

NEWS A KTCU radio show gets made into a TV show. TOMORROW



FEATURES Read reviews of the bestrated movies and music. TOMORROW



SPORTS The baseball team continues its way on a five-game road trip. PAGE 6

## Y SKIFI TUESDAY March 27, 2007 Vol. 104 Issue 92 EST. 1902 WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM =

## University officials defend lender amidst possible lawsuit

#### By BAILEY SHIFFLER Staff Reporter

In the wake of the New York attorney general's intent to file a lawsuit against one of TCU's and practices." preferred lenders, the university stands firm in defending enue-sharing relationship, its financial aid practices.

In a March 22 letter to Edu-

Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said he intends to file suit practice creates unlawful conagainst EFP for engaging in flicts of interest and said EFP "unlawful and deceptive acts

TCU and EFP have a rev- dents it makes loans." small percentage of the prof- the letter to give a written the New York attorney general, begins to pay back a loan.

with the schools to whose stu- aid at TCU, said the univer-

meaning EFP pays TCU a business days after receiving its practice if necessary. cation Finance Partners from it it receives when a student notice explaining why such from the TCU Office of Com-Founder and Chief Executive the Attorney General's office

sent March 22.

"must sever its financial ties scholarships and financial and their families." sity will cooperate with the saying the company is pre- Attorney General has given us Cuomo also gave EFP five investigation and will change pared to defend its business five business days to explain

A March 22 press release

In his letter, Cuomo said this instituted. The letter was sity "firmly believes that it understood that Mr. Cuomo's employs sound financial aid investigation was in its early Mike Scott, the director of practices that benefit students stages, and we were coop-

practices.

proceedings should not be munications said the univer- Tamera Briones said, "We

erating fully with his office. EFP released a statement While we appreciate that the why a lawsuit should not be In the press release, EFP filed, we question whether

See LOANS, page 2

## WHIRLWIND ECONOMICS

## **Researchers** find weather may affect stock market

By LEIGH ANN WEAVER Staff Reporter

Stock prices, floor trading and the bonds market are not the only things that affect the stock market these days.

Research done by an associate professor in the Neeley School of Business shows that the temperament of the weather affects stock traders.

Peter Locke, associate professor of finance, and two colleagues, Piman Limpaphayom and Pattarake Sarajoti, both of Sasin GIBA of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, conducted research they say proves that the weather in certain locations has an affect on the floor traders' behavior.



## Students push for two-week January term

### **BV ELIZABETH DAVIDSON**

Staff Reporter

Besides going home or working over Winter Break, students could soon earn class credit in a January miniterm.

The Student Government Association is working toward implementing the January term, or J-term. The J-term would be a 10day period before spring semester when students could take classes and earn 1.5 to 3 hours of credit.

Justin Brown, a sophomore music and political science major and student relations chair for SGA, is working on the J-term project. Brown first heard about the J-term from Austin College, but other colleges such as DePauw University and the University of Virginia offer January terms as well.

"J-terms are successful at many other schools in the nation and would allow students another opportunity to take classes of interests, or prep class for the LSAT and MCAT, or even study abroad," Brown said.

In March, SGA surveyed students through my.tcu.edu and found that 85 percent supported the creation of the J-term, Brown said.

The research compares the relationship between the Chicago weather and the behavior of the traders in the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Locke said there are suggestions in financial journals that said it would be nice to have accounts on traders' behavior in certain locations where the weather is recorded at the same time.

Their research, "Gone with the wind: Chicago's weather and futures trading," was featured in the Feb. 19 edition of Business Week and was presented earlier this month at the Asia-Pacific Futures Research Symposium in Shanghai.

Several factors were analyzed, Locke said.

"One of the most exciting things is that on excessively cloudy or windy days, after holding lots of things constant, these floor traders tend to not make as

See STOCK, page 2

RYAN CLAUNCH / Staff Photographer Peter Locke, associate professor of finance, stands below the stock ticker located in Smith Entrepreneurs Hall. Locke, along with two colleagues, has done a study that suggests weather can affect floor traders' behavior in certain locations. The study was featured in the Feb. 19 Business Week

"This is a significant amount which makes J-term a priority for SGA," Brown said.

Ashley Alaniz, a sophomore business major, said she would like the J-term to become available to students, especially those who need the hours to graduate on time.

"I looked into taking a miniterm at a Dallas community college last January to get prerequisites I needed for business courses," Alaniz said.

Amy Shuffield, a sophomore theater major, said although the idea of getting a few hours of credit in two weeks sounds ideal, she would not do it herself.

"I probably wouldn't do it because I enjoy my break and like my time to rejuvenate before the semester," Shuffield said.

Currently, SGA is planning to work with the Faculty Senate Students Relations Committee to set up the process of bringing J-terms to TCU, Brown said.

David Bedford, chair of the Student Relations Committee, said he could see the value in this if there is a real demand for it.

"It would allow people to get credit and

### See J-TERM, page 2

## **Diverse news panel to discuss media role at Schieffer Symposium**

#### By JAMES BROWN Staff Reporter

Bob Schieffer, a TCU alumnus and chief Washington correspondent for CBS news, returns to TCU tonight to host the third annual Schieffer Symposium.

The symposium, entitled "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of the News: The Media's Role Earl G. Graves Sr., founder and up yet, and with an election Tim Russert Show," a weekly in a Democracy," will feature some of today's most influential journalists, including NBC News' Tim Russert, New York Times editor Bill Keller, ABC News legal correspondent Jan Crawford Greenburg and



GRAVES

Magazine.

GREENBURG

have some of the top figures in journalism participate in these sessions," Schieffer said,



RUSSERT

publisher of Black Enterprise coming, the war in Iraq and a interview program on CNBC, Supreme Court with two new "We have been fortunate to justices, there will be no shortage of topics for our panel to discuss."

Russert, host of NBC's "Meet a professional journalist and 19 "but this may be our best line- the Press," was recently in the years with The Times, Keller



SCHIEFFER

ness in the I.

ous awards,

and has authored two New books.

national spot- became executive editor of the light as a wit- newspaper in 2003. During his tenure with The

Louis "Scooter" Times, Keller has served many Libby perjury positions, including managing trial. The recip- editor, senior writer, foreign ient of numer- editor and chief of The Times Johannesburg bureau. In 1989 Russert also he won a Pulitzer Prize for his anchors "The coverage of the Soviet Union as The Times' correspondent in Moscow.

Covering the Supreme Court York Times No. 1 best-selling and national legal issues, Jan Crawford Greenburg is an ABC News legal correspondent based in Washington, D.C. Published in January 2007,

### FOR YOUR INFO

- WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
- WHERE: Ed Landreth Auditorium.
- Tickets for the event are \$15. Students with valid student IDs are admitted free.
- To order tickets, call (817) 257-5976; for information, call (817) 257-7808.

Greenburg's book titled, "Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the United States Supreme

See **SYMPOSIUM**, page 2

### WEATHER TODAY: Scattered T-Storms, 76/63 WEDNESDAY: Cloudy, 81/62 THURSDAY: Scattered T-Storms, 68/50

### PECULIAR FACT

KELLER

MANILA, Philippines — Police issued a warning to gay officers not to sway their hips or display other suggestive behavior while on duty — or they risk losing their jobs. — Associated Press

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Student dreams on ABC, page 2 **OPINION:** Students should vote independently, page 3

SPORTS: Flying Frogs dominate first meet, page 6

## **CONTACT US**

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

After more than 30 years as

## Student looks to have dream realized on ABC show

#### By KATIE GIANGRECO Staff Reporter

A TCU student has a dream. And, with the help of ABC and its viewers, he's hoping it comes true.

p.m. as one of eight contes- contestants will be paired off have their dream realized.

major from Sugar Land said he call months ago by chance.

"I was cruising the Internet one day, saw the casting call and thought it sounded cool,

that means they liked me since phone lines and online polls. ABC. they called me back."

Osmond, will feature a new group of six to eight contes-Russ Jowell, 22, will appear tants each week who reveal show's simplicity is sometonight on the special preview their wildest dreams to a stuof ABC's new show, "The Great dio audience. According to the American Dream Vote", at 9 show's Web site on ABC.com, tants vying for the chance to into head-to-head match-ups Jowell said. "All you need is based on their similar dreams a dream — no matter how The senior radio-TV-film as they try to convince the studio audience why their dreams came across the show's casting should be fulfilled. The audience will narrow down the really want it." group to their favorite two.

show, viewers from across the to reveal it, even though preview will feature: a fire- of friends and family.

The winner will be announced The show, hosted by Donny at the beginning of the show the following week.

Jowell said he thinks the thing that will set it apart from the other reality-based programming on television.

"It's a pretty simple show," crazy, wild, big or small. You just have to be able to convince the audience that you

When asked what his

ed for five or six years," he wants a famous singer to sing told everyone in her office said. "But you'll have to to his wife; an animal reswatch the show to find out cue advocate who wants to what it is."

ple who tune in tonight.

"Russ wants it to be dramatic when people find out what his dream is," Massoud the youngest of the contessaid. "That'll make it more tants in his group of eight. suspenseful."

so I applied," Jowell said. "And country will vote via toll-free he said he's allowed to by fighter who wants to open

build a Bassett Hound senior said he'll most likely be wear-Jowell's friend, Joseph Mas- center; a high school English ing a T-shirt today telling soud, said Jowell's dream is teacher who wants to open people to watch the show being kept secret to keep an a chicken theme park; and and vote for Jowell. element of surprise for peo- a 22-year-old student who is a full head of hair.

Jowell said at 22, he was

To get the word out that Jow-According to the show's ell will need people to vote for Great American Dream Vote" At the end of the hour-long dream was, Jowell declined Web site, Tuesday night's him, he has enlisted the help

"My grandmother has basia floral shop for his wife; cally told her entire town," "It's something I've want- a computer consultant who Jowell said. "And my mom at work."

Jowell's friend Brian Goates

"We've created a group prematurely bald and wants and a flyer on Facebook to get the word out," Goates said. "We want everyone to know Russ is going to be on the show."

> Future episodes of "The will regularly air on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on ABC.

## J-TERM From page 1

help them stay on their four vear schedule to graduate." Bedford said. "It could help a number of people, but there has to be an interest for it."

The exact dates of the Jterm will be discussed once the program is closer to being in place, Brown said, but the term would not be implemented for next January because the academic schedule for a university is set well in advance.

"There are a lot of things involved in adding something this significant to the academic year, but I think it will help the university and its students," Brown said. "By working on this now, we can get it for future students."

## SYMPOSIUM From page 1

move toward a more conser- Earl G. Graves is nationally vative Court.

Before joining ABC, Green- minority business. burg served as the nation-

STOCK

From page 1

much money than they would

"On sunny days, income is

higher and timing better," Lim-

why, but several ideas were

on nicer days," Locke said.

paphayom said.

thought of, he said.

legal analyst for the "CBS ous business ventures. Evening News" and "Face the Nation."

Court," gives insight into the Black Enterprise Magazine, recognized as an expert in

al legal affairs reporter for G. Graves, Ltd., the parent numerous awards and honthe Chicago Tribune, the corporation for the Earl G. ors, including the National Supreme Court correspon- Graves Publishing Company, Award of Excellence for his dent for "The News Hour and has experienced entrewith Jim Lehrer" and as a preneurial success in numer-

"We tell stories like there is

just a mental thing that causes

the traders not to focus as

much," Locke said. "Why that

is, we don't know. But there

are studies out there about ion-

ization and human behavior

"I think the research is very

interesting. I had no idea that

Aimee Housinger, a soph-

when it comes to weather."

There are no proven reasons omore finance major, said,

titled, "How to Succeed in Founder and publisher of Business Without Being White," made The New York Times and Wall Street Journal Business best-sellers lists.

Throughout his career, He is chairman of Earl Graves has received a achievements as a minority businessman.

> weather could affect the futures traders' behavior in that way."

> The research will also be published in the Review of Futures Markets, Locke said.

The Review of Futures Markets is a financial journal published by the Chicago Board of Trade.

"It's always a thrill knowing that your work will be published because it's such a struggle," Locke said. "It's kind of like spiking the ball after a touchdown."

## LOANS From page 1

learning all of the facts and dent of the National Assowhether there has been an actual violation of law."

rower.

In a letter to Scott, Briones said EFP has completed an internal review and can confidently say that EFP business and ethical standards to serve our borrowers and schools.'

the only one listed.

making any policy changable options.

events, we decided taking a conservative approach was appropriate," Scott said.

Dallas Martin, the presiciation of Student Financial Aid Administrators, said in She also said the reve- a press release that revenue nue-sharing practices never sharing is a practice that is debated within the lending community.

He said he had, on numerous occasions, personally discouraged revenue-sharing agreements because it "operates with the highest is difficult for the public to understand the benefits the arrangements bring to students and, therefore, there Due to the recent events, often appears to be a conflict of interest. However, given by financial aid administrators.

> Martin also said it is poswill seek an out-of-court settlement limiting certain

"In light of the recent lending practices.



## SCHIEFFER SYMPOSIUM

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of the News: The Media's Role in a Democracy"

In 1997, Graves' book,

is seriously interested in

impact the cost to the bor-

TCU's financial aid department now offers a list of six he said the recent investipreferred private lenders, gation undermines trust in when previously EPF was the counseling and advice

Scott said they are still not es, and they just wanted to sible the attorney general show students other avail-

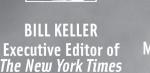
Fuesday, March 27, 2007 6:30 p.m. Ed Landreth Auditorium, TCU campus

### PANELISTS INCLUDE:

**BOB SCHIEFFER** Moderator of Face the Nation

EARL G. GRAVES, SR. Founder and Publisher Black Enterprise Magazine





TIM RUSSE Managing Editor and Moderator of Meet the Press

TCU Schieffer School & Journalism

Co-sponsored by: Star-Telegram

JAN CRAWFORD GREENBURG egal Correspondent for ABC News

## Tickets are \$15. To purchase tickets, call 817-257-5976. Limited seating.

TCU students with valid student ID are admitted free

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## TCU DAILY SKIFF

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### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence." - George Washington

**BY BRENDAN KIEFER** 

3

## **THE SKIFF VIEW** Random classes worthwhile

exams and essays. Unbeknownst to many studious college students. TCU offers some fun, alternative classes to lighten up their college experiences.

Students should take advantage of the university's small liberal arts education by branching out of their majors with some unlikely classes.

A little-kept secret in the nutrition department is Gourmet Cooking, where students learn the science and basic principles of cooking, prepare a fullout gourmet meal once a week and get to eat it. It's a requirement for nutrition majors but an elective for everyone else.

Anne Vanbeber, who teaches the class, said cooking is a life skill.

"Any time you learn a life skill, you gain confidence," Vanbeber said on the first day of class.

As a testament to the importance of knowing how to cook, Gourmet Cook-

Ollege doesn't just have to be about ing is one of the few classes at TCU that is evenly divided between men and women.

> And then there are the physical education classes such as beginning karate, weight lifting, soccer, racquetball, golf, bowling, swim conditioning and scuba diving.

In addition to fulfilling UCR requirements, these classes offer a chance to get some exercise. Participants no longer have to wrestle with themselves about hitting the gym because it's required every other day.

There's no such thing as a blowoff class at TCU, but these alternative classes come pretty close. It's a winwin situation: elective or UCR requirement, GPA-booster and a life skill you wouldn't learn in an English class.

So take a break, relax a little and sign yourself up for something random next semester.

Features editor Amber Parcher for the editorial board.



## Unhealthy food ads targeting children deserve foreign ban

France recently joined the ranks of European countries weighing in on the effort to curb the rising percent-COMMENTARY



age of obesity among children - currently at about 20 percent worldwide and growing by about 400,000 chil-

dren each year, according to the World Health Organization.

Food advertisements in France will now accompany cautions about eating too much sugar and fat, notes encouraging consumers to eat more fruits and vegetables and notes advising consumers to avoid snacking and to particioff from advertising, requiring warning labels or disassociating celebrities and cartoons from junk food will not help reverse the Western hemisphere's growing problem of obesity.

The French Health Ministry, which designed the new regulations, said the caution labels will let children "guide themselves" in their eating habits, according to the same AP article.

Since when are children in charge of choosing their own meals and snacks? It's up to these children's parents to make them stay home and eat fruits and vegetables.

If anything, caution labels and nutritional education should be aimed at parents who apparently are being unduly influenced by their children's desires for junk food. It's a parent's responsibility to raise their child, and that includes instilling them with healthy eating habits through a nutritious diet. Sheltering children from junk food advertisements would probably cut down on the grocery store temper tantrums of children who want their parents to buy soda and ice cream, which might make buying healthy food an easier task for parents. Serisa Otey, a financial services assistant who has two children, said she thinks adding caution labels to food advertising and packaging would be helpful because she said children do have a large impact on what kind of foods parents buy.

to eat healthier an easier task. Especially when the laws are walking a fine line between protecting consumer's health and limiting companies' freedom of speech. While the free speech line is much more sacred here in the United States, as regulations spread throughout Europe, Americans need to be concerned about whether similar rules will form in the United States.

A journalist or an advertiser's freedom to report government propaganda or to distribute the results of a consumer report test are more paramount to society than a 30-second spot of Tony the Tiger talking about his sugary cereal. But, with regulations on Tony's monologue about breakfast, the definition of freedom will inevitably begin to blur.

So far, the United States has not followed suit in making mandatory regulations - though 10 major food and drink companies, including McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Campbell's Soup, made a voluntary agreement in November to promote healthy eating in its advertising to children. The companies collectively agreed to stop advertising in elementary schools, to promote health when advertising in online games and to cut-down on the use of outside characters, according to a November 14 AP article.

Looking at the numbers, the United States has far more reason for concern. According to the AP, about one-third of adults are classified as obese while about 9 percent of adults are classified as such in France.

## **Clinton speaks** honestly about situation in Iraq

Surprise, surprise, a bold Democrat finally has told the truth about Iraq, a truth that goes like this: However chaotic it gets, we can't just pack our bags and come home. Here's the second surprise: The truthteller was Sen. Hillary Clinton.

It was the good Hillary, the adult who lived in the White House, is a serious student of foreign policy and knows we must project strength to friends and foes. The good Hillary wants to be president but refuses to pander to a public disgusted with the war. We need to see more of her.

Lately, we've been seeing too much of the bad Hillary. Swept up in the fever of the campaign, that Hillary has been a little puppy, obediently following the irresponsible lefty lurch of rivals Barack Obama and John Edwards. In a game of "can you top this," bad Hillary even promised last month that "if we in Congress don't end this war before January 2009, as president, I will."

interests of regimes, to Israel's interests. So I think we have a remaining military as well as political mission, trying to contain the extremists."

There's more good sense: "I think we have a vital national security interest and obligation to try to help the Kurds manage various problems in the north so that one of our allies, Turkey, is not inflamed, and they are able to continue with their autonomy. I think we have a vital national security interest — if the Iraqis ever get their act together - to continue to provide logistical support, air support, training support. ... And I think we have a continuing vital national security interest in trying to prevent Iran from crossing the border and having too much influence inside of Iraq." She was careful to say she would rely on military commanders for honest advice. But she was definite that, while many combat troops would leave, an unspecified number would stay. "It would be far fewer troops," she said. "We would not be doing patrols. We would not be kicking in doors. We would not be trying to insert ourselves in the middle between the various Shiite and Sunni factions. I do not think that is a smart or achievable mission for American forces. So I think that we will have troops."

pate in physical activities.

These cautions, which were implemented March 1, shadow those recently passed in Britain, which require the printing of similar nutritional information on food packaging. Sweden and Norway, like France, have targeted advertising, though these country's guidelines are stricter and ban TV advertisements targeted at children altogether, according to a March 1 Associated Press article.

It's a grand idea.

Now, every time a British child opens up a package of cookies or a French child watches a commercial for Oreos, they'll be halted by the caution to make their snack part of a well-balanced diet and - if it's not too much trouble — to take a jog around the block after finishing their cookie.

Unfortunately, cutting kids

But it's not the government's job to make getting children

Janice Wood, an assistant professor of journalism who teaches a course in media law, said restrictions like those in Europe are unlikely in the United States because any product that is legal to sell in the United States is also legal to advertise.

"Our system has always said people are smart enough to take care of themselves," she said. "Unfortunately, they don't always do this."

However, she said the United States could regulate food advertising if there was a substantial public interest to change it, but she doesn't think labels ever really solve the problem.

"Even with cigarette warning labels, people still smoke," Wood said. "If you put warning labels on junk food, I don't know that that's going to make a difference."

In an ideal society, these problems could be solved

through responsible or regulated advertising, but the junk food epidemic stems from a much deeper issue and can't be solved through advertising restrictions.

Attempting to remedy the world's health situation by placing limits on speech will only cause additional problems, it won't solve any of the issues at hand.

True, the right of Ronald McDonald to talk about hamburgers isn't nearly as essential to creating an informed public as a newspaper's right to print information about the latest U.N. resolution for its readers, but it's still necessary.

Kathleen Thurber is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Colorado Springs, Colo.

Fortunately, good Hillary was back last week. Making the case that America has vital interests in Iraq - from hunting al-Qaeda to blocking Iran - good Hillary struck the right balance in an interview with The New York Times.

Clinton sometimes sounded like President Bush. "It really does matter whether you have a failed province or a region that serves as a petri dish for insurgents and al-Qaeda," she said. "It is right in the heart of the oil region. It is in opposition to our interests, to the

Good ideas, good sense, good Hillary.

> Michael Goodwin is a columnist for New York Daily News. This column was distributed by MCT.

## Students should vote independently of societal cues

As the 2008 presidential elections approach, everyone is naturally beginning to examine his or her views on hot political issues

COMMENTARY



Especially for college students, many of whom will be voting in their first presidential election, voting will be an important part

of their identi-

fications as American citizens. More importantly, first-time voters will establish their political views in a concrete setting because, when it comes

down to the wire of the voting booth, they have to ultimately pick one candidate or the other.

In general, college students are known to be more liberal than adults. As your resident amateur psychologist, I can use logic to speculate many reasons why this might be the case.

Universities, especially liberal arts programs, are breeding grounds for new, forwardthinking ideas. Even if theories fall flat on their faces, the creator is sure to find some sort of support group to follow the idea to its death. Subsequently, many students play around with new ideas and different thought experiments, in an

ANDREW CHAVEZ

LINDSEY BEVER

AMBER PARCHER

effort to figure out what they believe.

As independent college students, we generally want to branch out from our parents. College is a major part of developing the fundamental beliefs that carry into adulthood, and nobody admittedly wants to turn into their parents.

So, young adults turn away from their parents' conservative ideas, and unfortunately, sometimes support the opposite just to spite them - when really, they should support the candidates they believe in. This is another reason that college-age voters may be considered more liberal than middle-aged voters.

An age old adage can be cited as another reason: To every generation that came before it, the current youth always seems more radical than the last.

First, it was Elvis that shook everyone up, then it was The Beatles who couldn't buy their love and now it's rappers that give our parents 99 problems. Opinions change over time, but sometimes they're not evenly distributed, and so one generation's interpretation of conservative and liberal ideas will differ from another generation's.

Ironically enough, some of our values do trickle down but in a different way. For example, on issues such as abortion, many young girls opt for it

because they don't want to be single mothers with little ones of their own to support. Family values have changed for us.

We've seen from our parents' generation that the divorce rate has sky-rocketed since the nuclear-family era of the 1950s. The single-parent family is not so uncommon --and it has different needs than a two-parent household.

Granted, all college students don't fall into this bracket. In fact, many students in Texas, at a private university, fall into the conservative Christian stereotype instead.

The moral of the story is that, as new voters, we shouldn't allow ourselves to be

tainted by the notions of how people believe we should think and react. Now is as good a time as any to develop ideas for ourselves and build a foundation of strong opinions before being corrupted by the bias of stereotypes and statistics.

As educated young people, we know stereotypes only have as much value as we let them. But we should also acknowledge that though statistics are helpful in telling us about the world around us, they shouldn't, by default, tell us about ourselves.

> Anahita Kalianivala is a freshman English and psychology major from Fort Worth. Her column appears Tuesdays.

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## **Editorial Policy**

The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. The Skiff View editorial represents the view of the TCU Daily Skiff editorial board

listed to the left. The Skiff View is the collective opinion of the editorial board and may not reflect the views of the individual writers. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of

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e-mail it to LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

## Schools act against diploma fraud

#### By STEVE ROCK

McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Need a college degree to get ahead? Don't want to attend classes to get it? Well, hop on the Internet and buy a fake transcript and diploma.

Phony diplomas are proliferating on the Web, leading to fears of academic fraud and a constant legal battle by universities to protect their good names.

Officials at Kansas State University, for example, recently instructed their tradecease-and-desist letter to a Web site that offered a fake Kansas State University diploma and transcript for \$249.99. On any given day, the same thing could be happening at many other universities.

Various Web sites advertise the documents as "replacement" or "novelty" diplomas.

the diplomas should not be used But education officials fear that the documents can lead to people pretending to have degrees or grades they did not earn.

"Diploma fraud is an enormous problem," said Barmak Nassirian, the associate execu-Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Washington. "Stuff is coming at us so fast that we can't even gain awareness, let alone do anything about it."

"Diploma fraud is an enormous problem. Stuff is coming at us so fast that we can't even gain awareness, let alone do anything about it."

**Barmak Nassirian** 

Associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

The Kansas City Star found at least 12 Web sites that claim to offer diplomas from legitimate U.S. institutions. One site bramark-licensing agent to send a zenly boasts "10 years in the underground of counterfeiting documents."

> sites — as Kansas State University officials learned from The Kansas City Star — they act to keep the phony diplomas out of circulation.

University officials sent the let-Disclaimers on some sites say ter shut down recently, but foranother site takes its place.

Ezell, who spent more than a decade investigating fake colleges and fraudulent degrees, said the industry is worth millions of dollars and is growing.

"It's whack-a-gopher," Ezell tive director of the American said. "One goes down, another one comes up."

Local universities said they could not cite specific examples of people using phony degrees, but they know that diploma and academic fraud is a problem.

That is clear at Web sites such as DiplomasUnlimited. com, which before shutting down, sold degrees from Kansas State University and other institutions. The site offered what it called the "finest quality repli-When universities learn of the ca diplomas in the world." The design templates, ink and paper were "custom created according to the college or university you select," the Web site said.

Officials with the compa-The site to which Kansas State ny could not be reached for comment.

"These are things we need to mer FBI agent Allen Ezell said follow up on," said Duane Nelin place of authentic sheepskins. it is only a matter of time before lis, Kansas State's provost. "But to several e-mails. it's hard, given the proliferation of things that are available on the Web."

> Kansas State University is a client of the Collegiate Licensing Co., a Georgia-based trademarklicensing firm that represents more than 150 colleges and universities. Jim Aronowitz, the associate general counsel at Collegiate Licensing, said his firm sends cease-and-desist letters to various businesses "multiple times a day."

Aronowitz said that most of those businesses have nothing to do with fake degrees, and ones that sell phony diplomas typically remove Collegiate Licensing clients from their lists of available schools after the firm sends a threatening letter.

One Web site that offers degrees, PhonyDiploma.com, lists more than 200 colleges and universities. The site says its diplomas include "actual designs" from schools as varied as Ottawa University in Kansas, the University of Texas and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prices for replica college diplomas start at \$184.95. Other products include high school diplomas and General Educational Development diplomas.

According to its Web site, PhonyDiploma is based in Richmond, Va. A person who answered the phone at the company declined to answer questions but suggested corresponding by e-mail. Officials with the Web site did not reply

Elsewhere on the site is this disclaimer: "PhonyDiplomas and transcripts may only be used for entertainment purposes, for your records, or for replacement of a lost or damaged document. They are not real documents and cannot be used as real diplomas. PhonyDiplomas are not meant to be used for unlawful purposes or any other illegal uses. This means that they cannot be used to pass as real diplomas under any circumstance."



## Human remains fill NY potholes

#### **BV THOMAS ZAMBITO** New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The pulverized remains of bodies from the World Trade Center disaster site were used by city workers to fill ruts and potholes, a city contractor says in a sworn affidavit filed Friday in Manhattan Federal Court.

Eric Beck says debris powders — known as fines — were put in a pothole-fill mixture by crews at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island, N.Y., where more than 1.65 million tons of World Trade Center debris were deposited after the September 11 attacks.

"I observed the New York City Department of Sanitation taking these fines from the conveyor belts of our machines, loading it onto tractors and using it to pave roads and fill in potholes, dips and ruts," Eric Beck said.

Beck was the senior supervisor for Taylor Recycling, a private contractor hired to sift through debris trucked to Fresh Kills after the trade center attacks. Before the arrival of Taylor's equipment at Fresh Kills in October 2001, the debris was sifted manually by workers using rakes and shovels.

Beck's affidavit was filed by lawyers for the families of Sept. 11 victims who are suing the city in hopes of creating a formal burial place for debris that they say contains human remains.

"It's devastating," Norman Siegel, an attorney representing the families, said of Beck's statement. "When the 9/11 families found about this, they were wiped out."

The families argue that the than 400,000 tons of debris weren't properly combed for human remains.

The city recently asked Man- ness to your loved one."

hattan Federal Judge Alvin Hellerstein to dismiss the lawsuit, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said he would like to turn the garbage dump into a "beautiful park."

In his first few months on the job, Beck said Taylor's mechanical sifters found 2,000 bones per day. He recalled finding "bones, fingers, skulls, feet and hands" as well as a man's chest and "the full body of a man dressed in a suit." The remains were catalogued and turned over to the city, he said.

But Beck said he was pushed to sift the debris quickly, and that remains may have been missed.

"I was constantly told ... to move the job, to run the conveyor belts faster and to keep the tonnage up," Beck wrote.

Other affidavits support Siegel's claim that the sifting process was shoddy.

One comes from Theodore Feaser, the retired director of mechanical operations for the city Sanitation Department.

"From my experience at Fresh Kills, I am absolutely convinced that if the City of New York unearthed, resifted and washed the debris at Fresh Kills ... it would find hundreds of human body parts and human remains," said Feaser, a 20-year veteran who supervised the recovery effort at Fresh Kills for the Sanitation Department.

Diane Horning, the president of WTC Families for Proper Burial, urged Hellerstein to allow the sifting to continue so that loved ones' remains will be found.

"There is no place to leave cleanup was hurried and slip- flowers," said Horning, whose shod, with the result that more son Matthew, an employee of Marsh and McLennan, was killed on Sept. 11, 2001. "There is no feeling of solace or close-

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## **TODAY IN HISTORY**

**1793**: The Food and Drug Administration approves use of the drug Viagra, an oral medication that treats impotence.

## WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: What is a Horned Frog's favorite genre of music?A: Hip hop

## The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson





Used-car salesman marriage proposal.

KAPLAN)

TEST PREP AND

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

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### **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 answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

GMAT

GRE

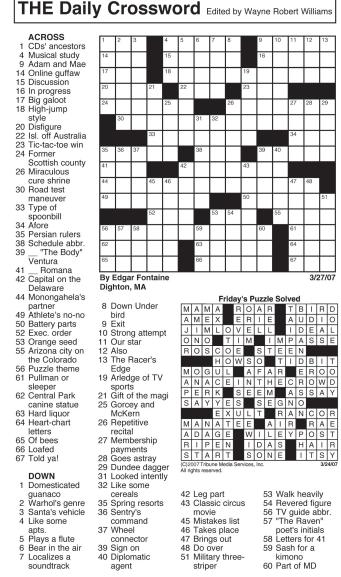
LSAT

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

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

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5







### **REMEMBERING THE PAST**

Men's basketball coach Sean Woods tells about his play in one of the greatest basketball games in NCAA history on the 15th anniversary. **TOMORROW** 

## **COMING HOME**



Junior outfielder Clint Arnold takes a swing against the Vermont Catamounts March 3. Arnold hit his first home run as a Horned Frog against BYU March 23. The No. 28 Frogs will face the No. 8 Texas A&M Aggies tonight. The Aggies will be the second Big XII opponent for TCU this season.

## Frogs end mid-season road trip with Aggies

#### By MARCUS MURPHREE Sports Editor

The No. 28 Horned Frogs baseball team caps off a five-game trek as it heads to College Station tonight to take on the No. 8 Texas A&M Aggies in a showdown of top-30 Texas teams.

TCU (18-7, 5-1 MWC) is currently 7-7 on the road and riding a 3-1 stretch during the most recent set of games away from Lupton Stadium.

Tonight's game will be the second time the Horned Frogs have faced a top-10 opponent during the 2007 season. When TCU played the No. 9 Rice Owls on March 9, the Horned Frogs were handed a 20-6 loss. The Aggies are 22-5 this season and 3-3 in the Big 12 after Sunday's loss to the No. 20 Oklahoma Sooners.

The Horned Frogs road trip began down I-30 against the UT Arligton Mavericks, where TCU won 10-6.

A day after the victory against the area opponent, the team took to the skies where it won two out of three games against the BYU Cougars in Provo, Utah.

The first game in the series extended the Horned Frogs' winning streak to six games, but the glory was short-lived as game two put an end to the TCU streak. The loss turned the final game of the series into the rubber match between the Horned Frogs and Cougars. TCU made up for the Friday's loss by pounding out 20 hits en route to a 12-3 victory. During the series, five different players hit home runs. Senior center fielder Keith Conlon added

to his team-lead by hitting his sixth long ball of the season, while Andrew Walker tacked on his third home run in the past eight games. Steven Trout con-

tinued adding to his

team-leading RBI count from
the No. 2 spot in the lineup.
He now has driven in 24 runs
this season.

The mid-week matchup with the Aggies is slated for a 6:30 p.m. start at L. Dale Mitchell park in College Station. The current record in the TCU vs. A&M series is 85-156-4.

C1	ГЛТС								
STATS									
Top Sluggers on Road Trip									
	Avg.	HR	RBI						
Austin Adams	.473	1	8						
Keith Conlon	.412	1	4						
Steven Trout	.375	0	2						
Andrew Walker	.300	2	7						

## Frogs dominate first outdoor meet

#### By ALEX ZOBEL Staff Reporter

In the first meet of the outdoor season for the Flying Frogs, TCU earned 12 NCAA regional qualifying spots and first-place finishes in 16 events Saturday at the inaugural Horned Frog Invitational.

The University of North Texas Mean Green, Illinois Fighting Illini and the St. Gregory's Cavaliers competed against TCU at the meet.

Head coach Darryl Anderson said the team opened up the outdoor season much better than it did last year.

"From top to bottom, we had a lot of good performances," Anderson said. "I was very pleased with how today went." TCU's most dominant event

was the 100-meter dash.

"Both our guys and girls ran great in the 100," Anderson said. "We had two guys and three girls hit regional marks."

Senior All-American Delwayne Delaney had the TCU men's fastest time in the 100meter dash, running it at a respectable 10.29 seconds.

6

"I always expect to win," Delaney said. "Half of the race is mental."

All-American Virgil Hodge placed first in the women's 100meter dash with a time of 11.29 seconds, which qualified her for regional competition.

"Virgil Hodge did great for us in the 100," Anderson said. "That's the fastest she's ever opened up."

Senior Jamee Jones finished in second place right behind Hodge with a time of 11.40 seconds, also securing her a regional spot.

Next on the agenda for the Flying Frogs is the UTA Invitational in Arlington on March 31.



ROBYN SHEPHEARD / Staff Photographer

Freshman pole vaulter Jeff Zych clears the bar in an attempt at the inaugural Horned Frog Invitational. The Frogs recorded 12 regional qualifying marks in the first of two home meets this semester.

## **Buckeyes enduring March Madness with Odon in foul trouble**

#### By RAY BUCK McClatchy Newson

McClatchy Newspapers

Those first raucous moments after Greg Oden powered up a 92-76 victory over Memphis on Saturday, the 7-foot Ohio State center was busted. Now we know: He can't celebrate worth a lick.

"That's just how I am," Oden later explained. "I mean, I'm not going to explode."

Not in the celebratory sense. On the court, however, Oden helped turn the South Region final by staying out of late foul trouble, clogging the middle and throwing down a couple of thunder dunks, of which he has become quite an aficionado as well as a historian.

"I saw Best Damn Sports Show Period's top 50 dunks last night," the 19-year-old freshman said. "I saw a couple of guys break the rim. I've never had the honor of doing that.

"I try real hard," Oden quickly added. "But these new-age rims don't break like they did back in the old days."

He marveled at former NBA star Darryl Dawkins, aka Chocolate Thunder, saying, "He could break a rim whenever he wanted. That was a big man."

At last, Oden was in his element ... talking dunk lore.

Conversely, he was hamstrung again Saturday by the shrill sound of an official's whistle, which kept him on the bench for 16 of the game's first 28 minutes.

In this tournament, Oden has sat 58 of 165 minutes.

But he played the final 12 minutes of this game — and that was the difference between the No. 1seeded Buckeyes sweating out a victory or winning going away.

Saddled with three fouls, Oden came off the bench for the final time with Memphis leading 56-51.

A game-turning, intentional foul by Memphis' Chris Douglas-Roberts put Oden on the line for a potential four-point play with 9:43 left. Oden got the basket but missed one of the free throws.

Memphis coach John Calipari called it the turning point of the game.

Calipari also said there is no other player in today's college game who can dominate with his size quite like Oden. "A 9-foot guy couldn't have gotten the one he shot, and it went in," Calipari said. "Just bring it up, there's nothing you can say."

Oden finished with 17 points, on 7-of-8 shooting, with nine rebounds, one block and countless altered shots.

But, because of Oden's foul trouble in this tournament, the Buckeyes have learned how to play without their big man in the middle.

Freshman point guard Mike Conley Jr., named Most Outstanding Player of the South Region, keeps the wheels in motion, with or without Oden on the floor.

Against Memphis, the Buckeyes scored 36 points in the paint and 18 points off 11 turnovers. Afterward, Oden helped cut down the nets.

He stood on the first rung of a 9-foot aluminum ladder and snipped the bigger cords for a souvenir.

"I don't like the little strings," Oden said.

But during the whole celebration, he was awkward, out of place, unsure whether to put his region championship cap on his head or carry it around like a lunch bucket.

He seemed to disappear in the crowd, as much as a 7-foot, 280-pounder can disappear.

As his teammates crowded around coach Thad Matta to hoist the hardware, Oden stood in the back, with his hands at his side. In the post game news conference, Oden's teammates were more upset over a quote from Friday's off-day interviews in which Memphis junior forward Joey Dorsey called Oden "a lot overrated as a big man."

Apparently, Dorsey was trying to motivate himself or play mind games with the freshman.

"My coaches told me about it," Oden said. "I was just like, 'Dang, (Dorsey) called me out.' But, I mean, I didn't think about it. I wanted to go out there and just play my game and not let those comments get in my head."

There was no war of words because Oden didn't turn it into that.

Of course, Oden got the last word where it really counted on the scoreboard.

