



Conference play has started for the women's tennis team. See how the team performed at its weekend matches in San Diego. Sports, page 8



Students are trying to turn their recreational cricket team into a campus club. Tomorrow in Sports



A new student-proposed Living Learning Community will focus on supporting the LGBT community on campus. Tomorrow in News

FINANCIAL AID

# Official: FAFSA flaws call for overhaul

Concerns include length, complexity of application

By Libby Davis  
Staff Reporter

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid needs to be updated because it is no longer an effective way to assess financial need and distribute monetary aid, the university's chief financial aid officer said.

Michael Scott, director of financial aid, said the FAFSA does provide good information to universities about identifying needy families, but it does not accurately predict how much a family can realistically contribute toward tuition.

"What it's doing is not necessarily assessing financial need, but the FAFSA is

assessing ability to pay," Scott said.

The ideal FAFSA form would be shorter, eliminate redundancies and would allow a family to choose to let the Internal Revenue Service release their tax information directly to FAFSA instead of handling a difficult form themselves, Scott said. The FAFSA form is outdated and assumes income earned from a previous tax year will be the same or higher in the year the student will receive the aid, he said.

"I don't think it's reflective of what reality is for the average family," Scott said.

Scott said the university reviews the eligibility of a student on an individual basis if there is a substantial drop in income between academic years. He said the information provided on the FAFSA allows universities to determine who needs aid but it is up to the universities to factor in

the cost of tuition.

Mary Fallon, the senior director of communication for Student Financial Aid Services, Inc., said a student filing for FAFSA today would provide information for the 2008 tax year even though financial aid would not be awarded until the middle of 2009. But if a student's income went down in 2009, Fallon said students can update their FAFSA form to receive eligibility for additional loans and grants.

Fallon, whose company fills out the FAFSA for students for a price between \$80 and \$100, said the purpose of the FAFSA is to equally distribute the \$144 billion that is available for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Fallon said her company provides a simplified version of the FAFSA online and then uses the information provided to fill

out the federal version of the form.

Fallon said she could not disclose the number of customers that file the FAFSA through her company, but she said the number is currently about 30 percent up from last year. She said that although there is an increase in demand for her company's services, she is not sure if it is because of concerns about the economy or families' attempts to make the process of filing the FAFSA easier.

Allison Kitchens, a senior sociology major, said she and her husband have always experienced difficulty filling out the application form.

"The form doesn't do a good job of assessing how much aid a person needs," Kitchens said.

SEE FAFSA · PAGE 2

TOP 10 MOVIES  
(millions of dollars)

- 1 Monsters vs. Aliens 58
- 2 The Haunting in Connecticut 23
- 3 Knowing 15
- 4 I Love You, Man 13
- 5 Duplicity 8
- 6 Race to Witch Mountain 6
- 7 12 Rounds 5
- 8 Watchmen 3
- 9 Taken 3
- 10 The Last House on the Left 3

— Associated Press



Marijuana legalization makes more sense than ever. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

SALEM, Ore. — Add sneezing while driving to the list of potential safety hazards. Authorities said a sneezing fit caused 25-year-old Ramon Stephen Ayala to lose control of his vehicle Saturday and hit a home.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER

**69** **43**  
HIGH LOW  
Mostly Sunny

Tomorrow: Windy  
75 / 56  
Thursday: Chance T-storms  
62 / 43



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

# CHEWING THE FAT



Junior nutrition major Stefanie Grows, left, enjoys a hot dog and conversation with Katie Kanable, Waits hall director, and Mike Hackemack, director of intramurals, at the Hot Dogs and Top Dogs event Monday afternoon near the Mary Coats Burnett Library.

DESIGN, MERCHANDISING & TEXTILES

# Students pitch 'next big thing' for a Disney park

By Elise Smith  
Staff Reporter

How would you like karaoke with the Jonas Brothers and have Simba from "The Lion King" in the audience? That is exactly what some senior interior design students are creating for a competition hosted by Disney.

Elizabeth Tamez, an adjunct instructor in the department of design merchandising and textiles, said the 18th annual ImagiNations national design competition in which students create a new Disney attraction is a great opportunity for students to be exposed to a national-level competition and to work together creatively on ideas that they normally would not get a chance to develop.

Allison Morris, a senior interior design major whose team project is a theme-park ride based on the Disney movie "Meet the Robinsons," said senior interior design students in the Special Purpose Design class were required to apply for the competition. She said the students could design anything from a ride, hotel, theme park or restaurant and they could use Disney characters or create new ones.

The competition was created by the Disney Imagineers, who are responsible for the creation and expansion of all elements at the Disney theme parks and resorts, according to the Disney Web site.

Amanda Estrada, a senior interior design major, said the students got into groups of three or four to brainstorm the "next big thing" for Disney. Estrada said students had to pass through a preliminary round of submitting their resumes before they could submit the project their group wanted to do. About three or four groups made it past the first round of resume submissions out of a class of 22, she said.

Estrada's group designed a virtual karaoke theater where a person could do a performance in 3-D and have it recorded, she said.

For the second round, Estrada's team submitted a story board and a paper outlining the team's idea for the attraction it created.

Estrada said that in her team's attraction, people can be taken backstage before their performance to get their hair and makeup done, and are then given a virtual tablet that gives them options like choosing a background of where to sing, who to sing with and who they want in the audience.

"Someone could choose to sing The Little Mermaid theme song and sing it with Hannah Montana and have Winnie the Pooh and the Jonas Brothers in the audience," Estrada said.

She said her team got the idea for the project by talking to her younger cousins and other children. The team came to the

"Someone could choose to sing The Little Mermaid theme song and sing it with Hannah Montana and have Winnie the Pooh and the Jonas Brothers in the audience."

Amanda Estrada  
senior interior design major

consensus that Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers were popular right now.

Morris said the teams will find out April 17 if they have moved on to the next stage of the competition, where the final teams will go to California over the summer to present their project in front of the Disney Imagineers against other teams from around the nation.

Estrada said that not all of the finalists will get internships or job opportunities with Disney, but students were told internship opportunities were possible.

Tamez said she hopes that students that applied for the competition gain some knowledge about learning how to apply their skills outside of the normal realm and that they have fun doing it.

TEACH FOR AMERICA

# Hard times mean more teachers for program

By Alexandria Bruton  
Staff Reporter

Joey Parr, a senior double majoring in radio-TV-film and political science, is in no rush to enter the workforce after his graduation in May. Parr said that through Teach for America he will instead teach elementary school students in the school with the second lowest performance in Louisiana.

"I'm doing Teach for America because it's primarily about other people," Parr said. "I want to help give passion and ambition to these students before I enter the workforce, and everything becomes mostly about me and my income."

A slow economy has prompted more students to explore the opportunities that are guaranteed by the Teach for America program, an organization official said.

Teach for America is a program for recent college graduates to teach students in the nation's neediest school districts.

Tamara Urquhart, Teach for America recruitment director for North Texas and Oklahoma, said the number of students at the university who have joined Teach for America has increased since last year. She said that last year 10 graduating seniors joined, and that this year 12 have already been accepted to the program and nine more are waiting for final decisions.

Beatriz Gutierrez, a senior communications major who applied to the program, said Teach for America is a good option for her because of the job security it provides as well as the opportunity to help those in need.

"Teach for America is my first option, not an alternative to starting my career," Gutierrez said. "Teach for America is unique in that it provides a guaranteed job for two years, which I think is difficult to find for a recent graduate right now."

Erin Waltz, recruitment associate for Teach for America, said the organization has received more than 35,000 applications this year, the highest number on record and a 42 percent increase over last year.

Waltz said the graduates attend a five-week training session during the summer to prepare them for the real-world teaching experience.

Students who are accepted into the program are paid the starting salary for teachers depending on their location, she said. On top of their base pay, the students are provided a \$4,700 yearly stipend as well as grants and loans to help them transition into their new lives and locations.

Waltz said uncertain economic times are increasing interest at universities.

According to the Teach for America Web site, the University of Texas at Austin has the fifth most graduates that enter the program coming from universities with over 10,000 students.

SEE TEACH · PAGE 2

# SPORTS



See a preview of the baseball team's Wednesday home matchup against UT Arlington. Tomorrow

BASEBALL • SDSU 2, TCU 1

## ENDGAME



Freshman Kyle Winkler throws a pitch during the game against San Diego State on Sunday. Winkler pitched seven and two-thirds scoreless innings during the game, which the Horned Frogs lost 2-1.

PAIGE McARDLE / Design Editor

## Horned Frogs fall apart late

By Billy Wessels  
Staff Writer

You know you have a pretty good ball club when an MLB Hall of Famer says so, but the Horned Frogs still couldn't manage to top Tony Gwynn's San Diego State University team in a weekend series at Lupton Stadium, dropping two of three games.

A loss on Friday and a win on Saturday set the stage for a series-clinching finale Sunday.

With one out in the top of the ninth, it seemed like the Horned Frogs were going to take the series against SDSU with a 1-0 win. But three hits and two errors later they were suddenly behind.

The Aztecs were able to turn those hits and miscues into two runs and earn a 2-1 victory.

Horned Frogs head coach Jim Schlossnagle said the team is having a hard time winning games right now.

"We're finding ways to lose games," Schlossnagle said. "We've lost a lot of games like that this year."

Schlossnagle said there is nothing wrong with his team mentally, but he is trying to find the right man to toe the rubber in the ninth inning.

"We have to figure it out or its going to be a long year," Schlossnagle said.

Junior pitcher Eric Marshall was

For a slideshow of the weekend series, check out [DailySkiff.com](http://DailySkiff.com)



credited with the loss in relief after giving up two runs, one unearned, in the last inning and a third.

Gwynn, SDSU's head coach, said come-from-behind wins like Sunday's are important to a team as young as his.

"We came in here with the thought that if we could win two out of three that would be huge for us," Gwynn said. "We know TCU has a good club, New Mexico is playing great and I think this is

SEE BASEBALL • PAGE 6

WOMEN'S TENNIS

## Team splits San Diego trip

By Michael Carroll  
Sports Editor

The No. 32-ranked Horned Frogs opened conference play with two matches on Friday and Saturday at the Aztec Tennis Center on the campus of San Diego State.

Friday's match pitted the team against the No. 29-ranked Aztecs. The Horned Frogs walked away with a 5-2 victory.

Things went well for the team from the get-go as it claimed the doubles point when the duo of freshman Kayla Duncan and sophomore Katariina Tuohimaa defeated the Aztecs' twin-sister pairing of Roxanne and Sierra Ellison, 9-7.

The Horned Frogs went on to win the first three singles matches, giving the team an early victory. Senior Macall Harkins, Duncan and sophomore Idunn Hertzberg, who sealed the win for the Horned Frogs, were the three players who made quick work of the Aztecs,

each winning in straight sets. Tuohimaa also won her singles match against SDSU senior Holly Bagshaw, 6-2, 7-6 (6).

The action continued on Saturday when the team took on a No. 71-ranked UNLV squad in a rematch of the title match of last season's Mountain West Conference Championships.

And once again, the Horned Frogs failed to find a way to top the Lady Rebels, losing 4-3.

After sweeping UNLV in doubles play, the Horned Frogs went on to drop four of the six singles matches.

Duncan and Hertzberg were the lone Horned Frogs players to win their singles matches.

The Horned Frogs owned a 3-2 advantage with two singles matches remaining, but Harkins and fellow senior Anna Sydorska, playing for the first time since March 8, failed to seal the win for the team, losing each match.



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor  
Freshman Kayla Duncan and doubles partner sophomore Katariina Tuohimaa wait for the serve during a doubles match earlier this season.

With the win and the loss, the Horned Frogs moved to 7-9 on the season (1-1 MWC).

The Horned Frogs will have their opportunity to host some Mountain West Conference action when BYU, Utah and New Mexico come to Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center for matches beginning Friday afternoon and lasting through Sunday.

### QUICK SPORTS

#### Flyin' Frogs rack up regional qualifying marks in Baton Rouge

The track and field teams set 15 NCAA regional qualifying marks while competing in the LSU Relays on Friday and Saturday.

Whether it was running, jumping or throwing, the Horned Frogs found success in all facets of the sport during their two days in Baton Rouge.

Friday, in the men's and

women's 4x100 relay teams, senior Kishelle Paul (400-meter hurdles), freshman Whitney Gipson (long jump) and junior Neidra Covington (long jump) all set regional qualifying marks.

The success was doubled Saturday when both the men's and women's 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams posted regional marks. Adding to the success for the men's side were sophomore Jordan Pitts (400-meter hurdles),

junior Tommy Killen (discus), and sophomore Sean Zurko (800 meters). The women also found success as senior Candis Kelley and sophomore Stormy Harrison (shot put) and Covington (triple jump) each set regional qualifying marks.

The Flyin' Frogs get right back to action tomorrow at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin at the Texas Relays.

— Sports editor Michael Carroll

## AHEAD OF THE CURVE

### CONVERGED!

Technology is changing at warp speed, and TCU students in the Schieffer School will master the new media in a cutting-edge Convergence Lab, soon to be constructed, where students produce news reports for multiple media platforms from traditional print to online video.



"Media is in the midst of tectonic shifts," says John O. Lumpkin, a vice president and former bureau chief of the Associated Press, who will become director of TCU's Schieffer School of Journalism on June 1. "And our school is uniquely situated to prepare students for what will be instead of what has been."

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For more information on TCU's Schieffer School of Journalism, visit [www.schiefferschool.tcu.edu](http://www.schiefferschool.tcu.edu).

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MS NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

# ETC.



### Today in History

On this day in 1889, the Eiffel Tower is dedicated in Paris in a ceremony presided over by Gustave Eiffel, the tower's designer, a handful of other dignitaries, and 200 construction workers.

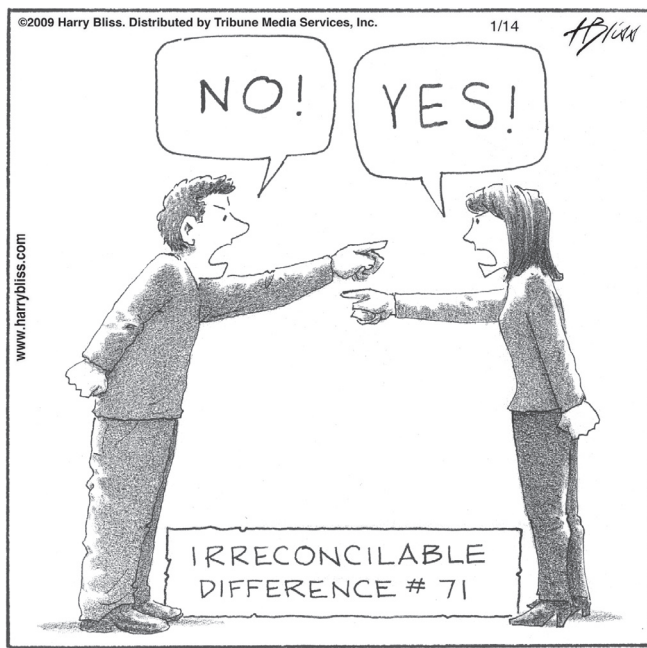
— History Channel

### Joke of the Day

Q: Why did the pony cough?  
A: He was a little hoarse.

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCE # 71

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

### Directions

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

See Wednesday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

### Friday's Solutions

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

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## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

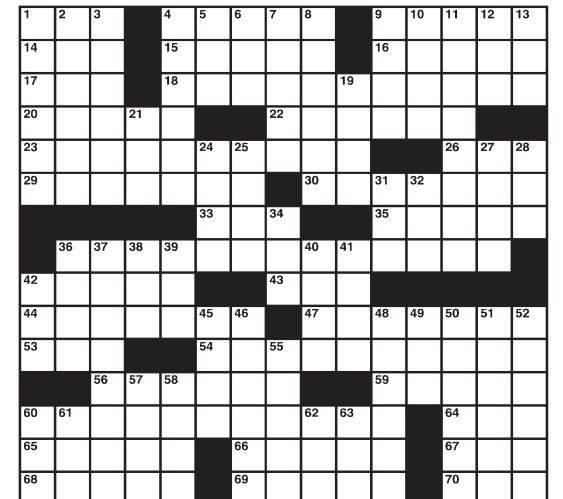
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  - Fenway team, familiarly
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  - "... Gold": Peter Fonda film
  - Rock music's ... Fighters
  - '80s TV series with a talking car named KITT
  - Increase
  - London
  - insurance giant
  - 1943 Triple Crown winner
  - Chicago hrs.
  - Taqueria offering
  - Mold into a different form
  - Little devil
  - 35 It's a wrap
  - England's Charles, since 1958
  - New Zealand native
  - Son of Valiant
  - Portuguese royal
  - Each one in a square is 90 degrees
  - Composer Gustav
  - Trial twelvesome
  - "Put ... on it!"
  - McCarthy era paranoia
  - Golfer's aid
  - Ukr., before 1991
  - Shopper's bag
  - Big bang producer
  - Miller Sebastian
  - Expected to land
  - Artist's stand
  - Venomous reptile
  - Finnish ogre
  - Muffin Man's lane
  - 70 +, on a batt.



By Steve Dobis

Friday's Puzzle Solved 3/31/09



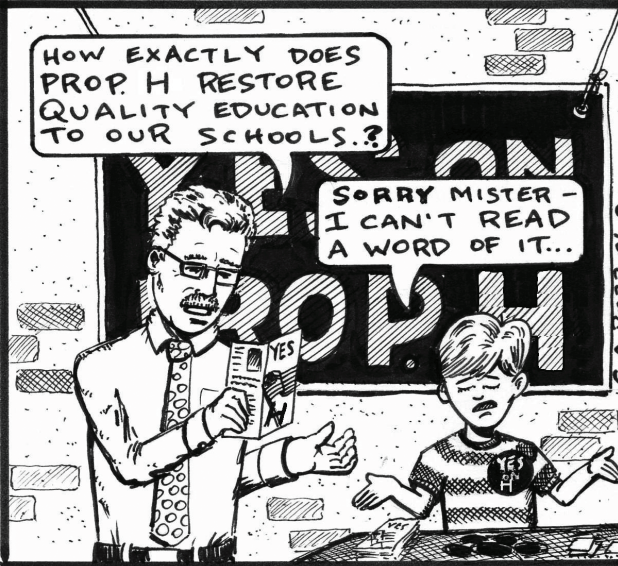
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- DOWN**
- To be the truth
  - Kind of doll used in magical rites

- Grab some shuteye
- '80s-'90s quarterback Bernie
- 'Wrath' figure
- Web cross-reference
- NFL scores
- "Say what?"
- East Lansing sch.
- Musket suffix

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# OPINION

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*The Skiff View*

## FAFSA fails to address true financial need

College students who rely on financial aid to help pay for school deserve a fair and thorough system for determining just how much they need.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is out of date and is no longer an accurate method for determining a student's need.

One of the primary problems with the FAFSA is that it assumes income earned from a previous year will be the same or higher in the year the aid is distributed. In these times, there's no reason to assume that income will be going up from year to year. And while it is possible to update the form to apply for additional aid in the event of a significant income drop, people often find the process too complicated or confusing. The FAFSA should be simplified for people who need to make changes and modified in response to the current state of the economy.

Additional problems with the current way the FAFSA is set up also negatively affect the amount of aid a student receives.

It doesn't take car payments, house payments or pre-existing debt into consideration. But those aren't the only problems.

It also requires students to report their parents' income or their spouse's with no way of knowing if those people are actually contributing to the student's education.

The FAFSA is too complicated and too inaccurate to fairly determine who deserves aid — not to mention how much. The form should either be given an overhaul as soon as possible or be replaced with something more competent. Now more than ever, students and families are depending on it.

*Sports editor Michael Carroll for the editorial board.*

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

## Marijuana no danger, would be valuable crop



ALEX S. TURNER

The March 8 death of University of Kansas student Jason Wren from alcohol poisoning raised a question in my mind: Why is it legal to drink yourself to death while marijuana and hemp are still illegal substances?

The prohibition of marijuana seems so hypocritical when you consider the fact that alcohol and prescription drugs can be just as disastrous and sometimes even more lethal than most illegal drugs. These two completely legal substances destroy families, friendships and end lives every day. Even smoking cigarettes, which poses a health hazard to the smoker and everyone around him or her, is not against the law.

Every year 440,000 Americans die from tobacco use, according to the National Institutes of Health. There are also 100,000 alcohol related deaths, according to the NIH, but zero marijuana related deaths. So why are we spending \$44 billion a year prosecuting simple marijuana possession cases?

Some argue that legalization would lead to a higher crime rate, but history doesn't support that. The Netherlands, which voted to legalize soft drugs, has a lower crime rate per capita than the U.S.

I am not an advocate of making alcohol and cigarettes illegal, nor am I promoting the use of marijuana. But we need to consider who benefits from keeping marijuana and hemp illegal.

Growing hemp is illegal in most states,

yet according to a recent CNN report, the plant is the most economically and environmentally sound paper source in the world. Hemp has the most usable protein of any plant in the world, and it requires little to no fertilizer to grow.

The February 1938 issue of Popular Mechanics magazine named hemp the "new billion-dollar crop," citing some of its 25,000 applications, which range from making rope to canvas to cattle feed. It is from this amazing plant that medical marijuana is produced for a variety of diseases, including glaucoma, AIDS and cancer.

Marijuana was outlawed as a result of a massive public relations and lobbying campaign sponsored by chemical, logging and cotton companies that were becoming obsolete when it was discovered that hemp could produce the very same things they did, only better.

Natural health researcher Karen Railey reported that if hemp cultivation were legal, it would greatly reduce our imports of petroleum, textiles and clothes. It would save entire forests from logging and would be incredibly beneficial to the U.S. economy.

By enforcing the ineffective prohibition on marijuana, we lose \$33 billion in untaxed revenue, according to Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron. That is in addition to the \$44 billion the government currently spends on prohibition. Until the government realizes that the money should be put to better use, drug cartels will continue to generate billions of untaxed income from this simple plant.

Prohibition did not work with alcohol. Instead it created the most notorious underground crime era in American history. Now we have managed to do the same thing with marijuana.

*Alex S. Turner is a freshman political science major from Dallas.*



SXC.HU



*Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.*

## Officer who kept family from hospital a disgrace



VLORA BOJKU

Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats and his wife were pulled over March 17 by Dallas police officer Robert Powell for running a red light.

The events that followed are unfortunate and a gruesome example of how compassionless officers can make a tragic day even more devastating. The truth about what happened is evident thanks to a dashboard camera in the police car.

After being pulled over in the hospital parking lot, Moats, his wife and other family members quickly got out of the car. Powell screamed at them to "get in there, let me see your hands, put your hands on the car." Powell drew his gun and, according to eyewitnesses and the hospital camera, pointed it at Tamishia Moats and then at Ryan Moats. The officer denied this though and said he only removed the gun from his holster.

After a few minutes Tamishia Moats was pulled into the hospital by a family member and was able to say goodbye to her mother, because of her act of defiance.

During more than 16 minutes of footage the officer remained unemotional and showed no signs of compassion. He repeatedly threatened Ryan Moats with jail time and told him "shut your mouth" when he continued to plead with the officer.

During the altercation Ryan Moats is clearly upset, and explained repeatedly that his mother-in-law was dying. The officer told Ryan Moats that he would put him "in handcuffs and take [him] to jail." During his egocentric power trip, Powell also said, "I can screw you over."

When a hospital official came outside the officer finally asked for confirmation about what was going on inside. The hospital official informed the officer that Ryan Moats' mother-in-law was in fact on the verge of death and that Ryan Moats had to be in the hospital to sign forms in order for the hospital staff to resuscitate her. The officer had no visible reaction to that, and he expressed no compassion or regret at all.

Instead, he talked with another hospital official about the traffic stop and did not act hastily as Ryan Moats had pleaded with him to do since the beginning. The hospital official had to negotiate with the officer as to who could leave the scene as Ryan Moats had two other family members with him.

After a few minutes a nurse came out and informed Powell that the mom was dying right then, to which

It's a sad day when power-driven, egocentric men are allowed to wear a badge that allows them to inflict such devastation.

Powell responded unemotionally: "I'm almost done right now."

After 13 minutes spent in front of the hospital, Powell finally gave Ryan Moats the ticket and told him to remember his attitude.

Unfortunately Moats' mother-in-law died while he was outside the hospital.

After being placed on paid administrative leave, the officer issued a statement through a lawyer to apologize for his actions.

But it is obvious that he was only trying to shield himself from the department's response to the public outcry.

It's a sad day when power-driven, egocentric men are allowed to wear a badge that allows them to inflict such devastation.

It's ironic that after Powell's tirade against Ryan Moats regarding his perceived attitude, it's the officer's attitude that has turned out to be disgraceful.

*Vlora Bojku is a junior business major from Colleyville.*

## Federal health care expansion detrimental

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — President Barack Obama says we can't afford not to pass health care reform, even as our economy faces its biggest challenges.

So far this year, his stimulus legislation has pumped an additional \$150 billion into our \$2.4 trillion health sector, with no efforts at reform. And the plans he proposed would add trillions more.

Obama argues that American companies are at a competitive disadvantage because of high health costs that add, for example, \$1,500 to the price of a car. But health costs wouldn't vanish under his plan; they would just get switched to another ledger through higher taxes.

The president is working with congressional leaders to write legislation that requires companies to provide a rich health benefits package — one more expensive than most can afford. Companies that don't comply would pay heavy fines.

The plan involves major new subsidies, creation of a new government health insurance plan, and possibly a requirement that all Americans must buy insurance. The entire plan is expected to cost at least \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. This is far too much.

To pay for this and many other changes to our health sector, the White House has set aside \$634 billion as a "down payment" on health reform. But even this is difficult for Congress to swallow because it involves increasing taxes on mortgage

interest deductions and charitable contributions for affluent taxpayers and cutting Medicare Advantage programs that serve lower-income seniors. These are bad ideas, especially in a fragile economy.

Pumping more money into the health

**We can build on the strengths of our system, but it won't happen if we try to reform one-sixth of our economy in one sweeping bill.**

sector and increasing demand will add to the inflationary pressuring, which will in turn exacerbate the cost problem.

The president argues there will be huge savings from the plan's multibillion dollar investments in information technology, wellness and prevention.

He says the average family would save up to \$2,500 a year as a result. But analysts say it will be hard to see any savings from these programs for the next decade, if then. And even if the savings materialized, Mr. Obama's own advisers have acknowledged they would not actually accrue to individual consumers but to the system as a whole. So don't hold your breath waiting.

They also argue that we must get

everyone covered to lower health costs. Massachusetts actually provides us with evidence: The state was the first to require all residents to have health insurance, but the subsidies enacted as part of its reform plan are forcing lawmakers to impose new fees, taxes and fines on employers and providers, and the program still is in the red, even with huge subsidies from the federal government through additional Medicaid funds.

The United States already is on red-ink alert with huge federal deficits as far as the eye can see and with existing entitlement programs that threaten our country's long-term economic survival.

So where does that leave us? It means that we need to focus on providing targeted help to the uninsured to purchase private coverage, giving people more options in buying health insurance, and building a stronger safety net for those with pre-existing conditions.

That's a full plate in itself, but one more likely to achieve results.

We can build on the strengths of our system, but it won't happen if we try to reform one-sixth of our economy in one sweeping bill.

*Grace-Marie Turner is the president and founder of the Galen Institute, which advised John McCain's presidential campaign. This column was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.*

# FEATURES

A music professor has helped create some noteworthy technological innovations.  
Friday



Courtesy of ALEX PIERCE  
Fred Miller, second from right, crew chief of FrogHouse, teaches students how to measure and cut boards during construction on a house Feb. 21. FrogHouse works with Habitat for Humanity to provide homes to families in need. Looking on are, left to right, Kristin Cazalot, sophomore sociology major, Laura Newell, sophomore pre-major, Darren Smith, construction coordinator with Trinity Habitat for Humanity and Veronica Sandoval, freshman interior design major.

## Foundation remains strong despite economy

By Alexis Mladenoff  
Staff Reporter

This year's FrogHouse team has already raised more than \$42,000 over the past two semesters and students working for the group say they are still working hard toward their goal of \$56,000 despite a weakened economy.

The team has worked since the beginning of the school year to raise money and build a house for someone in need. For the third year in a row, the junior class has teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for less fortunate.

Jared Cobb, assistant director of TCU Transitions, said the team typically does all the fundraising in the fall and this was the first year they have done a letter-writing campaign. Each of the ten FrogHouse directors reached out to family, friends and classmates in a letter asking for their help in donations or contributions in any way they see fit.

While the directors of the program are all juniors, volunteers from any classification and age are welcome to contribute.

Chris Volpe, executive director of FrogHouse, said the letter-writing campaign wasn't as successful as they had hoped due to the economic downturn.

Anje'na Smith, FrogHouse's director of fundraising, said the organization has many programs to help the team get donations such as going door-to-door asking for contributions.

Volpe said they extended the fundraising into this semester because they hadn't reached

their goal yet. The group coordinated a fashion show called "TCU Project Runway" that took place March 4. The event had resident assistants creating their outfits with last semester's theme of "think purple, live green" in mind, Volpe said. They targeted resident assistants in order to raise money from their residents in their dorms.

The directors in the class of 2010 involved with FrogHouse received the Youth Award by Habitat for Humanity for hard work in the planning process before the building of the house started. The organization gave this award to the FrogHouse team for showing enthusiasm for Habitat for Humanity and making a valuable contribution to their affiliate.

The new homeowner is Alice Villegas, who lives with some of her children and grandchildren, seven people in all. She has worked at the Southwest Regional Library for five years.

Volpe said while the FrogHouse team doesn't help pick the new homeowner, the application process is rigorous. He said the potential owner has to show that he or she has a steady income. Volpe said it is also required that the owner put in 300 hours of "sweat equity," working in the construction of other Habitat for Humanity houses as well as their own.

The potential homeowners who are receiving the house aren't given a home for free. They have to pay their mortgage on a zero-interest loan. Those mortgage payments are then used to build more houses by Habitat for Humanity.

The FrogHouse team travels to the building site every Friday and Saturday of the semester. The house is scheduled to be completed May 2.



Courtesy of CHRIS VOLPE  
Shawna Sandoval, left, a junior nursing major, Cassandra Hoehle, right, a sophomore business major and Chi Le, bottom, a junior finance major assemble siding for a house during a recent FrogHouse project.

## 'Man caves' provide a relaxing retreat for the XY set

By Chuck Barney  
Contra Costa Times

Before setting foot in a so-called "man cave," it's always best to be aware of the cave-dweller's rules. Just ask "Chicago" Joe Hofman.

The San Ramon, Calif., resident maintains a stringent decorum in his special room — one brimming with movie posters and sports memorabilia, neon signage, a teeth-rattling 1,200-watt sound system, two arcade games and a hideous mounted fish.

"My wife knows the rules," he says. "There are certain things that we simply won't discuss in the man cave. It's like a shrine. It's like not talking in church."

For the uninitiated, a man cave aka "man room" or "mantuary" is a space specifically reserved for the male member of the family. Whether it's a loft, a basement, a converted garage or shed, it serves as a safe haven where he

can escape the manly pressures of the world to engage in manly hobbies, store his manly collectibles and guzzle a manly beverage.

Think of it as a grown-up version of the treehouse or fort.

"For me, it's mostly about control," says Robert Lee, whose suburban man cave in Fremont, Calif., is stocked with, among other things, John Wayne lobby cards, "Star Trek" action figures and a "Batman" graphic novel library. "You want to feel like you have control over at least one piece of your life. You want a place to call your own."

The concept apparently is growing in appeal. According to a survey by ServiceMagic.com, 40 percent of the respondents said there is a man cave in their home. Another 13 percent said their cave is in the planning or construction stages.

At bare minimum, the typical list of manly must-haves contains

a cushy recliner, a stereo, a cooler/refrigerator and, of course, man's best friend — the awe-inspiring flat-screen television.

Man-cave themes can also vary widely. For example, Jeff Von Ward of Pinole Valley, Calif., set

**"My wife knows the rules. There are certain things that we simply won't discuss in the man cave. It's like a shrine. It's like not talking in church."**

**Joe Hofman**  
"man cave" owner

up his garage to resemble a classic arcade hall with 50 "old-school" games including Asteroids, Pac-Man and Donkey Kong. Music

buff John Mulford of Concord, Calif., has a room he calls "the hole" filled with rock 'n' roll memorabilia, a huge vinyl record collection and vintage guitars.

But Dave Baker decided to stick with the ever-popular sports theme. When he and his wife, Marcy, moved into their Dublin, Calif., home a couple of years ago, Dave, a passionate Raiders fan, immediately claimed the garage as his own and had it painted silver and black. Then came the guy-centric decor: hordes of sports paraphernalia including several keepsakes from his youth-league days.

"It's like taking a trip down memory lane when I go in there," Dave says. "It's a comfortable place to be."

And sometimes a loud place. The Baker man cave has been the site of raucous Super Bowl and Cinco de Mayo blowouts, during which patrons (including women) are urged to dance,

drink and sign a wall of multicolored graffiti.

Asked why it was so important for her husband to have such a lair, Marcy just smiles and shakes her head.

"I'm not sure. Maybe to show off to his friends, or to show them up," she says. "All I know is that we have a lot of guys who have been in there who are now starting to clean out their own garages."

Ah, yes, the humble garage. Remember when it was a place mostly used to keep your tools, store holiday decorations and occasionally park the car? Try telling that to Lafayette, Calif. resident Terry Engel, who has turned his four-car, 900-square-foot garage into an eye-popping old-style saloon and casino.

It all started about two years ago when Engel, who along with his wife, Nancy, is an antiques buff, thought it would be cool to create a "fun little room" to serve

as his special getaway.

That led to the acquisition of an 1890s-era bar. Later came a 1942 Wurlitzer jukebox. Then some antique slot machines, poker tables, a 1953 phone booth, a 1920s popcorn machine and much more.

About the only modern amenities in his retreat are two elevated high-definition TVs, usually tuned to ESPN, of course.

"I really had no plan when we started, but it just kept growing and growing," Engel says. "I never imagined it would get to this point."

Now, he presides over one of the glitziest garages you'll ever see. It's so tricked-out and so dazzling and inviting that Engel often goes through long evening stretches during which he rarely enters the actual house.

"Once in a while I might stroll into the kitchen to toss a dirty dish into the dishwasher," he says. "And sometimes that's about it."

## IMMIGRATION

## Democrats propose trade-off for legalization

By Peter Wallsten  
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — With their prospects in Congress sinking along with the economy, liberal advocates of giving undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship are launching a risky strategy to push lawmakers and the White House to take up their cause.

They propose that Congress legalize millions of undocumented workers now in exchange for reducing the number of temporary foreign workers allowed to enter the country in the future. It is a calculation that could win a new and powerful ally — organized labor — but risks alienating businesses that rely on temporary workers and could turn off key Republicans.

With unemployment on the rise, the immigration debate has moved to the back burner as lawmakers fear enacting a law that could be portrayed as beneficial for immigrants at the expense of struggling American workers.

Advocates believe that winning support from the AFL-CIO, which opposed previous legalization plans, will help push House Democrats and increase leverage with the White House.

Ana Avendano, the AFL-CIO's point person on the issue, said the labor federation believes the changing economy and Democrats' enhanced power in Washington represents a "sea change" in which liberal groups can forge ahead without working with Republican-leaning business lobbyists.

"The reality is that we no longer have corporations controlling public policy in the White House and on the Hill," she said.

President Barack Obama recently told members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus that he would deliver a public statement of support this spring for a legalization plan. But White House officials

have not committed to the new idea on temporary worker limits, nor have they signed off on pushing the legislation this year, as advocates have been hoping.

Obama reiterated his support for legalization during a stop in Los Angeles, but advocates are growing anxious that he might prefer to delay what would no doubt be a politically charged fight over the issue. Immigration advocates have already raised concerns that the Obama administration has not called off workplace raids that are splitting immigrant families.

U.S. Rep. Luis Guterrez, D-Ill., said he and other caucus members leaned on the president to act fast — pointing out that he has managed to find time to satisfy other constituencies on issues not directly related to the economic meltdown.

"We're saying, 'OK, you took time out for stem cell research and you're taking time out for health care,'" Guterrez said. "And our communities expect you to take time out for our issues."

To bolster their cause, advocates are planning an \$18 million media and grass-roots campaign for the fall, when they hope lawmakers will take up the issue. The funding is coming primarily from liberal foundations, including one founded by billionaire activist George Soros.

Advocates said they plan to remind House members and senators that Latino voters, who voted for Democrats in big numbers in 2006 and 2008 and proved crucial to Obama's victories in Florida and the Southwest, are expecting the party to use its enhanced power to pass a legalization plan.

Failure on the issue this year could be harmful to Democrats' hopes of building on their Latino support, and some close to the White House said in interviews that the administration might prefer to wait until 2011.

## ECONOMY

## Green home movement on the rise

By Jim Tankersley  
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Asa Foss spends his days fielding calls from construction workers who have been bulldozed along with Maryland's homebuilding market and now want to join the state's unlikely boom industry: making houses more energy-efficient.

The callers tell Foss that they're desperate for work, and that the classes he teaches can help them get it. He tells them there's a two-year waiting list.

Foss runs Maryland Home Performance, a state-sponsored program based in the Washington suburb of Bethesda that trains workers in the science of re-engineering buildings to cut electricity use without ever touching a thermostat. The field, and Foss' voice-mailbox, got a steroid shot earlier this year when President Barack Obama and Congress set aside \$20 billion for energy efficiency in the federal stimulus package.

The result is a case study in the challenges of flooding federal dollars into a sector that long survived on a trickle.

The average American family spends about \$2,000 a year on home energy bills, the Energy Department reports. In most cases, a quarter to one-third of that energy is wasted: Air leaks through windows, ducts and poor insulation; older appliances hog power. The Obama administration believes that offers a prime opportunity to create jobs and free up cash for homeowners.

The administration estimates the first wave of stimulus efficiency spending alone will employ 87,000 people, including energy auditors, who scour buildings for waste with high-tech sensors, and weatherization contractors, who install the often-simple upgrades that cut energy bills. In addition, the White House believes the

program will significantly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and help combat climate change.

Critics question the job projections and warn some money could be siphoned off by scam artists or bureaucrats. They worry that there aren't enough specific accountability measures attached to the money, or specific targets as to how the money will be spent. And they remember the late 1970s, when President Jimmy Carter launched an energy-efficiency drive that sputtered once he left office.

Nonetheless, states are racing to expand or even create training programs that will help displaced workers launch new careers in the efficiency field. Maryland's housing department plans to launch in

**"It's absolutely monstrous, both in terms of the opportunity for us and in terms of accomplishing what the objective was, which is use less energy."**

John Berger  
Standard Renewable Energy  
CEO

three months a training program for workers who weatherize low-income homes.

Foss, who heads a different program through Maryland's state energy department, says he needs more staff to train the applicants piling up on his waiting list. "We have this year's budget with next year's expectations," he said.

In the private sector, firms nationwide say they're doubling or tripling work forces to upgrade millions of homes, businesses and government buildings. The rea-



NANCE STONE / Chicago Tribune via MCT  
Wayne Yinger performs an energy audit at a home in Silver Spring, Md., on March 19.

son? The stimulus spending and an accompanying batch of new tax breaks for efficiency.

CEOs and analysts expect the demand to last, in part due to some fine-print strings attached to the stimulus money that push states to adopt ongoing efficiency incentives.

"It's absolutely monstrous," said John Berger, CEO of Standard Renewable Energy, a Houston-based efficiency company with offices in four states, "both in terms of the opportunity for us and in terms of accomplishing what the objective was, which is use less energy."

Many states have seen their efficiency funds bulge overnight by as much as 10 times, including Maryland, which is getting \$113 million in stimulus efficiency funds; Illinois, which is getting nearly \$350 million; and California, which will receive \$411 million.

Yet veterans of the efficiency business say the rush of money and new contractors demands strict measures to ensure the upgrades actually save energy.

"You basically have the word 'efficiency' sprinkled throughout the stimulus package, but you don't have actual specific targets, or a list of priorities," said Edward Mazria, the founder of Architec-

ture 2030, a nonprofit group that works to improve energy efficiency in buildings.

States and the Department of Energy promise strict transparency and spending controls. The department's inspector general issued a report this month detailing the potential for waste, fraud and abuse in the efficiency programs and recommending ways to prevent it.

The department is rapidly hiring oversight staff and plans for repeat audits of homes that receive efficiency upgrades, to make sure their energy savings are real. It is helping to establish 40 training centers across the country, and will require states to show detailed training and oversight plans before they receive the bulk of their funding.

Government officials and efficiency contractors say the most important fuel for the industry could be the sheer volume of efficiency work remaining once the stimulus funds run dry.

"The stimulus package will only be able to improve 2 to 3 percent of the existing housing stock in the United States," predicted Peter Van Buren, president of TerraLogos Green Home Services in Baltimore. "We have a lot of work to do."



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NEWS

# Gay bars change to appeal to straight customers

By Julia O'Malley  
McClatchy Newspapers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — In Mad Myrna's drag dressing room, where a J.Lo song wound out among the wigs and gowns on a recent Friday evening, Isanoel Pinson leaned into the mirror, pursed his lips a little and smeared foundation on his forehead.

Pinson, who is in his 40s, started performing drag just after he immigrated to Anchorage from the Philippines in the early '80s. His first haunt was an old bar called the Jade Room. These days the crowds that come to his shows couldn't be more different than they were back then.

"Oh. My. God," he said, applying a ribbon of glue to a false eyelash. "Before is all like gay, gay, gay. Now would you believe? Our audience is all straight people. Couples!"

Myrna's has been home to a drag show for a decade, and straight people have long been part of the audience. But on some Friday nights lately, gay patrons have thinned dramatically, replaced by military couples, bachelorette parties and curious young professionals. It's part of a national trend.

From San Francisco to Pittsburgh, Boston to Nashville, gay bars are closing their doors and shuttering drag shows, citing lack of patrons.

There are plenty of theories why clientele is changing at Myrna's. People are making connections on the Internet. Growing social acceptance means there are few

establishments where gays don't feel comfortable. Simply put, the need for gay bars is fading.

"I have this feeling now that it's like 'mission accomplished,'" said Mike Richardson, board president of the Imperial Court of All Alaska, one of the state's oldest gay organizations.

"We really don't need safety in numbers."

Myrna's had to get creative to attract new customers to fill in where the old ones used to be, said manager Jeff "Myrna" Wood. Over the past few years, that has meant retooling the drag show to appeal to a wider audience. And now the venerable gay bar depends at least in part on the dollars of straight customers to keep its doors open.

As Wood likes to say, gay or straight, "everybody's money is green."

The clock ticks toward 9 p.m. Paige Langit arrives in the dressing room with her mother, Donna Langit, carrying bags of costumes.

Langit is 28. Lounge singer and comedian, she's the sexy, bossy, busty co-host of the show. She's also a registered Republican with a boyfriend. She stands in front of the mirror in a pink bra, teasing her hair and caking on purple eye shadow. A queen named Mariquita squeezes in next to her, pawing through a make-up bag.

Langit is the face of the new scene. The drag show, once the exclusive domain of gay men and transgender women, has morphed into a variety show — kinky and freaky — with something for every-

one, from burlesque to torch singing, along with a diverse stable of queens.

A singer and actress since her teens, Langit started performing at Myrna's in her early 20s after one of the drag queens saw her sing karaoke. She had a couple of gay friends in high school but had no experience with drag.

"I didn't know anything about the transgender community," she said, but she enjoyed the personalities she encountered at the bar. "It was like, 'Oh great — a group of people who like to perform.'"

Drag is mainly about exaggerated femininity, Langit says. Once she has her hair and make-up and magenta high-heels on, she feels a bit like a drag queen too.

People in the audience wonder if she's a lesbian or if she's a "real" woman. All that ambiguity is part of what makes the show interesting, she says.

Lights dimmed, cocktails flowing and tables full, music pounds out of the speakers in Myrna's show hall. Scott "Daphne DoAll LaChores" Koeller, the other drag show co-host, is dressed in a red Sarah Palin-esque suit, enormous ratty blonde wig and matronly glasses. He takes the stage, warming the audience with a monologue full of double-entendre one-liners.

Then Langit makes her entrance, sashaying into the spotlight in a tight pink top and white leggings, bubble gun in hand. An old cross-dresser and a young lady — a drag version of Regis and Kelly — their witty, bawdy banter serves as the



BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News via MCT  
Scott "Do All La Chores" Koeller has his hair sprayed by fellow master of ceremonies Paige Langit before the Divas Drag Show at Mad Myrna's in Anchorage, Alaska on Feb. 20.

backbone of the show, bridging generations and sexuality.

Koeller makes a joke referencing a decades old commercial. Langit tilts her head to the side, her face blank.

"I'll YouTube it," she says.

Soon an old-time burlesque dancer in a bustier and ruffled panties weaves through the audience starting her act. Then comes the lithe, shirtless male go-go dancer. Then the karaoke crooner in a brown V-neck sweater. The room is full of whistles and belly laughs. There's a soldier in dress uniform and his wife in the front row.

Today's audience is usually

couples or single women, Wood said.

"The girls want to go see the drag queens," he said. "Women are more tolerant than guys are."

"You can always tell the straight people," says Koeller, "because they're the ones who come on time."

Iesha Jones, 32, who is not gay, has become a regular at Myrna's. She started coming years ago because she had a friend in the show. She likes that the bar doesn't have a "meat market" feel, she said.

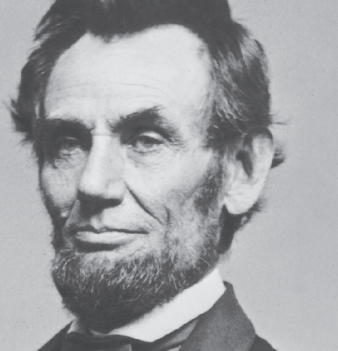
"It's like OK, I'm here for the show," she said. "I know I'm not going to get hit on by guys."

The straight men are almost

always with women. In general men who come alone are "highly questionable" as a dating prospect, she said. Though it's not entirely impossible to meet someone.

"Occasionally you get a lot of soldiers. I did meet a guy who just got back from Iraq."

Members of the older generation might raise an eyebrow that she's spending time at a gay bar, she said. But people her age don't think it's strange and most of her friends would be comfortable joining her. There are a number of bars in Anchorage with an integrated gay-straight social scene, she said.



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**BASEBALL**  
continued from page 6

great for our conference."

The lone bright spot of the game was starting pitcher Kyle Winkler. The freshman pitched seven and two-third scoreless innings, allowing five hits and three walks while striking out three Aztecs.

"I felt really good," Winkler said. "I didn't have my curve ball the first couple innings, but I was able to get out of some jams with my fastball, sinking it down and getting a couple ground balls when I needed them."

The offense for the Horned Frogs mustered just four hits — two coming in the fifth inning when they scored their lone run — and no one drew a walk.

Schlossnagle said that was more a credit to SDSU's pitching than a lack of ability on his team.

The schedule doesn't get any easier for the Horned Frogs as they welcome the UT Arlington Mavericks on Wednesday before hosting a conference-leading University of New Mexico Lobos team for a three-game series beginning Friday.

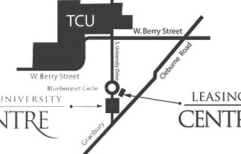
"They're obviously the best team in our league, no question about that," Schlossnagle said of the Lobos. "We better be ready to play or we'll get our rear ends beat."

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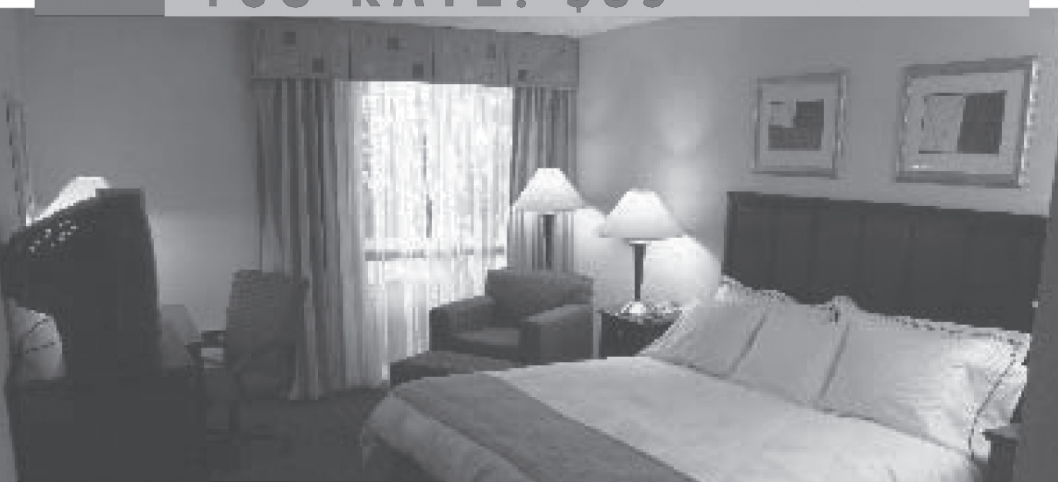
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