for incoming students who expected to be throwing Frisbees and partying all day. But the readjustment to the

reality of college is part of growing up and becoming a college student. I can't help but wonder if coaches learning these lessons for students isn't detrimental.

In one of the testimonial videos on InsideTrack's website, a student vouched for the services, explaining that the processes for applying for internships, scholarships, study abroad and various other opportunities is too convoluted for him to manage.

What happens when he graduates? Does he suddenly expect everything to be simple and pretty? Parking tickets, mortgages, applying for loans — the red-tape of life is inevitable.

Some may argue that the skills he learned while being coached could carry through the rest of his life, but I am not sure that anything is being taught to students. Rather, things are being done for them.

Despite my skepticism, I know some students may truly need these services. Those with learning or mental disabilities could be one group that could benefit from persistent life-managing.

But for the majority of students, InsideTrack's personal "coaching" is little more than having another set of parents nagging you or taking care of the "hard things" so you don't have to do them.

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

Citizenship survey results troubling



Jake Harris

Quick, who is the vice president of the United States? Which countries did America fight in World War II? Who led the civil rights movement in the South during the 1960s? If the answers to these three relatively simple questions came to your mind immediately, than you would be in the majority of American citizens, but not by much.

In a recent study done by *Newsweek* magazine, 1,000 Americans were randomly asked a series of questions that appear on a U.S. citizenship test. Thirty-eight percent failed. That means that only 620 people out of 1,000 are even eligible to live in America if they had to pass a citizenship test right now.

Other interesting statistics include these wonderful tidbits of information: Six percent did not even know where to find "Independence Day" on the calendar; 70 percent had no clue that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and 43 percent did not

know that the first 10 amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights.

Interestingly enough, in an unscientific poll accompanying an article about this subject on the *New York Daily News* website, 79 percent of respondents said they "knew all of that stuff and anyone who doesn't should be ashamed." Only seven percent honestly responded with "No way — I would have struggled with those questions."

This raises the question: is America a nation of "know-nothings?" We cannot pass our own citizenship test, but think of ourselves as relatively knowledgeable about how our government works. At a time when the world is rapidly becoming more accessible, other countries know more about America than American citizens do. Anyone who has watched "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" has seen this phenomenon — the "Jaywalking" segment of his show never fails to exploit the ignorance of many American citizens.

Having lived overseas while attending high school, I experienced this firsthand. The Japanese and Korean citizens I came into contact with while living on military bases could speak more intelligently about American politics and govern-

ment than most Americans I know of. They were also very knowledgeable about their own history. It was a sense of pride to them to be able to talk about these things because it meant they had a connection to America, a country many of them had heard about but had never visited.

The world knowledge that those people gained was incredible. This world knowledge is something that American citizens take for granted, and that is the main reason the above statistic is so alarming. We have become apathetic about our country.

That we seem to not care or want to do anything about this issue is troubling; any eighth grader could tell you who Martin Luther King Jr. was or who America fought in World War II. It is a scary thought to think that American citizens might be the people who know the least about America and they actually live in the country.

The solution for this is to emphasize our history and become more familiar with our present. But the only way to emphasize our culture is to stop being so lazy and to do it ourselves, but that does not seem to be happening.

Jake Harris is a freshman journalism major from Wahiawa, Hawaii.



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GANDHI

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Bullied as a youth, he sought advice from his grandfather. What he learned would change his life.

ARUN GANDHI

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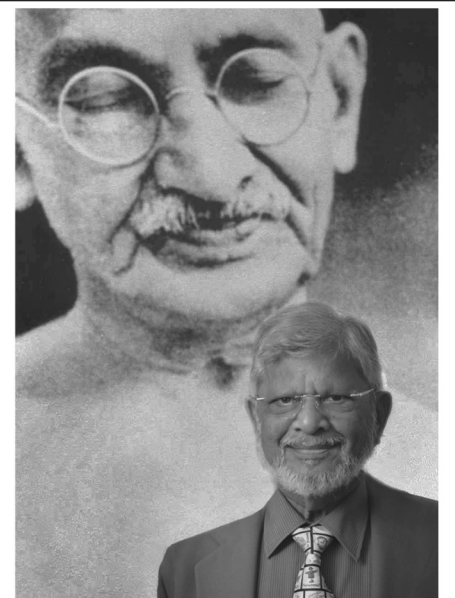
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Frog Feature

Getting to know Ted Wick, junior strategic communication major.



SARAH GREUFE / STAFF WRITER

By Sarah Greufe
Staff Writer

In the process of putting the West Berry Block Party into motion — his own idea, by the way — junior Ted Wick tells a little bit about his past with music. He said he is no rookie to planning gigs or the music business. He said he hoped a lot of people would come out to the show April 16, and if all goes well, he plans on making it an annual event.

Where are you from originally?

“Originally I am from Toronto, Canada, but I’m mainly from Houston. I only spent the first eight years of my life in Toronto. I spent my high school years in Houston, and my parents live in Minneapolis now. I have identity crisis problems all the time now with where exactly I am from.”

What are you currently studying at TCU, and where do you hope it takes you?

“Well, I’m actually studying strategic communication. It’s a great major. I’m hoping it takes me to an ad firm, PR firm or events coordinating like what I’m doing right now.”

Have you ever planned an event like this before?

“Yes, I have. I started booking local rock shows for local and regional bands back in high school. I believe it was my junior or senior year in high school when I started that. Then I started a band at that

time and the guitar player — who is my best friend — his dad started noticing what I was doing and he brought me over to the night club business. I started booking 18-and-under nights when I was 18. Then I moved on from there to 18-and-up nights. That was all two summers ago, and then last summer, that’s what I was doing — I mean, I was bringing in thousands upon thousands of people. I still continued the music thing and doing a bunch of shows. What I really realized is that I hated the night club, and I wanted to focus all my time on doing music shows.”

How did you first get involved with music?

“I guess it started when I was in eighth grade and I started going to guitar lessons. I have always been in love with music, and it has always been my goal to do something in the music industry, if possible. It’s a very hard industry to get into, and that’s why I’m going to college because I want a back-up plan. I don’t consider strat comm a back-up plan or plan B or anything, but I really want to

do music. So I got into that, and freshman year I formed a band out of high school, and I’ve been in two bands.”

Are you currently still in a band?

“No, I gave up that. It’s too much drama. I manage bands still. Currently, I manage a band called Collective Dreams. I also manage another guy, Josh Stallings.”

What kind of music do you prefer personally?

“My favorite genre would be alternative rock/indie rock. My favorite band of all time is Tool. Then No. 2 would be Dance Gavin Dance, and then I think No. 3 would probably have to be Circa Survive or Type O Negative.”

Did you have any major influences in your decision to pursue music?

“It was my parents basically telling me that I couldn’t do it. That was a main one. I’ve kind of always wanted to prove them wrong. I

think the other person that was a major influence is Peter Steele, the lead singer of Type O Negative. They were a big band in the ‘90s and then kind of fell off the face of the earth. Fun fact is they were the first band to hit platinum on Roadrunner Records, which was the record company that ended up signing Slipknot and Nickelback. Had that not happened, you wouldn’t have heard bands like Nickelback and Slipknot.”

What do you hope to see come out of the West Berry Block Party?

“I hope we have like an Austin City Limits or Lollapalooza-type music fest here in Fort Worth... It’s a music fest in Fort Worth — I mean, it’s a great city. If you look around, all this art that’s here right now is done by Fort Worth artists. We have a ton of great bands, and I think we have a great art scene here and I think it needs to be exposed. I think people forget because we are so close to Austin how great we are. I want WBBP to become big enough so that people recognize the art’s here.”

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FORT WORTH

Students bring bands to Berry Street for block party

By Sara Greufe
and Luis Ortiz

Staff Writer and Staff Reporter

TCU students have teamed up with local bands and businesses to create a music festival titled the West Berry Block Party, a spokesperson for the event said.

Junior Ted Wick, who came up with the idea for the project, said he got the idea when sitting out on the balcony of his apartment.

"I thought how cool would it be if one day we got all the bars on West Berry block together, got some acts from around the country, maybe some pretty well-known names and just had a huge day of music right next to TCU," Wick said.

The event organizers announced via Twitter that the event will now be a Tsunami relief concert. The majority of the funds will go to Disaster Relief International, with the rest of the proceeds going towards re-cooperating the cost of putting on the event.

Wick said April 16 was cho-

sen because it is the last weekend before Easter and study days before final exams. Wick said many students go out of town and pay big money for music festivals such as Austin City Limits during the school year and thought it would be a good idea to bring the music closer to Fort Worth.

"West Berry is a pretty cool area of town," Wick said. "It's not that big but it's so close to campus. This is a good way to promote the community and everything."

Wick approached his friends, band members of Collective Dreams, a local band in the area, about the idea and the group set out to make the event happen, he said. Many local businesses offered sponsorship as well as a place to hold meetings, he said.

Wick said students Bryan Lee, Travis Hildenbrand, who is in a band playing at the event, Riley Knight and Kevin Benson were all instrumental in setting up the concert. He also said he received support from John Campbell and Erin Sweeney, who are affiliated

with Stay Wired Coffeehouse.

The group approached several venues, including The Moon, The Cellar, Stay Wired, The Aardvark and Old Rip's, he said.

Co-owner of Old Rip's Cy Barcus said they always participate with charity events no matter what they are.

"We actually try to be a part of the community, part of the TCU family," Barcus said. "Just try to be good sports and good citizens."

They will feature local bands such as Green River Ordinance, Skeleton Coast and Collective Dreams.

Singer and guitarist Bobby McCubbins of Skeleton Coast said he was all for the block party and even helped book some bands for the event. His passion for music is what drove him to want to participate in the event.

"If you're actually playing for a certain cause or a benefit, it's a little more humbling," he said. "It's more like, 'Hey, let's get together and do something for a community all the way across the world.'"



For McCubbins, community is a big theme for the event. "You're going to see all these kids from TCU colliding with the whole music scene," he said. "It's going to be interesting to see all those people together at once."

Bands from Austin and San Antonio will also play at the event, he said. Wick said the main stage will be located in the parking lot of Old Rip's.

West Berry Block Party

When: April 16

Where: West Berry Street.

Concerts will be held at Old Rip's, The Aardvark, The Moon, The Cellar and Stay Wired Coffeehouse. The main stage will be the parking lot behind Old Rip's.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance, and \$25 the day of the event.

Note: Headlining bands include Green River Ordinance, Nelo and Collective Dreams. The majority of the proceeds will go to Disaster Relief International. Must be 18 years old to enter.

For more information visit westberryblockparty.com or [facebook.com/westberryblockparty](https://www.facebook.com/westberryblockparty).

INTERNATIONAL

President offers concessions, fires Cabinet amid wave of unrest



BASSEM TELLAWI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-Syrian President Bashar Assad protester, waves Syrian flag as she looks to the crowd who demonstrate to show their support for their president, in Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday March 29, 2011.

By Zeina Karam
Associated Press

Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar Assad fired his Cabinet on Tuesday and

promised to end widely despised emergency laws — concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East.

The overtures, while largely symbolic, are a moment of rare compromise in the Assad family's 40 years of iron-fisted rule. They came as the government mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters in rallies

in the capital and elsewhere, in an effort to show it has wide popular backing.

Nearly every aspect of Syrian society is monitored and controlled by the security forces, and the feared secret police crush even the smallest rumblings of opposition. Draconian laws have all but eradicated civil liberties and political freedoms.

But with the protests that erupted on March 18, thousands of Syrians appear to have broken through a barrier of fear in this tightly controlled nation of 23 million.

"Syria stands at a crossroads," said Aktham Nuaisse, a leading human rights activist.

"Either the president takes immediate, drastic reform measures, or the country descends into one of several ugly scenarios. If he is willing to lead Syria into a real democratic transformation, he will be met halfway by the Syrian people," Nuaisse said.

The coming days will be key to determining whether Assad's concessions will quiet

the protest movement, which began after security forces arrested several teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall in the impoverished city of Daraa in the south.

The protests spread to other provinces and the government launched a swift crackdown, killing more than 60 people since March 18, according to Human Rights Watch. However, the violence has eased in the past few days and some predict the demonstrations might quickly die out if the president's promises appear genuine.

"People are tired from all this pressure and violence and I think if he (Assad) shows he's taken the people's demands seriously, they might stop," said a protester in Daraa who gave only his first name, Ibrahim, for fear of reprisals by security forces. "We're all waiting for his speech."

Still, tensions remained high in Daraa, where several hundred people were still staging a sit-in Tuesday, and in the Mediterranean port of Latakia,

which has a potentially volatile mix of different religious groups.

Assad, who inherited power 11 years ago from his father, appears to be following the playbook of other autocratic leaders in the region who scrambled to put down popular uprisings by using both concessions and brutal crackdowns.

The formula failed in Tunisia and Egypt, where popular demands increased almost daily — until people accepted nothing less than the ouster of the regime.

The unrest in Syria, a strategically important country, could have implications well beyond its borders given its role as Iran's top Arab ally and as a front line state against Israel.

Syria has long been viewed by the U.S. as a potentially destabilizing force in the Middle East. An ally of Iran and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, it has also provided a home for some radical Palestinian groups.

NATIONAL NEWS

Associated Press

Long blackouts pose risk to US reactors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before the nuclear emergency in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a power failure lasting for days at an American nuclear plant, whatever the cause, could lead to a radioactive leak. Even so, they have only required the nation's 104 nuclear reactors to develop plans for dealing with much shorter blackouts on the assumption that power would be restored quickly.

In one nightmare simulation presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009, it would take less than a day for radiation to escape from a reactor at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after an earthquake, flood or fire knocked out all electrical power and there was no way to keep the reactors cool after backup battery power ran out. That plant, the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station outside Lancaster, has reactors of the same older make and model as those releasing radiation at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which is using other means to try to cool the reactors.

And like Fukushima Dai-ichi, the Peach Bottom plant

has enough battery power on site to power emergency cooling systems for eight hours. In Japan, that wasn't enough time for power to be restored. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Institute trade association, three of the six reactors at the plant still can't get power to operate the emergency cooling systems. Two were shut down at the time. In the sixth, the fuel was removed completely and put in the spent fuel pool when it was shut down for maintenance at the time of the disaster. A week after the March 11 earthquake, diesel generators started supplying power to two other two reactors, Units 5 and 6, the groups said.

The risk of a blackout leading to core damage, while extremely remote, exists at all U.S. nuclear power plants, and some are more susceptible than others, according to an Associated Press investigation. While regulators say they have confidence that measures adopted in the U.S. will prevent or significantly delay a core from melting and threatening a radioactive release, the events in Japan raise questions about whether U.S. power plants are as prepared as they could and should be.

A top Nuclear Regulatory Commission official said Tues-

day that the agency will review station blackouts and whether the nation's 104 nuclear reactors are capable of coping with them.

As part of a review requested by President Barack Obama in the wake of the Japan crisis, the NRC will examine "what conditions and capabilities exist at all 104 reactors to see if we need to strengthen the regulatory requirement," said Bill Borchardt, the agency's executive director for operations.

Borchardt said an obvious question that should be answered is whether nuclear plants need enhanced battery supplies, or ones that can last longer.

Wisconsin judge halts anti-union bargaining law

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP) — The showdown over Wisconsin's law that strips most public workers of nearly all their collective bargaining rights shifted from the Statehouse back to the courts Tuesday, but it remained unclear when or even whether the measure would take effect.

The law strips away workers' rights to collectively bargain for anything except wages. It also requires most public workers to contribute more to their pensions and health insurance.



CAROLYN KASTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Feb. 27, 2007 file photo, the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant is seen in Delta, Pa. Long before a massive earthquake and tsunami unleashed a nuclear crisis in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a similar long-term power outage — whatever the cause — could lead to a radioactive leak from a nuclear reactor.

weighs in.

In Ohio, meanwhile, Republican legislators pushed legislation forward to similarly deny workers bargaining rights.

Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers pushed through passage of the law earlier this month despite three weeks of massive protests that drew up to 85,000 people to the state Capitol and a boycott by Democratic state senators. Opponents immediately filed a series of lawsuits that resulted in further chaos that might not end until the state Supreme Court

Sumi said during a hearing. "That is what I now want to make crystal clear."

That appeared even more likely after a hearing on Tuesday, when a county judge again ordered the state to put the law on hold while she considers a broader challenge to its legality. She chastised state officials for ignoring her earlier order to halt the law's publication.

"Apparently that language was either misunderstood or ignored, but what I said was the further implementation of (the law) was enjoined," Dane County Circuit Judge Maryann

Sumi also is considering claims by some officials that the law technically took effect last weekend after a state agency unexpectedly published it online.

The back and forth amplified the often angry debate between new Gov. Scott Walker, his Republican allies in the Legislature and the state's public sector unions.

TEXAS NEWS

Associated Press

Texans could get to vote on expanding gambling

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lawmakers considered 17 proposals Tuesday that could expand gambling in Texas, including building billion-dollar casinos and installing slot machines at racetracks.

The bills range from the modest addition of slot machines at existing dog and horse racing tracks to a 16-page constitutional amendment allowing development of eight Las Vegas-style destination casinos.

Dozens of people testified before the House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee Tuesday, with supporters saying that gaming taxes could put an additional \$1 billion a year into state coffers. Lawmakers are

currently grappling with a \$27-billion budget shortfall in providing existing state services. Gambling proponents said this might be the best opportunity to expand gambling in Texas in a decade.

The Texas Gaming Association is backing House Joint Resolution 112, the omnibus constitutional amendment that would license eight casinos, allow slot machines at eight racetracks and allow more gaming on Indian lands. The association says its proposal could bring in \$1.2 billion a year in gaming taxes and promote luxury resorts because of the limited number of licenses.

Bejeweled Cowboys WR Bryant sued for \$850,000-plus

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant is facing two lawsuits seeking

more than \$850,000 for unpaid jewelry bills, NFL and NBA tickets and loans.

A Tarrant County man is suing Bryant for \$588,500 worth of watches, earrings, bracelets, rings and other jewelry, plus \$15,850 worth of tickets and \$11,000 in unpaid loans. All the transactions were between June 2009 and June 2010.

Receipts signed by Bryant show that they were supposed to be paid by July 30, 2010, "or when he signs his first Marketing or Sports Contract, which ever happens first," the lawsuit said. The suit was filed in September and amended last week, before Bryant allegedly unleashed a tirade at a mall security officer concerned about his drooping pants.

Another lawsuit filed last week says Bryant owes a New York company \$246,000 for jewelry purchases made between January and May 2010.

UT's Powers defends higher education research

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The president of the University of Texas has defended research that might not have immediate commercial applications as the state faces lean budget times.

William Powers Jr., in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman, also says he supports small classes that generate less tuition and state funding than larger ones. Powers says the UT campus is "very attentive to this and very worried about it."

Powers made the comments after UT System regents reconsidered the \$200,000 a year special adviser job for Rick O'Donnell. O'Donnell, as a senior research fellow for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, argued that university research is harmful to good teaching.

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OPINION

Prediction: Texas Rangers should win the AL Pennant



Allen Kellogg

The American League appears to be much more competitive than the National League this season. Three teams in the AL East have legitimate playoff shots. My quick picks: The Boston Red Sox will win the AL East. The Minnesota Twins win the AL Central. The Texas Rangers win the AL West. The New York Yankees win the AL Wild Card. The Rangers will win the American League Pennant, which will set up a World Series showdown with the NL Champion Philadelphia Phillies. The Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera is my pick for AL MVP. The CY Young will go to the Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez, but only if he is not traded to the National League at the deadline. Here is a divisional breakdown of the AL:

AL East

After not making the playoffs last year, the Boston Red Sox brought in two superstar talents in outfielder Carl Crawford and first baseman Adrian Gonzales. Inserting these two players into the lineup gives the Sox one of the best offenses in the major leagues.

Boston's two issues revolve around the health of second baseman and former MVP Dustin Pedroia and infielder Kevin Youkilis. Can they return from their season-ending injuries and play at an all-star caliber level?

As for Boston's starting pitching, it remains to be seen whether Josh Beckett and John Lackey can return to ace form. If the Red Sox stay healthy, they are the favorites in the American League, but do not count out the Bronx Bombers.

The New York Yankees will challenge their arch rivals at every corner. The Yankees were two games from the World Series last year, and despite losing the bidding war for Cliff Lee, they remain a playoff contender. The Yankees will win the wild card behind CC Sabathia and their aging, but

deadly offense. With A-Rod, Mark Teixeira, Robinson Cano and Derek Jeter, the Yankees are a close second to Boston in the AL East.

The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline.

The Tampa Rays were decimated by free agency this offseason. They lost five starters, and despite having a pool of young talent to recruit from, they will not do better than fight for a wild card spot.

The Toronto Blue Jays led the league in home runs last year, and in any other division in baseball they could compete for a division title. The Blue Jays will not make the playoffs, but that does not mean they will not have a good season, winning 85-90 games.

Buck Showalter appears to be turning around the Baltimore Orioles, but without

starting pitching they are at least three years away from competing for a wild card.

AL Central

The AL Central has three teams fighting for the division crown: The Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins.

The Twins are by far the most balanced team with slugging first basemen Justin Morneau back from injury. The Twins will win the Central with good pitching, hitting and sound management.

Detroit's playoff hopes rest on the shoulders of MVP candidate Cabrera, who is struggling to rebuild his image after his highly publicized battle with alcohol addiction during the offseason. By adding catcher Victor Martinez via free agency, the Tigers picked up a good bat. It will not be enough — the Tigers' rotation is weak at the back end.

The White Sox have the most pitching depth in the Central, but they have to answer a lot of questions about their offense, which has been streaky over the last few years.

At the bottom of the division

are the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians. The Royals traded ace Zack Grienke to the Milwaukee Brewers and will not be competing for a playoff spot this year. However, they have quietly developed one of the deepest farm systems in the majors. Look for some of these homegrown players to make an impact in the near future. The Indians have taken a nose dive in recent years and will not relieve the pain Cleveland felt from the departure of LeBron James or the annual stench brought from the Browns. The organization had to trade away star players because they could not afford to keep them. It will be a long summer in Cleveland.

AL West

The Texas Rangers are strong candidates to repeat as AL West Division Champions. The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline. The rest of their rotation is average. The fate of the bullpen resides on whether Rookie of the Year Neftali Feliz


is a closer or starter. Feliz was set as closer, but with an injury to Tommy Hunter things could change by opening day. The Rangers are solid in the pen as long as Feliz is the closer. The offense remains the biggest strength of the club — no one else in the division can match a lineup featuring Josh Hamilton, Ian Kinsler, Nelson Cruz, Adrian Beltre, Michael Young and Elvis Andrus. The pitching is strong, but they lack the true No. 1 starter needed for a postseason run.

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim lost out on the bidding for Carl Crawford and they are in desperate need for another bat.

The Oakland Athletics have a vast pool of young talented pitchers they can call on. However, the A's stand no chance of making the postseason with Josh Willingham as their cleanup hitter.

The lone bright spot for the Mariners this season will be Hernandez, until he is possibly traded at the deadline.



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



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

McKinney commits to TCU

By Ryne Sulier
Sports Editor

A TCU source confirmed the men's basketball program will add 6'8", 250-pound forward Adrick McKinney out of Angelina Junior College in Lufkin, according to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.



McKinney

McKinney, who played his high school ball at Trimble Tech in Fort Worth, averaged 15.1 points and 8.4 rebounds for Angelina, last season.

McKinney was a McDonald's All-American nominee out of high school and a Top 25 Texas prospect.

TCU Athletics cannot comment on prospects, committed or uncommitted, until the prospect signs a National

Letter of Intent per NCAA rules. The signing period runs from April 13 — May 18.

TCU has had issues with junior college transfer players as recently as last season. Forward Sammy Yeager (Weatherford College) averaged 9.3 points and 4.3 rebounds for the Frogs in 16 games before he was booted off the basketball team by head coach Jim Christian on Jan. 11. Yeager averaged nearly 20 points per game for Weatherford College during the 2009-10 season.

Center Andre Clark was signed out of John A. Logan Community College and was ranked the fifth-best overall junior college prospect by JucoJunction.com, but was removed from the team before a Nov. 2 exhibition game against Rogers State.

Fate would have it that Clark and Frogs' 2010-11

leading scorer Ronnie Moss, who is indefinitely suspended but still listed on the roster, were former teammates at Genesis One Prep School in Mendenhall, Miss.

Rumor mill

6'8" forward Ryan Rhoomes, a New York native out of Queens, recently took a recruiting visit to TCU, according to the *Star-Telegram*. Multiple sources have apparently indicated TCU has a good chance of signing Rhoomes, according to the article. Rhoomes has offers from West Virginia, Cincinnati, Virginia Tech, Providence, Pittsburgh and TCU, according to Rivals.com. Rhoomes didn't start playing basketball until the eighth grade and chose to attend prep school for a year before attending college.

SPORTS

WEATHER

TCU-SFA postponed, tennis at North Texas canceled

By Brett Anderson
Staff Reporter

No. 15 TCU's Tuesday evening home game against Stephen F. Austin University has been postponed to 6:30 p.m. today because of inclement weather.

The Frogs took two of three games in their weekend series against the University of Houston and will play game five of their 13-game homestand against the Lumberjacks tonight. The Frogs are currently 3-1 on their homestand and have won five of their last six games after losing two road games at UT-Arlington on March 15 and at UNLV on March 18.

Junior pitcher Erik Miller (0-4, 5.17 ERA) will make his second career start for the Frogs (15-8, 2-1 MWC) on Wednesday, and junior right fielder Brance Rivera will try to push his hitting streak to 24 games. Junior center fielder Aaron Schultz also comes into tonight's game with a nine-game hitting streak after hitting his second career grand slam

and third home run of the season in a 9-1 victory over the Cougars on Sunday.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier. We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

Dave Borelli
Head coach

Miller pitched a no-decision outing in the first start of his career against Air Force on May 16 last season.

SFA's Cody Priest (0-0, 2.13 ERA) will take the mound for the Lumberjacks (18-7, 8-1 Southland), who have won 15 of their last 17 games and are tied for first place in the Southland Conference.

TCU will play its first MWC home series this weekend against Air Force following tonight's SFA game.

Women's tennis match against North Texas canceled

The TCU women's tennis team's Tuesday match with North Texas was canceled because of inclement weather. The match was an effort to finish a previously postponed match versus the Mean Green. The first match was rained out Jan. 29 at the ITA Kickoff Weekend in Berkeley, Calif.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier," TCU head coach Dave Borelli said in a TCU Athletics release. "We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

TCU will begin Mountain West Conference play with three weekend home matches at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center: TCU plays BYU on Friday, Utah on Saturday and New Mexico on Sunday. The weekend matches will close out TCU's home schedule for the season.

The Frogs are riding a three-match win streak after a 5-2 win over UT-Arlington on March 23.



CARRIE ADAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Kyle Winkler follows through on a pitch against the University of Houston on Friday night. The game against SFA that was scheduled for yesterday was moved to today at 6:30 p.m.

OPINION

Mavs' season rides on Thursday showdown with Lakers



J.D. Moore

As the final games of the season wind down in the NBA, one of the closest playoff position races in the league is for the second seed in the Western Conference. Pending the outcome of tonight's Mavericks-Clippers game, The No. 3-seeded Dallas Mavericks (52-21) have a shot to gain momentum against the No. 2-seeded Los Angeles Lakers (53-20) when the teams play Thursday.

A Mavs win tonight would give Dallas a chance to tie LA for the No. 2 seed Thursday and give Dallas the tiebreaker

with a 2-1 advantage in head-to-head matchups.

With the No. 1-seeded Spurs sliding into the playoffs with a four-game losing streak and Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and Antonio McDyess all sidelined with injuries, there now seems to be the slightest of chances the Lakers or Mavs could catch the Spurs for the No. 1 seed in the West.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

What will decide the regular season L.A.-Dallas series, and more importantly, whether Dallas is a championship contender or playoff pretender, hinges on the performance of the Dallas

offense, which needs everyone on board to put up points.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

In a 109-100 win against the Lakers on Jan. 19, Dallas veterans Shawn Marion, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry all scored 20-plus points. Kidd shot 5-for-8 from three-point land and Terry rained down deep shots, going 4-for-6 from behind the arc. That needs to be replicated to defeat the Lakers on Thursday.

A statistical argument can

be made that Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Tyson Chandler are no matches in the paint against the Lakers' Andrew Byrum and Pau Gasol.

In the case of the Mavs' 96-91 loss to the Lakers on March 12, the stats didn't lie, as the Lakers' big men out-rebounded Dallas' on the defensive glass. However, in the case of the 109-100 win on Jan. 19, Dallas had its big men perform in the clutch as Nowitzki and Chandler out-rebounded Bryum and Gasol by a total of six rebounds. More importantly, Chandler pulled down six offensive rebounds in that game, allowing for more Dallas offensive opportunities — the key to winning against the Lakers.

In the two matchups of the season so far, L.A.'s big men have outscored Dallas' big men, 73-49. If Dallas can get rebounds and get its guards

play well, perhaps there is a shot.

In addition to production from the guards and rebounding from the big men, it would be nice if the young guys stepped up, too. Rodrigue Beaubois was still getting back in game shape after breaking his foot in January and only scored two points against Los Angeles in March. Reserve guard J.J. Barea has yet to score more than seven points against the Lakers and has yet to record more than one assist against them this season.

Baubois and Barea's production will be critical against the Lakers on Thursday. While the Mavs will be playing their second game of back-to-back games, the Lakers will be fresh after having three days off since their last game against New Orleans. When the veterans are resting up during the game, Beaubois

and Barea will be the main line of defense against Los Angeles. They need to bring an offensive presence to the Mavericks in order to keep consistent pressure against the Lakers. If they can't, the Lakers will be able to rest up their star players in order to counter the stars of the Mavericks.

The path for the Mavs to defeat the Lakers is not impossible, but will be a difficult task. Dallas is capable of defeating Los Angeles, but unless the Dallas guards are sharp from the perimeter, the big men can pull in rebounds and the young players can bring consistent pressure, the Mavericks playoff path will likely include four road games in Los Angeles.

J.D. Moore is a freshman journalism major from Honolulu, Hawaii and a writer for SportDFW.com.

BASEBALL

TCU vs. SFA postponed to 6:30 tonight because of inclement weather.

SPORTS

OPINION

The Rangers look like the team to beat in the American League.



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Wide receiver Josh Boyce warms up before the Oregon State game at the beginning of the 2010 season. The Frogs lost six starters on offense and five on defense from 2010.

FOOTBALL

Patterson: 'We don't have any leadership right now'

By Nathan DeWitt
Staff Writer

Tuesday night was TCU's 10th practice of the spring, and a wet field moved it indoors to the Sam Baugh Practice Facility. With only two practices left until the April 2 spring game, head coach Gary Patterson said one thing is certain thus far: this team can't improve until leaders show up on the field.

Patterson said he has a tough job in teaching his younger players what it takes to win games in the fall, even if it is only March.

"I've got two coaches on the field telling guys where to

be, because we don't have any leadership right now," Patterson said. "And without that it's tough to get better."

TCU lost six starters on the offensive side of the ball and five on defense in 2010 — with notable losses in the trenches with left tackle Marcus Cannon, center Jake Kirkpatrick, right tackle Zach Roth and right guard Josh Vernon gone after the 2010-11 season. On the defensive end, TCU lost nose tackle Cory Grant and right end Wayne Daniels. Those are the areas where Patterson said the youngsters will have to step up, but it's important that the learning occurs now and not in August.

"We have to communicate on both sides of the football," Patterson said. "We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be. When I don't see the difference between a freshman and a senior I might as well get the freshman ready."

After two-straight BCS appearances, the Frogs came in to the 2011 season with the added luxury of the program's best ever recruiting class. It is rare for true freshman to make immediate impacts out of high school. But four-star recruits LaDarius Brown (Waxahachie) and Chuck Hunter (West Monroe, La.) might have a shot to be the ex-

ceptions once summer practice begins. But, as Patterson said, the young players will have lots of learning to do.

"We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be."

Gary Patterson
Head Football Coach

"The key to it is, they've got to learn how to play the game," he said.

When last year's seniors departed on a high note after TCU's 21-19 Rose Bowl vic-

tory, Patterson said they took with them a number of intangibles this current squad has yet replace in order to win a championship.

Rob Rang of NFL-DraftScout.com said Andy Dalton's maturity and innate leadership skills make him one of the more pro-ready quarterbacks in the class. Dalton should be graded only on one statistic: 42 career wins. Jake Kirkpatrick, the center who delivered the ball to Dalton's senior season wins, will also likely be drafted in the NFL because he set the blocking scheme for a Frogs' offensive line that allowed less than a sack a game

for the fifth-ranked offense in the country (38.3 points per game).

The 2011 football team can look at past recruiting classes and understand the number of "stars" a recruit has coming into college might not mean anything at all. But this spring, they are learning that from the coaches instead of from veteran players.

"From a leadership standpoint, we have to grow up," Patterson said. "In terms of intangibles, the biggest thing on this football team right now is that we're not close to being what we need to be in order to be a championship team."

PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Student's innovative idea serves as example

Many of us have grand ideas of extravagant events that merely flash through our minds as a thought that is quickly ignored and forgotten, but this is not the case for everyone.

To see someone who really acted on one of those whimsical brain spasms, we need look no further than TCU's own Ted Wick, who is the man behind the West Berry Block Party that is happening in April.

The event involves several of the bars and restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the TCU campus and will hold performances from 50 bands on April 16. This whole event was born after Wick looked out his window and thought it would be neat to have a music festival.

Wick collaborated with his roommate, friends and local business owners to make this collection of musical talent a reality, proving that you can, in fact, act on a seemingly crazy idea and turn it into a highly anticipated, never-done-before event.

If we all acted on our mildly nuts ideas, imagine all the cool things that would be available to us on a day-to-day basis. Granted, some ideas are unrealistic altogether, but the idea of having a big community barbecue might be just the thing.

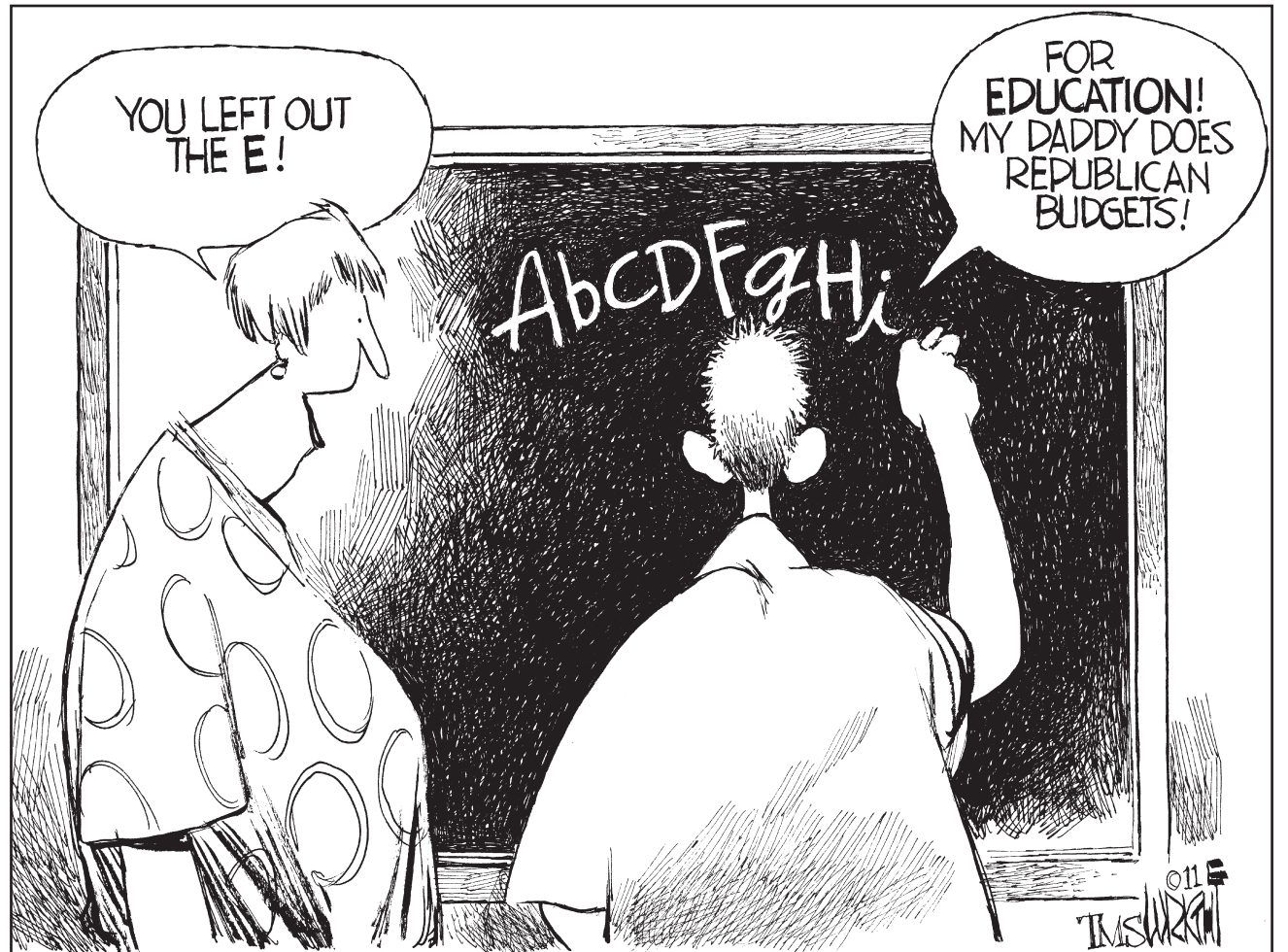
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Don Wright is a political cartoonist for the Palm Beach Post.

Assigning .xxx domain a good move



Bailey McGowan

The Internet Corporations for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) authorized the creation of a .xxx suffix for pornography websites on March 18, according to a March 19 article from *The New York Times*. The plan would eventually require the sites to register with a .xxx suffix so they aren't confused with other businesses of similar names. ICANN would not regulate the information on such sites.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legiti-

mate nature for pornography sites. While some sex industry members and religious groups are strongly opposed, the benefits of the .xxx suffix outweigh the drawbacks for a variety of reasons.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legitimate nature for pornography sites.

The sex industry claims it will be subjected to censorship by governments, and in that sense it is right. India has already declared it will not support the new .xxx suffix and will block what it calls the new red light district of the Internet.

Religious organizations,

such as Baptist Press, argue that the domain will make the spread of pornography more rapid and easier to access. That's clearly not the case when one considers that now all .xxx websites can be blocked from wandering eyes.

On the flip side, the .xxx domain will be scanned daily for viruses and create a secure site for payment. This would encourage people to use the sites because they wouldn't be concerned for the health of their computers or wallets.

Yes, pornography creates a demand for prostitution, sex trafficking and sexual assault through the feeding of sexual appetites. A domain catered for those who wish to visit those sites would prevent those who don't want to stumble upon them from doing so

accidentally.

The beauty of the Internet is its ability to give you access to any information you could possibly want. That extreme and awesome power has both positive and negative impacts. This is the same Internet that helped spark and organize the Egyptian uprising and provides us with breaking news. You can't have one without the other.

I am not a user of .xxx sites or any site that might even consider registering for a .xxx domain, but I do believe there needs to be a separate domain for such content. It can't be ignored, and through a .xxx domain name it won't be, even if it is censored by certain governments.

Bailey McGowan is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Burkburnett.



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PERSPECTIVES

Program doesn't help students



Emily Atteberry

Your parents probably wouldn't have minded if they were paid \$1,000 a year to pester you.

Because that's what InsideTrack, a "student coaching" program charges — \$500 per semester — to do essentially the same thing your parents did: hover and nag.

According to InsideTrack's website, its service "enriches the student experience, improves enrollment and retention rates and provides valuable student feedback." But what does that really mean?

It offers 30-minute sessions via telephone once a week in which they ask students about progress, grades, good news and personal lives. It plans out times for students to talk to their parents. It creates a system of "reminders" for assignments.

Basically, the service lives your life for you, but better than you could live it alone.

Although InsideTrack's services sound superfluous and a bit like a money-scheme, recent studies indicate otherwise — sort of.

A study conducted by a professor and doctorate student at Stanford University, which was independent of and not funded by InsideTrack, indicated that these

coaching sessions made an impact on students' persistence, especially in males.

Tested over two years at various unnamed universities in the country, the study noted the academic differences of two "control groups" — students who received no coaching or who were athletes and those who did.

After six months, coached students were more than five percent more likely to be enrolled than the control group, which is a nine percent gain in retention. The study showed that, on average, the likelihood of a student graduating was four percent higher than those who weren't.

The study stressed the importance of retention — that is, students staying in school. But it never once mentioned actual improvement of exam scores or course grades. This omission led my confidence in InsideTrack's services to falter.

Not only do I question the tangible effects of the coaching, but I also question the coaching at all.

"Oftentimes in higher education, we assume that students know how to behave," the researchers wrote. "We assume that they know how to study, how to prioritize and how to plan."

That's where, they argue, coaching comes in.

On one hand, they're right — college can be a real academic and culture shock for incoming students who expected to be throwing Frisbees and partying all day. But the readjustment to the

reality of college is part of growing up and becoming a college student. I can't help but wonder if coaches learning these lessons for students isn't detrimental.

In one of the testimonial videos on InsideTrack's website, a student vouched for the services, explaining that the processes for applying for internships, scholarships, study abroad and various other opportunities is too convoluted for him to manage.

What happens when he graduates? Does he suddenly expect everything to be simple and pretty? Parking tickets, mortgages, applying for loans — the red-tape of life is inevitable.

Some may argue that the skills he learned while being coached could carry through the rest of his life, but I am not sure that anything is being taught to students. Rather, things are being done for them.

Despite my skepticism, I know some students may truly need these services. Those with learning or mental disabilities could be one group that could benefit from persistent life-managing.

But for the majority of students, InsideTrack's personal "coaching" is little more than having another set of parents nagging you or taking care of the "hard things" so you don't have to do them.

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

Citizenship survey results troubling



Jake Harris

Quick, who is the vice president of the United States? Which countries did America fight in World War II? Who led the civil rights movement in the South during the 1960s? If the answers to these three relatively simple questions came to your mind immediately, than you would be in the majority of American citizens, but not by much.

In a recent study done by *Newsweek* magazine, 1,000 Americans were randomly asked a series of questions that appear on a U.S. citizenship test. Thirty-eight percent failed. That means that only 620 people out of 1,000 are even eligible to live in America if they had to pass a citizenship test right now.

Other interesting statistics include these wonderful tidbits of information: Six percent did not even know where to find "Independence Day" on the calendar; 70 percent had no clue that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and 43 percent did not

know that the first 10 amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights.

Interestingly enough, in an unscientific poll accompanying an article about this subject on the *New York Daily News* website, 79 percent of respondents said they "knew all of that stuff and anyone who doesn't should be ashamed." Only seven percent honestly responded with "No way — I would have struggled with those questions."

This raises the question: is America a nation of "know-nothings?" We cannot pass our own citizenship test, but think of ourselves as relatively knowledgeable about how our government works. At a time when the world is rapidly becoming more accessible, other countries know more about America than American citizens do. Anyone who has watched "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" has seen this phenomenon — the "Jaywalking" segment of his show never fails to exploit the ignorance of many American citizens.

Having lived overseas while attending high school, I experienced this firsthand. The Japanese and Korean citizens I came into contact with while living on military bases could speak more intelligently about American politics and govern-

ment than most Americans I know of. They were also very knowledgeable about their own history. It was a sense of pride to them to be able to talk about these things because it meant they had a connection to America, a country many of them had heard about but had never visited.

The world knowledge that those people gained was incredible. This world knowledge is something that American citizens take for granted, and that is the main reason the above statistic is so alarming. We have become apathetic about our country.

That we seem to not care or want to do anything about this issue is troubling; any eighth grader could tell you who Martin Luther King Jr. was or who America fought in World War II. It is a scary thought to think that American citizens might be the people who know the least about America and they actually live in the country.

The solution for this is to emphasize our history and become more familiar with our present. But the only way to emphasize our culture is to stop being so lazy and to do it ourselves, but that does not seem to be happening.

Jake Harris is a freshman journalism major from Wahiawa, Hawaii.



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GANDHI

A DAY of PEACE

Bullied as a youth, he sought advice from his grandfather. What he learned would change his life.

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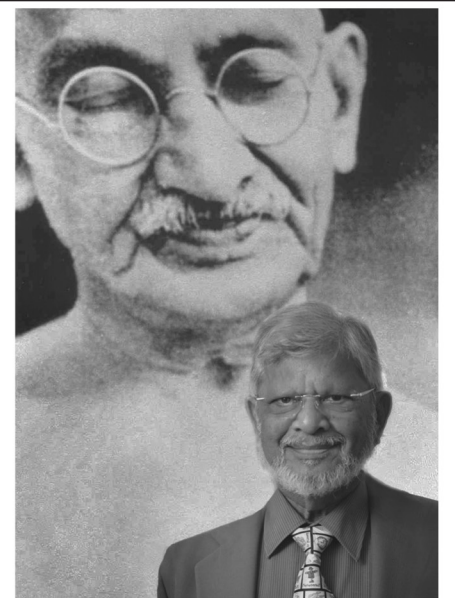
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Frog Feature

Getting to know Ted Wick, junior strategic communication major.



SARAH GREUFE / STAFF WRITER

By Sarah Greufe
Staff Writer

In the process of putting the West Berry Block Party into motion — his own idea, by the way — junior Ted Wick tells a little bit about his past with music. He said he is no rookie to planning gigs or the music business. He said he hoped a lot of people would come out to the show April 16, and if all goes well, he plans on making it an annual event.

Where are you from originally?

“Originally I am from Toronto, Canada, but I’m mainly from Houston. I only spent the first eight years of my life in Toronto. I spent my high school years in Houston, and my parents live in Minneapolis now. I have identity crisis problems all the time now with where exactly I am from.”

What are you currently studying at TCU, and where do you hope it takes you?

“Well, I’m actually studying strategic communication. It’s a great major. I’m hoping it takes me to an ad firm, PR firm or events coordinating like what I’m doing right now.”

Have you ever planned an event like this before?

“Yes, I have. I started booking local rock shows for local and regional bands back in high school. I believe it was my junior or senior year in high school when I started that. Then I started a band at that

time and the guitar player — who is my best friend — his dad started noticing what I was doing and he brought me over to the night club business. I started booking 18-and-under nights when I was 18. Then I moved on from there to 18-and-up nights. That was all two summers ago, and then last summer, that’s what I was doing — I mean, I was bringing in thousands upon thousands of people. I still continued the music thing and doing a bunch of shows. What I really realized is that I hated the night club, and I wanted to focus all my time on doing music shows.”

How did you first get involved with music?

“I guess it started when I was in eighth grade and I started going to guitar lessons. I have always been in love with music, and it has always been my goal to do something in the music industry, if possible. It’s a very hard industry to get into, and that’s why I’m going to college because I want a back-up plan. I don’t consider strat comm a back-up plan or plan B or anything, but I really want to

do music. So I got into that, and freshman year I formed a band out of high school, and I’ve been in two bands.”

Are you currently still in a band?

“No, I gave up that. It’s too much drama. I manage bands still. Currently, I manage a band called Collective Dreams. I also manage another guy, Josh Stallings.”

What kind of music do you prefer personally?

“My favorite genre would be alternative rock/indie rock. My favorite band of all time is Tool. Then No. 2 would be Dance Gavin Dance, and then I think No. 3 would probably have to be Circa Survive or Type O Negative.”

Did you have any major influences in your decision to pursue music?

“It was my parents basically telling me that I couldn’t do it. That was a main one. I’ve kind of always wanted to prove them wrong. I

think the other person that was a major influence is Peter Steele, the lead singer of Type O Negative. They were a big band in the ‘90s and then kind of fell off the face of the earth. Fun fact is they were the first band to hit platinum on Roadrunner Records, which was the record company that ended up signing Slipknot and Nickelback. Had that not happened, you wouldn’t have heard bands like Nickelback and Slipknot.”

What do you hope to see come out of the West Berry Block Party?

“I hope we have like an Austin City Limits or Lollapalooza-type music fest here in Fort Worth... It’s a music fest in Fort Worth — I mean, it’s a great city. If you look around, all this art that’s here right now is done by Fort Worth artists. We have a ton of great bands, and I think we have a great art scene here and I think it needs to be exposed. I think people forget because we are so close to Austin how great we are. I want WBBP to become big enough so that people recognize the art’s here.”

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FORT WORTH

Students bring bands to Berry Street for block party

By Sara Greufe
and Luis Ortiz

Staff Writer and Staff Reporter

TCU students have teamed up with local bands and businesses to create a music festival titled the West Berry Block Party, a spokesperson for the event said.

Junior Ted Wick, who came up with the idea for the project, said he got the idea when sitting out on the balcony of his apartment.

"I thought how cool would it be if one day we got all the bars on West Berry block together, got some acts from around the country, maybe some pretty well-known names and just had a huge day of music right next to TCU," Wick said.

The event organizers announced via Twitter that the event will now be a Tsunami relief concert. The majority of the funds will go to Disaster Relief International, with the rest of the proceeds going towards re-cooperating the cost of putting on the event.

Wick said April 16 was cho-

sen because it is the last weekend before Easter and study days before final exams. Wick said many students go out of town and pay big money for music festivals such as Austin City Limits during the school year and thought it would be a good idea to bring the music closer to Fort Worth.

"West Berry is a pretty cool area of town," Wick said. "It's not that big but it's so close to campus. This is a good way to promote the community and everything."

Wick approached his friends, band members of Collective Dreams, a local band in the area, about the idea and the group set out to make the event happen, he said. Many local businesses offered sponsorship as well as a place to hold meetings, he said.

Wick said students Bryan Lee, Travis Hildenbrand, who is in a band playing at the event, Riley Knight and Kevin Benson were all instrumental in setting up the concert. He also said he received support from John Campbell and Erin Sweeney, who are affiliated

with Stay Wired Coffeehouse.

The group approached several venues, including The Moon, The Cellar, Stay Wired, The Aardvark and Old Rip's, he said.

Co-owner of Old Rip's Cy Barcus said they always participate with charity events no matter what they are.

"We actually try to be a part of the community, part of the TCU family," Barcus said. "Just try to be good sports and good citizens."

They will feature local bands such as Green River Ordinance, Skeleton Coast and Collective Dreams.

Singer and guitarist Bobby McCubbins of Skeleton Coast said he was all for the block party and even helped book some bands for the event. His passion for music is what drove him to want to participate in the event.

"If you're actually playing for a certain cause or a benefit, it's a little more humbling," he said. "It's more like, 'Hey, let's get together and do something for a community all the way across the world.'"



For McCubbins, community is a big theme for the event. "You're going to see all these kids from TCU colliding with the whole music scene," he said. "It's going to be interesting to see all those people together at once."

Bands from Austin and San Antonio will also play at the event, he said. Wick said the main stage will be located in the parking lot of Old Rip's.

West Berry Block Party

When: April 16

Where: West Berry Street.

Concerts will be held at Old Rip's, The Aardvark, The Moon, The Cellar and Stay Wired Coffeehouse. The main stage will be the parking lot behind Old Rip's.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance, and \$25 the day of the event.

Note: Headlining bands include Green River Ordinance, Nelo and Collective Dreams. The majority of the proceeds will go to Disaster Relief International. Must be 18 years old to enter.

For more information visit westberryblockparty.com or facebook.com/westberryblockparty.

INTERNATIONAL

President offers concessions, fires Cabinet amid wave of unrest



BASSEM TELLAWI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-Syrian President Bashar Assad protester, waves Syrian flag as she looks to the crowd who demonstrate to show their support for their president, in Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday March 29, 2011.

By Zeina Karam
Associated Press

Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar Assad fired his Cabinet on Tuesday and

promised to end widely despised emergency laws — concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East.

The overtures, while largely symbolic, are a moment of rare compromise in the Assad family's 40 years of iron-fisted rule. They came as the government mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters in rallies

in the capital and elsewhere, in an effort to show it has wide popular backing.

Nearly every aspect of Syrian society is monitored and controlled by the security forces, and the feared secret police crush even the smallest rumblings of opposition. Draconian laws have all but eradicated civil liberties and political freedoms.

But with the protests that erupted on March 18, thousands of Syrians appear to have broken through a barrier of fear in this tightly controlled nation of 23 million.

"Syria stands at a crossroads," said Aktham Nuaisse, a leading human rights activist.

"Either the president takes immediate, drastic reform measures, or the country descends into one of several ugly scenarios. If he is willing to lead Syria into a real democratic transformation, he will be met halfway by the Syrian people," Nuaisse said.

The coming days will be key to determining whether Assad's concessions will quiet

the protest movement, which began after security forces arrested several teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall in the impoverished city of Daraa in the south.

The protests spread to other provinces and the government launched a swift crackdown, killing more than 60 people since March 18, according to Human Rights Watch. However, the violence has eased in the past few days and some predict the demonstrations might quickly die out if the president's promises appear genuine.

"People are tired from all this pressure and violence and I think if he (Assad) shows he's taken the people's demands seriously, they might stop," said a protester in Daraa who gave only his first name, Ibrahim, for fear of reprisals by security forces. "We're all waiting for his speech."

Still, tensions remained high in Daraa, where several hundred people were still staging a sit-in Tuesday, and in the Mediterranean port of Latakia,

which has a potentially volatile mix of different religious groups.

Assad, who inherited power 11 years ago from his father, appears to be following the playbook of other autocratic leaders in the region who scrambled to put down popular uprisings by using both concessions and brutal crackdowns.

The formula failed in Tunisia and Egypt, where popular demands increased almost daily — until people accepted nothing less than the ouster of the regime.

The unrest in Syria, a strategically important country, could have implications well beyond its borders given its role as Iran's top Arab ally and as a front line state against Israel.

Syria has long been viewed by the U.S. as a potentially destabilizing force in the Middle East. An ally of Iran and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, it has also provided a home for some radical Palestinian groups.

NATIONAL NEWS

Associated Press

Long blackouts pose risk to US reactors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before the nuclear emergency in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a power failure lasting for days at an American nuclear plant, whatever the cause, could lead to a radioactive leak. Even so, they have only required the nation's 104 nuclear reactors to develop plans for dealing with much shorter blackouts on the assumption that power would be restored quickly.

In one nightmare simulation presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009, it would take less than a day for radiation to escape from a reactor at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after an earthquake, flood or fire knocked out all electrical power and there was no way to keep the reactors cool after backup battery power ran out. That plant, the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station outside Lancaster, has reactors of the same older make and model as those releasing radiation at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which is using other means to try to cool the reactors.

And like Fukushima Dai-ichi, the Peach Bottom plant

has enough battery power on site to power emergency cooling systems for eight hours. In Japan, that wasn't enough time for power to be restored. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Institute trade association, three of the six reactors at the plant still can't get power to operate the emergency cooling systems. Two were shut down at the time. In the sixth, the fuel was removed completely and put in the spent fuel pool when it was shut down for maintenance at the time of the disaster. A week after the March 11 earthquake, diesel generators started supplying power to two other two reactors, Units 5 and 6, the groups said.

The risk of a blackout leading to core damage, while extremely remote, exists at all U.S. nuclear power plants, and some are more susceptible than others, according to an Associated Press investigation. While regulators say they have confidence that measures adopted in the U.S. will prevent or significantly delay a core from melting and threatening a radioactive release, the events in Japan raise questions about whether U.S. power plants are as prepared as they could and should be.

A top Nuclear Regulatory Commission official said Tues-

day that the agency will review station blackouts and whether the nation's 104 nuclear reactors are capable of coping with them.

As part of a review requested by President Barack Obama in the wake of the Japan crisis, the NRC will examine "what conditions and capabilities exist at all 104 reactors to see if we need to strengthen the regulatory requirement," said Bill Borchardt, the agency's executive director for operations.

Borchardt said an obvious question that should be answered is whether nuclear plants need enhanced battery supplies, or ones that can last longer.

Wisconsin judge halts anti-union bargaining law

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP) — The showdown over Wisconsin's law that strips most public workers of nearly all their collective bargaining rights shifted from the Statehouse back to the courts Tuesday, but it remained unclear when or even whether the measure would take effect.

The law strips away workers' rights to collectively bargain for anything except wages. It also requires most public workers to contribute more to their pensions and health insurance.



CAROLYN KASTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Feb. 27, 2007 file photo, the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant is seen in Delta, Pa. Long before a massive earthquake and tsunami unleashed a nuclear crisis in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a similar long-term power outage — whatever the cause — could lead to a radioactive leak from a nuclear reactor.

weighs in.

In Ohio, meanwhile, Republican legislators pushed legislation forward to similarly deny workers bargaining rights.

Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers pushed through passage of the law earlier this month despite three weeks of massive protests that drew up to 85,000 people to the state Capitol and a boycott by Democratic state senators. Opponents immediately filed a series of lawsuits that resulted in further chaos that might not end until the state Supreme Court

Sumi said during a hearing. "That is what I now want to make crystal clear."

That appeared even more likely after a hearing on Tuesday, when a county judge again ordered the state to put the law on hold while she considers a broader challenge to its legality. She chastised state officials for ignoring her earlier order to halt the law's publication.

"Apparently that language was either misunderstood or ignored, but what I said was the further implementation of (the law) was enjoined," Dane County Circuit Judge Maryann

Sumi also is considering claims by some officials that the law technically took effect last weekend after a state agency unexpectedly published it online.

The back and forth amplified the often angry debate between new Gov. Scott Walker, his Republican allies in the Legislature and the state's public sector unions.

TEXAS NEWS

Associated Press

Texans could get to vote on expanding gambling

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lawmakers considered 17 proposals Tuesday that could expand gambling in Texas, including building billion-dollar casinos and installing slot machines at racetracks.

The bills range from the modest addition of slot machines at existing dog and horse racing tracks to a 16-page constitutional amendment allowing development of eight Las Vegas-style destination casinos.

Dozens of people testified before the House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee Tuesday, with supporters saying that gaming taxes could put an additional \$1 billion a year into state coffers. Lawmakers are

currently grappling with a \$27-billion budget shortfall in providing existing state services. Gambling proponents said this might be the best opportunity to expand gambling in Texas in a decade.

The Texas Gaming Association is backing House Joint Resolution 112, the omnibus constitutional amendment that would license eight casinos, allow slot machines at eight racetracks and allow more gaming on Indian lands. The association says its proposal could bring in \$1.2 billion a year in gaming taxes and promote luxury resorts because of the limited number of licenses.

Bejeweled Cowboys WR Bryant sued for \$850,000-plus

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant is facing two lawsuits seeking

more than \$850,000 for unpaid jewelry bills, NFL and NBA tickets and loans.

A Tarrant County man is suing Bryant for \$588,500 worth of watches, earrings, bracelets, rings and other jewelry, plus \$15,850 worth of tickets and \$11,000 in unpaid loans. All the transactions were between June 2009 and June 2010.

Receipts signed by Bryant show that they were supposed to be paid by July 30, 2010, "or when he signs his first Marketing or Sports Contract, whichever happens first," the lawsuit said. The suit was filed in September and amended last week, before Bryant allegedly unleashed a tirade at a mall security officer concerned about his drooping pants.

Another lawsuit filed last week says Bryant owes a New York company \$246,000 for jewelry purchases made between January and May 2010.

UT's Powers defends higher education research

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The president of the University of Texas has defended research that might not have immediate commercial applications as the state faces lean budget times.

William Powers Jr., in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman, also says he supports small classes that generate less tuition and state funding than larger ones. Powers says the UT campus is "very attentive to this and very worried about it."

Powers made the comments after UT System regents reconsidered the \$200,000 a year special adviser job for Rick O'Donnell. O'Donnell, as a senior research fellow for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, argued that university research is harmful to good teaching.

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OPINION

Prediction: Texas Rangers should win the AL Pennant



Allen Kellogg

The American League appears to be much more competitive than the National League this season. Three teams in the AL East have legitimate playoff shots. My quick picks: The Boston Red Sox will win the AL East. The Minnesota Twins win the AL Central. The Texas Rangers win the AL West. The New York Yankees win the AL Wild Card. The Rangers will win the American League Pennant, which will set up a World Series showdown with the NL Champion Philadelphia Phillies. The Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera is my pick for AL MVP. The CY Young will go to the Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez, but only if he is not traded to the National League at the deadline. Here is a divisional breakdown of the AL:

AL East

After not making the playoffs last year, the Boston Red Sox brought in two superstar talents in outfielder Carl Crawford and first baseman Adrian Gonzales. Inserting these two players into the lineup gives the Sox one of the best offenses in the major leagues.

Boston's two issues revolve around the health of second baseman and former MVP Dustin Pedroia and infielder Kevin Youkilis. Can they return from their season-ending injuries and play at an all-star caliber level?

As for Boston's starting pitching, it remains to be seen whether Josh Beckett and John Lackey can return to ace form. If the Red Sox stay healthy, they are the favorites in the American League, but do not count out the Bronx Bombers.

The New York Yankees will challenge their arch rivals at every corner. The Yankees were two games from the World Series last year, and despite losing the bidding war for Cliff Lee, they remain a playoff contender. The Yankees will win the wild card behind CC Sabathia and their aging, but

deadly offense. With A-Rod, Mark Teixeira, Robinson Cano and Derek Jeter, the Yankees are a close second to Boston in the AL East.

The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline.

The Tampa Rays were decimated by free agency this offseason. They lost five starters, and despite having a pool of young talent to recruit from, they will not do better than fight for a wild card spot.

The Toronto Blue Jays led the league in home runs last year, and in any other division in baseball they could compete for a division title. The Blue Jays will not make the playoffs, but that does not mean they will not have a good season, winning 85-90 games.

Buck Showalter appears to be turning around the Baltimore Orioles, but without

starting pitching they are at least three years away from competing for a wild card.

AL Central

The AL Central has three teams fighting for the division crown: The Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins.

The Twins are by far the most balanced team with slugging first basemen Justin Morneau back from injury. The Twins will win the Central with good pitching, hitting and sound management.

Detroit's playoff hopes rest on the shoulders of MVP candidate Cabrera, who is struggling to rebuild his image after his highly publicized battle with alcohol addiction during the offseason. By adding catcher Victor Martinez via free agency, the Tigers picked up a good bat. It will not be enough — the Tigers' rotation is weak at the back end.

The White Sox have the most pitching depth in the Central, but they have to answer a lot of questions about their offense, which has been streaky over the last few years.

At the bottom of the division

are the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians. The Royals traded ace Zack Grienke to the Milwaukee Brewers and will not be competing for a playoff spot this year. However, they have quietly developed one of the deepest farm systems in the majors. Look for some of these homegrown players to make an impact in the near future. The Indians have taken a nose dive in recent years and will not relieve the pain Cleveland felt from the departure of Lebron James or the annual stench brought from the Browns. The organization had to trade away star players because they could not afford to keep them. It will be a long summer in Cleveland.

AL West

The Texas Rangers are strong candidates to repeat as AL West Division Champions. The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline. The rest of their rotation is average. The fate of the bullpen resides on whether Rookie of the Year Neftali Feliz


is a closer or starter. Feliz was set as closer, but with an injury to Tommy Hunter things could change by opening day. The Rangers are solid in the pen as long as Feliz is the closer. The offense remains the biggest strength of the club — no one else in the division can match a lineup featuring Josh Hamilton, Ian Kinsler, Nelson Cruz, Adrian Beltre, Michael Young and Elvis Andrus. The pitching is strong, but they lack the true No. 1 starter needed for a postseason run.

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim lost out on the bidding for Carl Crawford and they are in desperate need for another bat.

The Oakland Athletics have a vast pool of young talented pitchers they can call on. However, the A's stand no chance of making the postseason with Josh Willingham as their cleanup hitter.

The lone bright spot for the Mariners this season will be Hernandez, until he is possibly traded at the deadline.



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



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

McKinney commits to TCU

By Ryne Sulier
Sports Editor

A TCU source confirmed the men's basketball program will add 6'8", 250-pound forward Adrick McKinney out of Angelina Junior College in Lufkin, according to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.



McKinney

McKinney, who played his high school ball at Trimble Tech in Fort Worth, averaged 15.1 points and 8.4 rebounds for Angelina, last season.

McKinney was a McDonald's All-American nominee out of high school and a Top 25 Texas prospect.

TCU Athletics cannot comment on prospects, committed or uncommitted, until the prospect signs a National

Letter of Intent per NCAA rules. The signing period runs from April 13 — May 18.

TCU has had issues with junior college transfer players as recently as last season. Forward Sammy Yeager (Weatherford College) averaged 9.3 points and 4.3 rebounds for the Frogs in 16 games before he was booted off the basketball team by head coach Jim Christian on Jan. 11. Yeager averaged nearly 20 points per game for Weatherford College during the 2009-10 season.

Center Andre Clark was signed out of John A. Logan Community College and was ranked the fifth-best overall junior college prospect by JucoJunction.com, but was removed from the team before a Nov. 2 exhibition game against Rogers State.

Fate would have it that Clark and Frogs' 2010-11

leading scorer Ronnie Moss, who is indefinitely suspended but still listed on the roster, were former teammates at Genesis One Prep School in Mendenhall, Miss.

Rumor mill

6'8" forward Ryan Rhoomes, a New York native out of Queens, recently took a recruiting visit to TCU, according to the *Star-Telegram*. Multiple sources have apparently indicated TCU has a good chance of signing Rhoomes, according to the article. Rhoomes has offers from West Virginia, Cincinnati, Virginia Tech, Providence, Pittsburgh and TCU, according to Rivals.com. Rhoomes didn't start playing basketball until the eighth grade and chose to attend prep school for a year before attending college.

SPORTS

WEATHER

TCU-SFA postponed, tennis at North Texas canceled

By Brett Anderson
Staff Reporter

No. 15 TCU's Tuesday evening home game against Stephen F. Austin University has been postponed to 6:30 p.m. today because of inclement weather.

The Frogs took two of three games in their weekend series against the University of Houston and will play game five of their 13-game homestand against the Lumberjacks tonight. The Frogs are currently 3-1 on their homestand and have won five of their last six games after losing two road games at UT-Arlington on March 15 and at UNLV on March 18.

Junior pitcher Erik Miller (0-4, 5.17 ERA) will make his second career start for the Frogs (15-8, 2-1 MWC) on Wednesday, and junior right fielder Brance Rivera will try to push his hitting streak to 24 games. Junior center fielder Aaron Schultz also comes into tonight's game with a nine-game hitting streak after hitting his second career grand slam

and third home run of the season in a 9-1 victory over the Cougars on Sunday.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier. We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

Dave Borelli
Head coach

Miller pitched a no-decision outing in the first start of his career against Air Force on May 16 last season.

SFA's Cody Priest (0-0, 2.13 ERA) will take the mound for the Lumberjacks (18-7, 8-1 Southland), who have won 15 of their last 17 games and are tied for first place in the Southland Conference.

TCU will play its first MWC home series this weekend against Air Force following tonight's SFA game.

Women's tennis match against North Texas canceled

The TCU women's tennis team's Tuesday match with North Texas was canceled because of inclement weather. The match was an effort to finish a previously postponed match versus the Mean Green. The first match was rained out Jan. 29 at the ITA Kickoff Weekend in Berkeley, Calif.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier," TCU head coach Dave Borelli said in a TCU Athletics release. "We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

TCU will begin Mountain West Conference play with three weekend home matches at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center: TCU plays BYU on Friday, Utah on Saturday and New Mexico on Sunday. The weekend matches will close out TCU's home schedule for the season.

The Frogs are riding a three-match win streak after a 5-2 win over UT-Arlington on March 23.



CARRIE ADAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Kyle Winkler follows through on a pitch against the University of Houston on Friday night. The game against SFA that was scheduled for yesterday was moved to today at 6:30 p.m.

OPINION

Mavs' season rides on Thursday showdown with Lakers



J.D. Moore

As the final games of the season wind down in the NBA, one of the closest playoff position races in the league is for the second seed in the Western Conference. Pending the outcome of tonight's Mavericks-Clippers game, The No. 3-seeded Dallas Mavericks (52-21) have a shot to gain momentum against the No. 2-seeded Los Angeles Lakers (53-20) when the teams play Thursday.

A Mavs win tonight would give Dallas a chance to tie LA for the No. 2 seed Thursday and give Dallas the tiebreaker

with a 2-1 advantage in head-to-head matchups.

With the No. 1-seeded Spurs sliding into the playoffs with a four-game losing streak and Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and Antonio McDyess all sidelined with injuries, there now seems to be the slightest of chances the Lakers or Mavs could catch the Spurs for the No. 1 seed in the West.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

What will decide the regular season L.A.-Dallas series, and more importantly, whether Dallas is a championship contender or playoff pretender, hinges on the performance of the Dallas

offense, which needs everyone on board to put up points.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

In a 109-100 win against the Lakers on Jan. 19, Dallas veterans Shawn Marion, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry all scored 20-plus points. Kidd shot 5-for-8 from three-point land and Terry rained down deep shots, going 4-for-6 from behind the arc. That needs to be replicated to defeat the Lakers on Thursday.

A statistical argument can

be made that Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Tyson Chandler are no matches in the paint against the Lakers' Andrew Byrum and Pau Gasol.

In the case of the Mavs' 96-91 loss to the Lakers on March 12, the stats didn't lie, as the Lakers' big men out-rebounded Dallas' on the defensive glass. However, in the case of the 109-100 win on Jan. 19, Dallas had its big men perform in the clutch as Nowitzki and Chandler out-rebounded Bryum and Gasol by a total of six rebounds. More importantly, Chandler pulled down six offensive rebounds in that game, allowing for more Dallas offensive opportunities — the key to winning against the Lakers.

In the two matchups of the season so far, L.A.'s big men have outscored Dallas' big men, 73-49. If Dallas can get rebounds and get its guards

play well, perhaps there is a shot.

In addition to production from the guards and rebounding from the big men, it would be nice if the young guys stepped up, too. Rodrigue Beaubois was still getting back in game shape after breaking his foot in January and only scored two points against Los Angeles in March. Reserve guard J.J. Barea has yet to score more than seven points against the Lakers and has yet to record more than one assist against them this season.

Baubois and Barea's production will be critical against the Lakers on Thursday. While the Mavs will be playing their second game of back-to-back games, the Lakers will be fresh after having three days off since their last game against New Orleans. When the veterans are resting up during the game, Beaubois

and Barea will be the main line of defense against Los Angeles. They need to bring an offensive presence to the Mavericks in order to keep consistent pressure against the Lakers. If they can't, the Lakers will be able to rest up their star players in order to counter the stars of the Mavericks.

The path for the Mavs to defeat the Lakers is not impossible, but will be a difficult task. Dallas is capable of defeating Los Angeles, but unless the Dallas guards are sharp from the perimeter, the big men can pull in rebounds and the young players can bring consistent pressure, the Mavericks playoff path will likely include four road games in Los Angeles.

J.D. Moore is a freshman journalism major from Honolulu, Hawaii and a writer for SportDFW.com.

BASEBALL

TCU vs. SFA postponed to 6:30 tonight because of inclement weather.

SPORTS

OPINION

The Rangers look like the team to beat in the American League.



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Wide receiver Josh Boyce warms up before the Oregon State game at the beginning of the 2010 season. The Frogs lost six starters on offense and five on defense from 2010.

FOOTBALL

Patterson: 'We don't have any leadership right now'

By Nathan DeWitt
Staff Writer

Tuesday night was TCU's 10th practice of the spring, and a wet field moved it indoors to the Sam Baugh Practice Facility. With only two practices left until the April 2 spring game, head coach Gary Patterson said one thing is certain thus far: this team can't improve until leaders show up on the field.

Patterson said he has a tough job in teaching his younger players what it takes to win games in the fall, even if it is only March.

"I've got two coaches on the field telling guys where to

be, because we don't have any leadership right now," Patterson said. "And without that it's tough to get better."

TCU lost six starters on the offensive side of the ball and five on defense in 2010 — with notable losses in the trenches with left tackle Marcus Cannon, center Jake Kirkpatrick, right tackle Zach Roth and right guard Josh Vernon gone after the 2010-11 season. On the defensive end, TCU lost nose tackle Cory Grant and right end Wayne Daniels. Those are the areas where Patterson said the youngsters will have to step up, but it's important that the learning occurs now and not in August.

"We have to communicate on both sides of the football," Patterson said. "We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be. When I don't see the difference between a freshman and a senior I might as well get the freshman ready."

After two-straight BCS appearances, the Frogs came in to the 2011 season with the added luxury of the program's best ever recruiting class. It is rare for true freshman to make immediate impacts out of high school. But four-star recruits LaDarius Brown (Waxahachie) and Chuck Hunter (West Monroe, La.) might have a shot to be the ex-

ceptions once summer practice begins. But, as Patterson said, the young players will have lots of learning to do.

"We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be."

Gary Patterson
Head Football Coach

"The key to it is, they've got to learn how to play the game," he said.

When last year's seniors departed on a high note after TCU's 21-19 Rose Bowl vic-

tory, Patterson said they took with them a number of intangibles this current squad has yet replace in order to win a championship.

Rob Rang of NFL-DraftScout.com said Andy Dalton's maturity and innate leadership skills make him one of the more pro-ready quarterbacks in the class. Dalton should be graded only on one statistic: 42 career wins. Jake Kirkpatrick, the center who delivered the ball to Dalton's senior season wins, will also likely be drafted in the NFL because he set the blocking scheme for a Frogs' offensive line that allowed less than a sack a game

for the fifth-ranked offense in the country (38.3 points per game).

The 2011 football team can look at past recruiting classes and understand the number of "stars" a recruit has coming into college might not mean anything at all. But this spring, they are learning that from the coaches instead of from veteran players.

"From a leadership standpoint, we have to grow up," Patterson said. "In terms of intangibles, the biggest thing on this football team right now is that we're not close to being what we need to be in order to be a championship team."

PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Student's innovative idea serves as example

Many of us have grand ideas of extravagant events that merely flash through our minds as a thought that is quickly ignored and forgotten, but this is not the case for everyone.

To see someone who really acted on one of those whimsical brain spasms, we need look no further than TCU's own Ted Wick, who is the man behind the West Berry Block Party that is happening in April.

The event involves several of the bars and restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the TCU campus and will hold performances from 50 bands on April 16. This whole event was born after Wick looked out his window and thought it would be neat to have a music festival.

Wick collaborated with his roommate, friends and local business owners to make this collection of musical talent a reality, proving that you can, in fact, act on a seemingly crazy idea and turn it into a highly anticipated, never-done-before event.

If we all acted on our mildly nuts ideas, imagine all the cool things that would be available to us on a day-to-day basis. Granted, some ideas are unrealistic altogether, but the idea of having a big community barbecue might be just the thing.

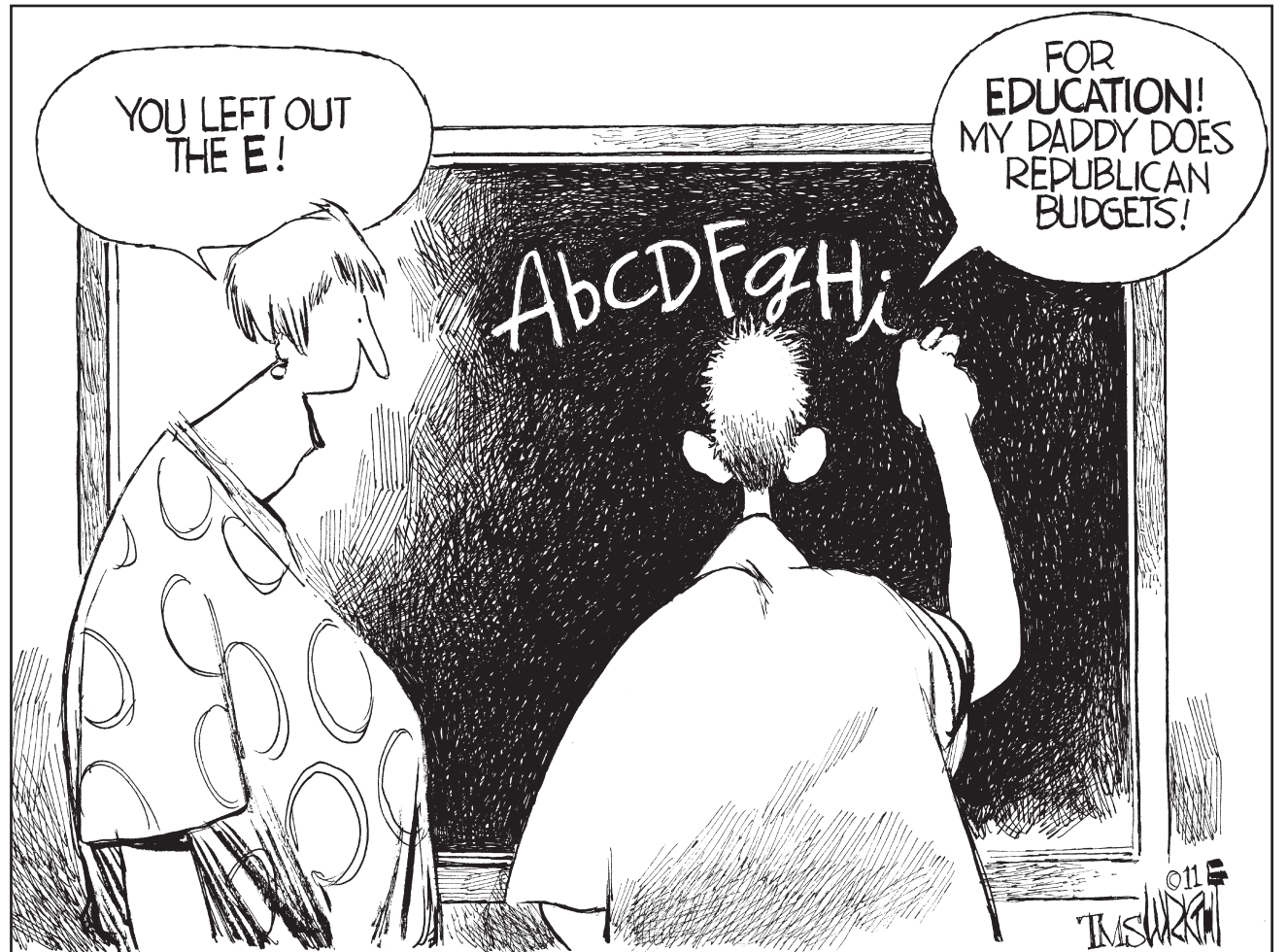
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Don Wright is a political cartoonist for the Palm Beach Post.

Assigning .xxx domain a good move



Bailey McGowan

The Internet Corporations for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) authorized the creation of a .xxx suffix for pornography websites on March 18, according to a March 19 article from *The New York Times*. The plan would eventually require the sites to register with a .xxx suffix so they aren't confused with other businesses of similar names. ICANN would not regulate the information on such sites.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legiti-

mate nature for pornography sites. While some sex industry members and religious groups are strongly opposed, the benefits of the .xxx suffix outweigh the drawbacks for a variety of reasons.

This will create both a safety net for parents and provide a safe and legitimate nature for pornography sites.

The sex industry claims it will be subjected to censorship by governments, and in that sense it is right. India has already declared it will not support the new .xxx suffix and will block what it calls the new red light district of the Internet.

Religious organizations,

such as Baptist Press, argue that the domain will make the spread of pornography more rapid and easier to access. That's clearly not the case when one considers that now all .xxx websites can be blocked from wandering eyes.

On the flip side, the .xxx domain will be scanned daily for viruses and create a secure site for payment. This would encourage people to use the sites because they wouldn't be concerned for the health of their computers or wallets.

Yes, pornography creates a demand for prostitution, sex trafficking and sexual assault through the feeding of sexual appetites. A domain catered for those who wish to visit those sites would prevent those who don't want to stumble upon them from doing so

accidentally.

The beauty of the Internet is its ability to give you access to any information you could possibly want. That extreme and awesome power has both positive and negative impacts. This is the same Internet that helped spark and organize the Egyptian uprising and provides us with breaking news. You can't have one without the other.

I am not a user of .xxx sites or any site that might even consider registering for a .xxx domain, but I do believe there needs to be a separate domain for such content. It can't be ignored, and through a .xxx domain name it won't be, even if it is censored by certain governments.

Bailey McGowan is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Burkburnett.



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

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Design Editor: Akmal Marikar
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PERSPECTIVES

Program doesn't help students



Emily Atteberry

Your parents probably wouldn't have minded if they were paid \$1,000 a year to pester you.

Because that's what InsideTrack, a "student coaching" program charges — \$500 per semester — to do essentially the same thing your parents did: hover and nag.

According to InsideTrack's website, its service "enriches the student experience, improves enrollment and retention rates and provides valuable student feedback." But what does that really mean?

It offers 30-minute sessions via telephone once a week in which they ask students about progress, grades, good news and personal lives. It plans out times for students to talk to their parents. It creates a system of "reminders" for assignments.

Basically, the service lives your life for you, but better than you could live it alone.

Although InsideTrack's services sound superfluous and a bit like a money-scheme, recent studies indicate otherwise — sort of.

A study conducted by a professor and doctorate student at Stanford University, which was independent of and not funded by InsideTrack, indicated that these

coaching sessions made an impact on students' persistence, especially in males.

Tested over two years at various unnamed universities in the country, the study noted the academic differences of two "control groups" — students who received no coaching or who were athletes and those who did.

After six months, coached students were more than five percent more likely to be enrolled than the control group, which is a nine percent gain in retention. The study showed that, on average, the likelihood of a student graduating was four percent higher than those who weren't.

The study stressed the importance of retention — that is, students staying in school. But it never once mentioned actual improvement of exam scores or course grades. This omission led my confidence in InsideTrack's services to falter.

Not only do I question the tangible effects of the coaching, but I also question the coaching at all.

"Oftentimes in higher education, we assume that students know how to behave," the researchers wrote. "We assume that they know how to study, how to prioritize and how to plan."

That's where, they argue, coaching comes in.

On one hand, they're right — college can be a real academic and culture shock for incoming students who expected to be throwing Frisbees and partying all day. But the readjustment to the

reality of college is part of growing up and becoming a college student. I can't help but wonder if coaches learning these lessons for students isn't detrimental.

In one of the testimonial videos on InsideTrack's website, a student vouched for the services, explaining that the processes for applying for internships, scholarships, study abroad and various other opportunities is too convoluted for him to manage.

What happens when he graduates? Does he suddenly expect everything to be simple and pretty? Parking tickets, mortgages, applying for loans — the red-tape of life is inevitable.

Some may argue that the skills he learned while being coached could carry through the rest of his life, but I am not sure that anything is being taught to students. Rather, things are being done for them.

Despite my skepticism, I know some students may truly need these services. Those with learning or mental disabilities could be one group that could benefit from persistent life-managing.

But for the majority of students, InsideTrack's personal "coaching" is little more than having another set of parents nagging you or taking care of the "hard things" so you don't have to do them.

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

Citizenship survey results troubling



Jake Harris

Quick, who is the vice president of the United States? Which countries did America fight in World War II? Who led the civil rights movement in the South during the 1960s? If the answers to these three relatively simple questions came to your mind immediately, than you would be in the majority of American citizens, but not by much.

In a recent study done by *Newsweek* magazine, 1,000 Americans were randomly asked a series of questions that appear on a U.S. citizenship test. Thirty-eight percent failed. That means that only 620 people out of 1,000 are even eligible to live in America if they had to pass a citizenship test right now.

Other interesting statistics include these wonderful tidbits of information: Six percent did not even know where to find "Independence Day" on the calendar; 70 percent had no clue that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and 43 percent did not

know that the first 10 amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights.

Interestingly enough, in an unscientific poll accompanying an article about this subject on the *New York Daily News* website, 79 percent of respondents said they "knew all of that stuff and anyone who doesn't should be ashamed." Only seven percent honestly responded with "No way — I would have struggled with those questions."

This raises the question: is America a nation of "know-nothings?" We cannot pass our own citizenship test, but think of ourselves as relatively knowledgeable about how our government works. At a time when the world is rapidly becoming more accessible, other countries know more about America than American citizens do. Anyone who has watched "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" has seen this phenomenon — the "Jaywalking" segment of his show never fails to exploit the ignorance of many American citizens.

Having lived overseas while attending high school, I experienced this firsthand. The Japanese and Korean citizens I came into contact with while living on military bases could speak more intelligently about American politics and govern-

ment than most Americans I know of. They were also very knowledgeable about their own history. It was a sense of pride to them to be able to talk about these things because it meant they had a connection to America, a country many of them had heard about but had never visited.

The world knowledge that those people gained was incredible. This world knowledge is something that American citizens take for granted, and that is the main reason the above statistic is so alarming. We have become apathetic about our country.

That we seem to not care or want to do anything about this issue is troubling; any eighth grader could tell you who Martin Luther King Jr. was or who America fought in World War II. It is a scary thought to think that American citizens might be the people who know the least about America and they actually live in the country.

The solution for this is to emphasize our history and become more familiar with our present. But the only way to emphasize our culture is to stop being so lazy and to do it ourselves, but that does not seem to be happening.

Jake Harris is a freshman journalism major from Wahiawa, Hawaii.



SXC.HU

GANDHI

A DAY of PEACE

Bullied as a youth, he sought advice from his grandfather. What he learned would change his life.

ARUN GANDHI

Peace Activist, Proponent of Nonviolence,
Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

"Lessons Learned from My Grandfather"

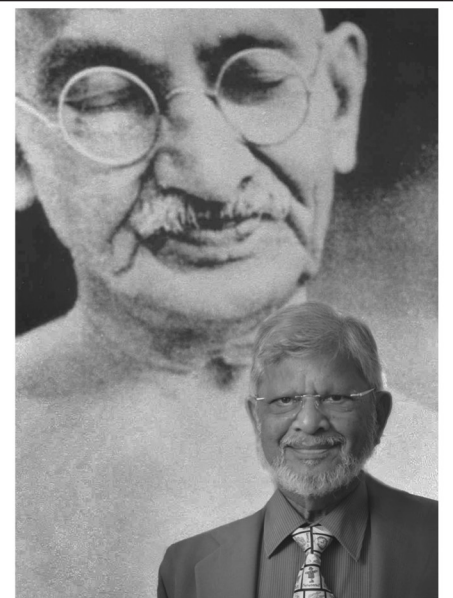
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Frog Feature

Getting to know Ted Wick, junior strategic communication major.



SARAH GREUFE / STAFF WRITER

By Sarah Greufe
Staff Writer

In the process of putting the West Berry Block Party into motion — his own idea, by the way — junior Ted Wick tells a little bit about his past with music. He said he is no rookie to planning gigs or the music business. He said he hoped a lot of people would come out to the show April 16, and if all goes well, he plans on making it an annual event.

Where are you from originally?

“Originally I am from Toronto, Canada, but I’m mainly from Houston. I only spent the first eight years of my life in Toronto. I spent my high school years in Houston, and my parents live in Minneapolis now. I have identity crisis problems all the time now with where exactly I am from.”

What are you currently studying at TCU, and where do you hope it takes you?

“Well, I’m actually studying strategic communication. It’s a great major. I’m hoping it takes me to an ad firm, PR firm or events coordinating like what I’m doing right now.”

Have you ever planned an event like this before?

“Yes, I have. I started booking local rock shows for local and regional bands back in high school. I believe it was my junior or senior year in high school when I started that. Then I started a band at that

time and the guitar player — who is my best friend — his dad started noticing what I was doing and he brought me over to the night club business. I started booking 18-and-under nights when I was 18. Then I moved on from there to 18-and-up nights. That was all two summers ago, and then last summer, that’s what I was doing — I mean, I was bringing in thousands upon thousands of people. I still continued the music thing and doing a bunch of shows. What I really realized is that I hated the night club, and I wanted to focus all my time on doing music shows.”

How did you first get involved with music?

“I guess it started when I was in eighth grade and I started going to guitar lessons. I have always been in love with music, and it has always been my goal to do something in the music industry, if possible. It’s a very hard industry to get into, and that’s why I’m going to college because I want a back-up plan. I don’t consider strat comm a back-up plan or plan B or anything, but I really want to

do music. So I got into that, and freshman year I formed a band out of high school, and I’ve been in two bands.”

Are you currently still in a band?

“No, I gave up that. It’s too much drama. I manage bands still. Currently, I manage a band called Collective Dreams. I also manage another guy, Josh Stallings.”

What kind of music do you prefer personally?

“My favorite genre would be alternative rock/indie rock. My favorite band of all time is Tool. Then No. 2 would be Dance Gavin Dance, and then I think No. 3 would probably have to be Circa Survive or Type O Negative.”

Did you have any major influences in your decision to pursue music?

“It was my parents basically telling me that I couldn’t do it. That was a main one. I’ve kind of always wanted to prove them wrong. I

think the other person that was a major influence is Peter Steele, the lead singer of Type O Negative. They were a big band in the ‘90s and then kind of fell off the face of the earth. Fun fact is they were the first band to hit platinum on Roadrunner Records, which was the record company that ended up signing Slipknot and Nickelback. Had that not happened, you wouldn’t have heard bands like Nickelback and Slipknot.”

What do you hope to see come out of the West Berry Block Party?

“I hope we have like an Austin City Limits or Lollapalooza-type music fest here in Fort Worth... It’s a music fest in Fort Worth — I mean, it’s a great city. If you look around, all this art that’s here right now is done by Fort Worth artists. We have a ton of great bands, and I think we have a great art scene here and I think it needs to be exposed. I think people forget because we are so close to Austin how great we are. I want WBBP to become big enough so that people recognize the art’s here.”

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FORT WORTH

Students bring bands to Berry Street for block party

By Sara Greufe
and Luis Ortiz

Staff Writer and Staff Reporter

TCU students have teamed up with local bands and businesses to create a music festival titled the West Berry Block Party, a spokesperson for the event said.

Junior Ted Wick, who came up with the idea for the project, said he got the idea when sitting out on the balcony of his apartment.

"I thought how cool would it be if one day we got all the bars on West Berry block together, got some acts from around the country, maybe some pretty well-known names and just had a huge day of music right next to TCU," Wick said.

The event organizers announced via Twitter that the event will now be a Tsunami relief concert. The majority of the funds will go to Disaster Relief International, with the rest of the proceeds going towards re-cooperating the cost of putting on the event.

Wick said April 16 was cho-

sen because it is the last weekend before Easter and study days before final exams. Wick said many students go out of town and pay big money for music festivals such as Austin City Limits during the school year and thought it would be a good idea to bring the music closer to Fort Worth.

"West Berry is a pretty cool area of town," Wick said. "It's not that big but it's so close to campus. This is a good way to promote the community and everything."

Wick approached his friends, band members of Collective Dreams, a local band in the area, about the idea and the group set out to make the event happen, he said. Many local businesses offered sponsorship as well as a place to hold meetings, he said.

Wick said students Bryan Lee, Travis Hildenbrand, who is in a band playing at the event, Riley Knight and Kevin Benson were all instrumental in setting up the concert. He also said he received support from John Campbell and Erin Sweeney, who are affiliated

with Stay Wired Coffeehouse.

The group approached several venues, including The Moon, The Cellar, Stay Wired, The Aardvark and Old Rip's, he said.

Co-owner of Old Rip's Cy Barcus said they always participate with charity events no matter what they are.

"We actually try to be a part of the community, part of the TCU family," Barcus said. "Just try to be good sports and good citizens."

They will feature local bands such as Green River Ordinance, Skeleton Coast and Collective Dreams.

Singer and guitarist Bobby McCubbins of Skeleton Coast said he was all for the block party and even helped book some bands for the event. His passion for music is what drove him to want to participate in the event.

"If you're actually playing for a certain cause or a benefit, it's a little more humbling," he said. "It's more like, 'Hey, let's get together and do something for a community all the way across the world.'"



For McCubbins, community is a big theme for the event. "You're going to see all these kids from TCU colliding with the whole music scene," he said. "It's going to be interesting to see all those people together at once."

Bands from Austin and San Antonio will also play at the event, he said. Wick said the main stage will be located in the parking lot of Old Rip's.

West Berry Block Party

When: April 16

Where: West Berry Street.

Concerts will be held at Old Rip's, The Aardvark, The Moon, The Cellar and Stay Wired Coffeehouse. The main stage will be the parking lot behind Old Rip's.

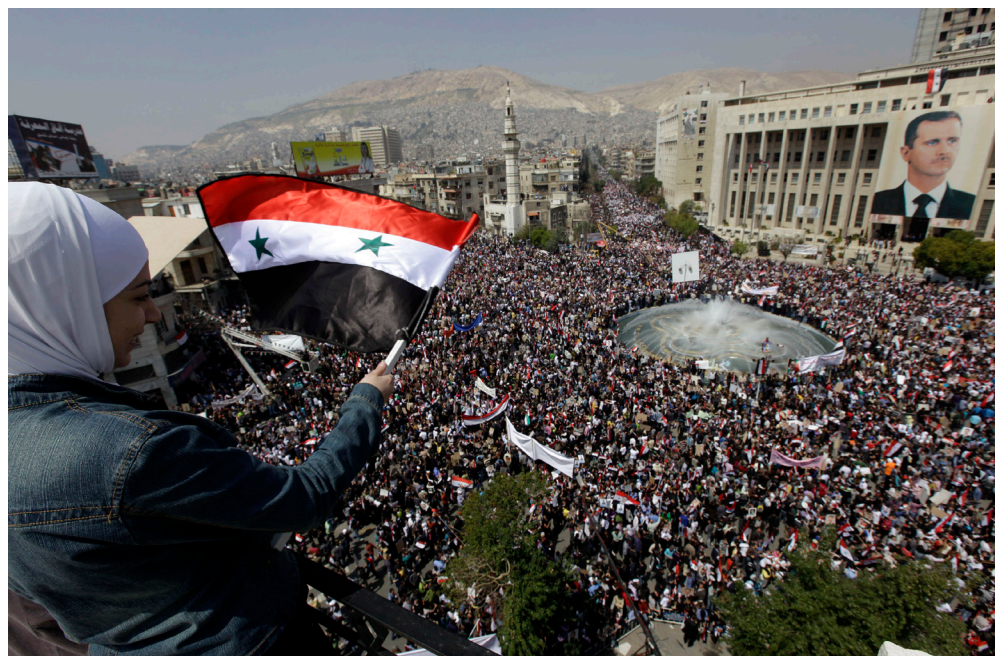
Tickets cost \$20 in advance, and \$25 the day of the event.

Note: Headlining bands include Green River Ordinance, Nelo and Collective Dreams. The majority of the proceeds will go to Disaster Relief International. Must be 18 years old to enter.

For more information visit westberryblockparty.com or facebook.com/westberryblockparty.

INTERNATIONAL

President offers concessions, fires Cabinet amid wave of unrest



BASSEM TELLAWI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-Syrian President Bashar Assad protester, waves Syrian flag as she looks to the crowd who demonstrate to show their support for their president, in Damascus, Syria, on Tuesday March 29, 2011.

By Zeina Karam
Associated Press

Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar Assad fired his Cabinet on Tuesday and

promised to end widely despised emergency laws — concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East.

The overtures, while largely symbolic, are a moment of rare compromise in the Assad family's 40 years of iron-fisted rule. They came as the government mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters in rallies

in the capital and elsewhere, in an effort to show it has wide popular backing.

Nearly every aspect of Syrian society is monitored and controlled by the security forces, and the feared secret police crush even the smallest rumblings of opposition. Draconian laws have all but eradicated civil liberties and political freedoms.

But with the protests that erupted on March 18, thousands of Syrians appear to have broken through a barrier of fear in this tightly controlled nation of 23 million.

"Syria stands at a crossroads," said Aktham Nuaisse, a leading human rights activist.

"Either the president takes immediate, drastic reform measures, or the country descends into one of several ugly scenarios. If he is willing to lead Syria into a real democratic transformation, he will be met halfway by the Syrian people," Nuaisse said.

The coming days will be key to determining whether Assad's concessions will quiet

the protest movement, which began after security forces arrested several teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall in the impoverished city of Daraa in the south.

The protests spread to other provinces and the government launched a swift crackdown, killing more than 60 people since March 18, according to Human Rights Watch. However, the violence has eased in the past few days and some predict the demonstrations might quickly die out if the president's promises appear genuine.

"People are tired from all this pressure and violence and I think if he (Assad) shows he's taken the people's demands seriously, they might stop," said a protester in Daraa who gave only his first name, Ibrahim, for fear of reprisals by security forces. "We're all waiting for his speech."

Still, tensions remained high in Daraa, where several hundred people were still staging a sit-in Tuesday, and in the Mediterranean port of Latakia,

which has a potentially volatile mix of different religious groups.

Assad, who inherited power 11 years ago from his father, appears to be following the playbook of other autocratic leaders in the region who scrambled to put down popular uprisings by using both concessions and brutal crackdowns.

The formula failed in Tunisia and Egypt, where popular demands increased almost daily — until people accepted nothing less than the ouster of the regime.

The unrest in Syria, a strategically important country, could have implications well beyond its borders given its role as Iran's top Arab ally and as a front line state against Israel.

Syria has long been viewed by the U.S. as a potentially destabilizing force in the Middle East. An ally of Iran and Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, it has also provided a home for some radical Palestinian groups.

NATIONAL NEWS

Associated Press

Long blackouts pose risk to US reactors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before the nuclear emergency in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a power failure lasting for days at an American nuclear plant, whatever the cause, could lead to a radioactive leak. Even so, they have only required the nation's 104 nuclear reactors to develop plans for dealing with much shorter blackouts on the assumption that power would be restored quickly.

In one nightmare simulation presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009, it would take less than a day for radiation to escape from a reactor at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after an earthquake, flood or fire knocked out all electrical power and there was no way to keep the reactors cool after backup battery power ran out. That plant, the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station outside Lancaster, has reactors of the same older make and model as those releasing radiation at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which is using other means to try to cool the reactors.

And like Fukushima Dai-ichi, the Peach Bottom plant

has enough battery power on site to power emergency cooling systems for eight hours. In Japan, that wasn't enough time for power to be restored. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Institute trade association, three of the six reactors at the plant still can't get power to operate the emergency cooling systems. Two were shut down at the time. In the sixth, the fuel was removed completely and put in the spent fuel pool when it was shut down for maintenance at the time of the disaster. A week after the March 11 earthquake, diesel generators started supplying power to two other two reactors, Units 5 and 6, the groups said.

The risk of a blackout leading to core damage, while extremely remote, exists at all U.S. nuclear power plants, and some are more susceptible than others, according to an Associated Press investigation. While regulators say they have confidence that measures adopted in the U.S. will prevent or significantly delay a core from melting and threatening a radioactive release, the events in Japan raise questions about whether U.S. power plants are as prepared as they could and should be.

A top Nuclear Regulatory Commission official said Tues-

day that the agency will review station blackouts and whether the nation's 104 nuclear reactors are capable of coping with them.

As part of a review requested by President Barack Obama in the wake of the Japan crisis, the NRC will examine "what conditions and capabilities exist at all 104 reactors to see if we need to strengthen the regulatory requirement," said Bill Borchardt, the agency's executive director for operations.

Borchardt said an obvious question that should be answered is whether nuclear plants need enhanced battery supplies, or ones that can last longer.

Wisconsin judge halts anti-union bargaining law

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP) — The showdown over Wisconsin's law that strips most public workers of nearly all their collective bargaining rights shifted from the Statehouse back to the courts Tuesday, but it remained unclear when or even whether the measure would take effect.

The law strips away workers' rights to collectively bargain for anything except wages. It also requires most public workers to contribute more to their pensions and health insurance.



CAROLYN KASTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Feb. 27, 2007 file photo, the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant is seen in Delta, Pa. Long before a massive earthquake and tsunami unleashed a nuclear crisis in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a similar long-term power outage — whatever the cause — could lead to a radioactive leak from a nuclear reactor.

weighs in.

In Ohio, meanwhile, Republican legislators pushed legislation forward to similarly deny workers bargaining rights.

Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers pushed through passage of the law earlier this month despite three weeks of massive protests that drew up to 85,000 people to the state Capitol and a boycott by Democratic state senators. Opponents immediately filed a series of lawsuits that resulted in further chaos that might not end until the state Supreme Court

Sumi said during a hearing. "That is what I now want to make crystal clear."

That appeared even more likely after a hearing on Tuesday, when a county judge again ordered the state to put the law on hold while she considers a broader challenge to its legality. She chastised state officials for ignoring her earlier order to halt the law's publication.

"Apparently that language was either misunderstood or ignored, but what I said was the further implementation of (the law) was enjoined," Dane County Circuit Judge Maryann

Sumi also is considering claims by some officials that the law technically took effect last weekend after a state agency unexpectedly published it online.

The back and forth amplified the often angry debate between new Gov. Scott Walker, his Republican allies in the Legislature and the state's public sector unions.

TEXAS NEWS

Associated Press

Texans could get to vote on expanding gambling

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lawmakers considered 17 proposals Tuesday that could expand gambling in Texas, including building billion-dollar casinos and installing slot machines at racetracks.

The bills range from the modest addition of slot machines at existing dog and horse racing tracks to a 16-page constitutional amendment allowing development of eight Las Vegas-style destination casinos.

Dozens of people testified before the House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee Tuesday, with supporters saying that gaming taxes could put an additional \$1 billion a year into state coffers. Lawmakers are

currently grappling with a \$27-billion budget shortfall in providing existing state services. Gambling proponents said this might be the best opportunity to expand gambling in Texas in a decade.

The Texas Gaming Association is backing House Joint Resolution 112, the omnibus constitutional amendment that would license eight casinos, allow slot machines at eight racetracks and allow more gaming on Indian lands. The association says its proposal could bring in \$1.2 billion a year in gaming taxes and promote luxury resorts because of the limited number of licenses.

Bejeweled Cowboys WR Bryant sued for \$850,000-plus

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant is facing two lawsuits seeking

more than \$850,000 for unpaid jewelry bills, NFL and NBA tickets and loans.

A Tarrant County man is suing Bryant for \$588,500 worth of watches, earrings, bracelets, rings and other jewelry, plus \$15,850 worth of tickets and \$11,000 in unpaid loans. All the transactions were between June 2009 and June 2010.

Receipts signed by Bryant show that they were supposed to be paid by July 30, 2010, "or when he signs his first Marketing or Sports Contract, which ever happens first," the lawsuit said. The suit was filed in September and amended last week, before Bryant allegedly unleashed a tirade at a mall security officer concerned about his drooping pants.

Another lawsuit filed last week says Bryant owes a New York company \$246,000 for jewelry purchases made between January and May 2010.

UT's Powers defends higher education research

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The president of the University of Texas has defended research that might not have immediate commercial applications as the state faces lean budget times.

William Powers Jr., in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman, also says he supports small classes that generate less tuition and state funding than larger ones. Powers says the UT campus is "very attentive to this and very worried about it."

Powers made the comments after UT System regents reconsidered the \$200,000 a year special adviser job for Rick O'Donnell. O'Donnell, as a senior research fellow for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, argued that university research is harmful to good teaching.

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OPINION

Prediction: Texas Rangers should win the AL Pennant



Allen Kellogg

The American League appears to be much more competitive than the National League this season. Three teams in the AL East have legitimate playoff shots. My quick picks: The Boston Red Sox will win the AL East. The Minnesota Twins win the AL Central. The Texas Rangers win the AL West. The New York Yankees win the AL Wild Card. The Rangers will win the American League Pennant, which will set up a World Series showdown with the NL Champion Philadelphia Phillies. The Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera is my pick for AL MVP. The CY Young will go to the Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez, but only if he is not traded to the National League at the deadline. Here is a divisional breakdown of the AL:

AL East

After not making the playoffs last year, the Boston Red Sox brought in two superstar talents in outfielder Carl Crawford and first baseman Adrian Gonzales. Inserting these two players into the lineup gives the Sox one of the best offenses in the major leagues.

Boston's two issues revolve around the health of second baseman and former MVP Dustin Pedroia and infielder Kevin Youkilis. Can they return from their season-ending injuries and play at an all-star caliber level?

As for Boston's starting pitching, it remains to be seen whether Josh Beckett and John Lackey can return to ace form. If the Red Sox stay healthy, they are the favorites in the American League, but do not count out the Bronx Bombers.

The New York Yankees will challenge their arch rivals at every corner. The Yankees were two games from the World Series last year, and despite losing the bidding war for Cliff Lee, they remain a playoff contender. The Yankees will win the wild card behind CC Sabathia and their aging, but

deadly offense. With A-Rod, Mark Teixeira, Robinson Cano and Derek Jeter, the Yankees are a close second to Boston in the AL East.

The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline.

The Tampa Rays were decimated by free agency this offseason. They lost five starters, and despite having a pool of young talent to recruit from, they will not do better than fight for a wild card spot.

The Toronto Blue Jays led the league in home runs last year, and in any other division in baseball they could compete for a division title. The Blue Jays will not make the playoffs, but that does not mean they will not have a good season, winning 85-90 games.

Buck Showalter appears to be turning around the Baltimore Orioles, but without

starting pitching they are at least three years away from competing for a wild card.

AL Central

The AL Central has three teams fighting for the division crown: The Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins.

The Twins are by far the most balanced team with slugging first basemen Justin Morneau back from injury. The Twins will win the Central with good pitching, hitting and sound management.

Detroit's playoff hopes rest on the shoulders of MVP candidate Cabrera, who is struggling to rebuild his image after his highly publicized battle with alcohol addiction during the offseason. By adding catcher Victor Martinez via free agency, the Tigers picked up a good bat. It will not be enough — the Tigers' rotation is weak at the back end.

The White Sox have the most pitching depth in the Central, but they have to answer a lot of questions about their offense, which has been streaky over the last few years.

At the bottom of the division

are the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians. The Royals traded ace Zack Grienke to the Milwaukee Brewers and will not be competing for a playoff spot this year. However, they have quietly developed one of the deepest farm systems in the majors. Look for some of these homegrown players to make an impact in the near future. The Indians have taken a nose dive in recent years and will not relieve the pain Cleveland felt from the departure of LeBron James or the annual stench brought from the Browns. The organization had to trade away star players because they could not afford to keep them. It will be a long summer in Cleveland.

AL West

The Texas Rangers are strong candidates to repeat as AL West Division Champions. The Rangers' rotation took a setback when they were unable to sign Lee. Look for the Rangers to try and bring another ace pitcher before the trade deadline. The rest of their rotation is average. The fate of the bullpen resides on whether Rookie of the Year Neftali Feliz


is a closer or starter. Feliz was set as closer, but with an injury to Tommy Hunter things could change by opening day. The Rangers are solid in the pen as long as Feliz is the closer. The offense remains the biggest strength of the club — no one else in the division can match a lineup featuring Josh Hamilton, Ian Kinsler, Nelson Cruz, Adrian Beltre, Michael Young and Elvis Andrus. The pitching is strong, but they lack the true No. 1 starter needed for a postseason run.

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim lost out on the bidding for Carl Crawford and they are in desperate need for another bat.

The Oakland Athletics have a vast pool of young talented pitchers they can call on. However, the A's stand no chance of making the postseason with Josh Willingham as their cleanup hitter.

The lone bright spot for the Mariners this season will be Hernandez, until he is possibly traded at the deadline.



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



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

McKinney commits to TCU

By Ryne Sulier
Sports Editor

A TCU source confirmed the men's basketball program will add 6'8", 250-pound forward Adrick McKinney out of Angelina Junior College in Lufkin, according to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.



McKinney

McKinney, who played his high school ball at Trimble Tech in Fort Worth, averaged 15.1 points and 8.4 rebounds for Angelina, last season.

McKinney was a McDonald's All-American nominee out of high school and a Top 25 Texas prospect.

TCU Athletics cannot comment on prospects, committed or uncommitted, until the prospect signs a National

Letter of Intent per NCAA rules. The signing period runs from April 13 — May 18.

TCU has had issues with junior college transfer players as recently as last season. Forward Sammy Yeager (Weatherford College) averaged 9.3 points and 4.3 rebounds for the Frogs in 16 games before he was booted off the basketball team by head coach Jim Christian on Jan. 11. Yeager averaged nearly 20 points per game for Weatherford College during the 2009-10 season.

Center Andre Clark was signed out of John A. Logan Community College and was ranked the fifth-best overall junior college prospect by JucoJunction.com, but was removed from the team before a Nov. 2 exhibition game against Rogers State.

Fate would have it that Clark and Frogs' 2010-11

leading scorer Ronnie Moss, who is indefinitely suspended but still listed on the roster, were former teammates at Genesis One Prep School in Mendenhall, Miss.

Rumor mill

6'8" forward Ryan Rhoomes, a New York native out of Queens, recently took a recruiting visit to TCU, according to the *Star-Telegram*. Multiple sources have apparently indicated TCU has a good chance of signing Rhoomes, according to the article. Rhoomes has offers from West Virginia, Cincinnati, Virginia Tech, Providence, Pittsburgh and TCU, according to Rivals.com. Rhoomes didn't start playing basketball until the eighth grade and chose to attend prep school for a year before attending college.

SPORTS

WEATHER

TCU-SFA postponed, tennis at North Texas canceled

By Brett Anderson
Staff Reporter

No. 15 TCU's Tuesday evening home game against Stephen F. Austin University has been postponed to 6:30 p.m. today because of inclement weather.

The Frogs took two of three games in their weekend series against the University of Houston and will play game five of their 13-game homestand against the Lumberjacks tonight. The Frogs are currently 3-1 on their homestand and have won five of their last six games after losing two road games at UT-Arlington on March 15 and at UNLV on March 18.

Junior pitcher Erik Miller (0-4, 5.17 ERA) will make his second career start for the Frogs (15-8, 2-1 MWC) on Wednesday, and junior right fielder Brance Rivera will try to push his hitting streak to 24 games. Junior center fielder Aaron Schultz also comes into tonight's game with a nine-game hitting streak after hitting his second career grand slam

and third home run of the season in a 9-1 victory over the Cougars on Sunday.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier. We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

Dave Borelli
Head coach

Miller pitched a no-decision outing in the first start of his career against Air Force on May 16 last season.

SFA's Cody Priest (0-0, 2.13 ERA) will take the mound for the Lumberjacks (18-7, 8-1 Southland), who have won 15 of their last 17 games and are tied for first place in the Southland Conference.

TCU will play its first MWC home series this weekend against Air Force following tonight's SFA game.

Women's tennis match against North Texas canceled

The TCU women's tennis team's Tuesday match with North Texas was canceled because of inclement weather. The match was an effort to finish a previously postponed match versus the Mean Green. The first match was rained out Jan. 29 at the ITA Kickoff Weekend in Berkeley, Calif.

"We're just going to continue resting and getting healthier," TCU head coach Dave Borelli said in a TCU Athletics release. "We're looking forward to getting into conference play."

TCU will begin Mountain West Conference play with three weekend home matches at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center: TCU plays BYU on Friday, Utah on Saturday and New Mexico on Sunday. The weekend matches will close out TCU's home schedule for the season.

The Frogs are riding a three-match win streak after a 5-2 win over UT-Arlington on March 23.



CARRIE ADAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Kyle Winkler follows through on a pitch against the University of Houston on Friday night. The game against SFA that was scheduled for yesterday was moved to today at 6:30 p.m.

OPINION

Mavs' season rides on Thursday showdown with Lakers



J.D. Moore

As the final games of the season wind down in the NBA, one of the closest playoff position races in the league is for the second seed in the Western Conference. Pending the outcome of tonight's Mavericks-Clippers game, The No. 3-seeded Dallas Mavericks (52-21) have a shot to gain momentum against the No. 2-seeded Los Angeles Lakers (53-20) when the teams play Thursday.

A Mavs win tonight would give Dallas a chance to tie LA for the No. 2 seed Thursday and give Dallas the tiebreaker

with a 2-1 advantage in head-to-head matchups.

With the No. 1-seeded Spurs sliding into the playoffs with a four-game losing streak and Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and Antonio McDyess all sidelined with injuries, there now seems to be the slightest of chances the Lakers or Mavs could catch the Spurs for the No. 1 seed in the West.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

What will decide the regular season L.A.-Dallas series, and more importantly, whether Dallas is a championship contender or playoff pretender, hinges on the performance of the Dallas

offense, which needs everyone on board to put up points.

With all factors taken into consideration, Thursday's showdown at the Staples Center is by far the biggest game of the season for Dallas. Dallas brings its NBA-best 26-10 road record to Los Angeles tonight.

In a 109-100 win against the Lakers on Jan. 19, Dallas veterans Shawn Marion, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry all scored 20-plus points. Kidd shot 5-for-8 from three-point land and Terry rained down deep shots, going 4-for-6 from behind the arc. That needs to be replicated to defeat the Lakers on Thursday.

A statistical argument can

be made that Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Tyson Chandler are no matches in the paint against the Lakers' Andrew Byrum and Pau Gasol.

In the case of the Mavs' 96-91 loss to the Lakers on March 12, the stats didn't lie, as the Lakers' big men out-rebounded Dallas' on the defensive glass. However, in the case of the 109-100 win on Jan. 19, Dallas had its big men perform in the clutch as Nowitzki and Chandler out-rebounded Bryum and Gasol by a total of six rebounds. More importantly, Chandler pulled down six offensive rebounds in that game, allowing for more Dallas offensive opportunities — the key to winning against the Lakers.

In the two matchups of the season so far, L.A.'s big men have outscored Dallas' big men, 73-49. If Dallas can get rebounds and get its guards

play well, perhaps there is a shot.

In addition to production from the guards and rebounding from the big men, it would be nice if the young guys stepped up, too. Rodrigue Beaubois was still getting back in game shape after breaking his foot in January and only scored two points against Los Angeles in March. Reserve guard J.J. Barea has yet to score more than seven points against the Lakers and has yet to record more than one assist against them this season.

Baubois and Barea's production will be critical against the Lakers on Thursday. While the Mavs will be playing their second game of back-to-back games, the Lakers will be fresh after having three days off since their last game against New Orleans. When the veterans are resting up during the game, Beaubois

and Barea will be the main line of defense against Los Angeles. They need to bring an offensive presence to the Mavericks in order to keep consistent pressure against the Lakers. If they can't, the Lakers will be able to rest up their star players in order to counter the stars of the Mavericks.

The path for the Mavs to defeat the Lakers is not impossible, but will be a difficult task. Dallas is capable of defeating Los Angeles, but unless the Dallas guards are sharp from the perimeter, the big men can pull in rebounds and the young players can bring consistent pressure, the Mavericks playoff path will likely include four road games in Los Angeles.

J.D. Moore is a freshman journalism major from Honolulu, Hawaii and a writer for SportDFW.com.

BASEBALL

TCU vs. SFA postponed to 6:30 tonight because of inclement weather.

SPORTS

OPINION

The Rangers look like the team to beat in the American League.



MATT COFFELT / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Wide receiver Josh Boyce warms up before the Oregon State game at the beginning of the 2010 season. The Frogs lost six starters on offense and five on defense from 2010.

FOOTBALL

Patterson: 'We don't have any leadership right now'

By Nathan DeWitt
Staff Writer

Tuesday night was TCU's 10th practice of the spring, and a wet field moved it indoors to the Sam Baugh Practice Facility. With only two practices left until the April 2 spring game, head coach Gary Patterson said one thing is certain thus far: this team can't improve until leaders show up on the field.

Patterson said he has a tough job in teaching his younger players what it takes to win games in the fall, even if it is only March.

"I've got two coaches on the field telling guys where to

be, because we don't have any leadership right now," Patterson said. "And without that it's tough to get better."

TCU lost six starters on the offensive side of the ball and five on defense in 2010 — with notable losses in the trenches with left tackle Marcus Cannon, center Jake Kirkpatrick, right tackle Zach Roth and right guard Josh Vernon gone after the 2010-11 season. On the defensive end, TCU lost nose tackle Cory Grant and right end Wayne Daniels. Those are the areas where Patterson said the youngsters will have to step up, but it's important that the learning occurs now and not in August.

"We have to communicate on both sides of the football," Patterson said. "We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be. When I don't see the difference between a freshman and a senior I might as well get the freshman ready."

After two-straight BCS appearances, the Frogs came in to the 2011 season with the added luxury of the program's best ever recruiting class. It is rare for true freshman to make immediate impacts out of high school. But four-star recruits LaDarius Brown (Waxahachie) and Chuck Hunter (West Monroe, La.) might have a shot to be the ex-

ceptions once summer practice begins. But, as Patterson said, the young players will have lots of learning to do.

"We have to do things every practice to get better and be what we want to be."

Gary Patterson
Head Football Coach

"The key to it is, they've got to learn how to play the game," he said.

When last year's seniors departed on a high note after TCU's 21-19 Rose Bowl vic-

tory, Patterson said they took with them a number of intangibles this current squad has yet replace in order to win a championship.

Rob Rang of NFL-DraftScout.com said Andy Dalton's maturity and innate leadership skills make him one of the more pro-ready quarterbacks in the class. Dalton should be graded only on one statistic: 42 career wins. Jake Kirkpatrick, the center who delivered the ball to Dalton's senior season wins, will also likely be drafted in the NFL because he set the blocking scheme for a Frogs' offensive line that allowed less than a sack a game

for the fifth-ranked offense in the country (38.3 points per game).

The 2011 football team can look at past recruiting classes and understand the number of "stars" a recruit has coming into college might not mean anything at all. But this spring, they are learning that from the coaches instead of from veteran players.

"From a leadership standpoint, we have to grow up," Patterson said. "In terms of intangibles, the biggest thing on this football team right now is that we're not close to being what we need to be in order to be a championship team."