

Can the South by Southwest acts live up to the hype now that the festival has passed?



SPORTS | 6 **SWING AWAY**

The baseball team is opening up its conference schedule with a preseason tournament in San Diego.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

WWW.TCUDAILYSKIFF.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

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A fire broke loose Wednesday morning inside the TCU Bookstore at the corner of University Drive and Berry Street. The structure was in the process of renovation, and the fire caused and estimated \$1 million in damage.

Faculty address grading system

By TALIA SAMPSON Staff Reporter

The much-debated issue of implementing a plus/minus grading system will be put before the Faculty Senate this afternoon.

Although the House of Student Representatives voted against a resolution to support a plus/minus grading system earlier this month, Faculty Senator David Grant said he reminded the Faculty Senate Academic Excellence Committee that implementing a plus/ minus grading system falls under faculty jurisdiction.

Grant, committee chair, will present the motion to the Faculty Senate to approve and forward a request for a plus/ minus grading system.

Although Grant said he does not think the motion will come to a vote tomorrow, he said "The important thing to keep in mind is if the Senate approves this, it still has other committees to go through."

But, Grant said, "If they vote against it, it would kill it in the water because it means the representative group of faculty would not support it."

Trevor Heaney, student body president, said he thought a

lack of understanding about plus/minus was to blame for

the negative vote from the

(plus/minus) was a heavily

debated topic," said Heaney,

a junior finance and entrepreneurial management major.

"We didn't have our finger on what would be best for stu-

Grant said he regretted that

he was unable to attend the

meeting to help clarify information about plus/minus. He

was occupied with comforting

the wife of Darvl D. Schmidt.

professor and a former chair of

the religion department, who

Jason Ratigan, chair of the

died the day of the meeting.

Student Government Asso-

ciation's Academic Affairs

Committee, presented the

resolution to the House and

said he thought a lot of the

negative votes came from

representatives who did not

believe they could accurately represent the views of students

"What I believe happened is

that you had some people who

supported it, some against,

and a whole lot in the middle

who felt they couldn't repre-

sent the students because it is

such a complex issue" Ratigan,

Andy Fort, Faculty Sen-

ate chair, said although there

may be some debate, he thinks

the plus/minus issue will be

approved, and take up very

little of the Faculty Senate's

Fort, a professor of religion,

See FACULTY, page 2

said he believes the report on

a senior history major, said.

on plus/minus.

"Sitting in on that meeting,

House.

dents."

Official says cutting torch to blame for bookstore fire By ASHLEY CHAPMAN

and BRIAN WOODDELL Staff Writers

Arson investigators have determined a cutting torch caused the Wednesday three-alarm fire that gutted the inside of the former TCU Bookstore and caused the roof to collapse, a Fort Worth Fire Deparment official said.

Roofing materials were superheated by the torch, used by renovation workers to remove part of the building's roof supports, said Lt. Kent Worley, public information officer for the Fort Worth Fire the bookstore. At 2:10 a.m., the fire Department. He said the layers of roof materials smoldered for hours and caught fire on the east side of the building.

officer noticed smoke and alerted the they were evacuated once the roof Fire Department at 1:50 a.m. Within started to collapse. five minutes, engine 21 arrived at



ELIZABETH GOOCH / Special to the Skift

ONLINE

Check out the Skiff Web site at www.tcudailyskiff.com for a slide show of the bookstore fire.

was classified as a two-alarm blaze, escalating to a three-alarm fire at 2:13 a.m., he said.

Worley said firefighters started Worley said a Fort Worth police working inside the building, but

"They knew that the building was

going to be lost, so they pulled out," he said. "We had heavy fire on (the west side), so we started doing a lot of our efforts to protect the buildings that were immediately to the west."

About 100 bystanders, another 60 firefighters and several police officers were at the scene. The Fire Department sent 15 trucks and support vehicles.

Bar patrons Josue Lopez and Katy Daume had just spent their night at The University Pub when they heard the bookstore was on fire.

"(The owner of The Pub) was very cautious and told us to get our cars out of the area," said Lopez, a senior entrepreneurial management and Spanish major.

Daume, a senior marketing major, said warnings came from firefighters soon after, as flames approached power lines.

"All the cops said, 'The power lines are on fire — get out of here now," Daume said. "Two seconds See **FIRE**, page 2



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Photo Editor

MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Photographe Fort Worth firefighters emerge from the back of the TCU Bookstore after an early morning that blaze drew firefighters to the building Wednesday.

Program to expand with grant

By JEFF ESKEW Staff Reporter

than 10 years ago finally has the money to start making its goals a reality.

The Center for Urban Educa- schools. tion was given a \$93,000 grant be able to hire a new director outside of education, work and fund partnerships, new one-on-one with a professor programs and internships that in their respective concentrawill allow the center to expand tions. If a science education its services.

For the last 10 years, the gram, he or she would be CUE has recruited students working with a science profes-

educational leaders, teachers then decide what area school A program started more and administrators that will in which the student should work in urban schools. It has be placed. conducted research on the best practices to use in urban

As part of the CUE educa- tive effort among faculty in by TCU's Vision in Action ini- tion, students, who have a con- the School of Education who tiative. The center will now centration in an academic field are interested in issues dealing major were to join the pro-

and prepared them to become sor. The professor and student

Cecilia Silva, an associate professor in the CUE, said the program is a collaborawith education in cities.

"I support new teachers in being prepared to work with linguistically and culturally diverse populations," Silva said.

See **GRANT**, page 2

Family illness causes lecture to be canceled

The philosophy department's Green Honors Chair lecture scheduled for today was canceled because the speaker had to tend to his ill mother-in-law, a TCU philosophy professor said.

Owen Flanagan, a philosophy professor at Duke University, was to speak to students about how meditation affects the brain during his speech, "The Bodhisattva's Brain: Neuroscience, Vir-

tue and Happiness."

Phillip Galvin, a TCU philosophy professor, said he was disappointed Flanagan could not attend the lecture, but he understood the situation.

"It is unfortunate that it he was unable to come, but it was entirely appropriate," Galvin said. "You have to tend to your responsibilities."

Galvin said the department might try to reschedule Flanagan for the Green Chair's fall lectures, but he was not certain if the department would choose Flanagan as its speaker.

— Dan McGraw

CONTACT US

time.

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

FEATURES: New York band shows its bones, page 4

SPORTS: Baseball opens MWC preseason play, page 6



TODAY: Scattered storms, 76/58 TOMORROW: Isolated storms, 81/61 SATURDAY: Isolated storms, 80/61

FUN FACT

A Facebook group, "Burn the TCU Bookstore," existed prior to Wednesday morning's fire. Message board entries date back to Sept. 10, 2005.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Are you minding your manners? page 2

THE JUMP PAGE



Capt. Jim Sowder of the Fort Worth Fire Department sprays water on the burned-out shell of the TCU Bookstore Wednesday to help prevent hot spots from re-igniting the blaze that consumed the structure that morning.

> FIRE From page 1

later, the power lines exploded, and all the glass exploded."

Firefighters sprayed water on buildings such as the former Frog Theater in order to prevent the fire from jumping, he said.

Although there is extensive damage to the 56-year-old, 17,000-square-foot building, Fire Department Captain Jim Sowder will probably have to start over." said it could still be salvaged.

"It's really hard to say right now until a structural engineer looks at it," Sowder said. "But with the renovation process that was going on and with the wall supports that were already in place and with the building is estimated at \$1 million. the work that had been done, it looks

like the structural integrity, for the most part, is in good shape.'

Representatives from Barnes & Noble, which operates the store, and TCU officials were in meetings throughout Wednesday morning, said Pam Hughes, administrative assistant to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Don Mills.

Before Wednesday's meetings, Chancellor Victor Boschini said via e-mail, "My best hunch is that we will rebuild on that site and make it even better, now that we

Although not successful, attempts have been made to contact other school officials regarding changes in the timeline and cost of renovating the bookstore.

The Fire Department said the damage to

- John-Laurent Tronche contributed to this report.

FACULTY

From page 1

service and advising, which will also be presented, will take up the most time at today's meeting.

ested in is how service counts in tenure, promotion and salary decisions,"

Fort said.

Faculty Senator Stuart Youngblood, who will present the report, said it will include the results of a survey depicting what each department says their service and advising requirements entail.

Fort said a motion to endorse the "One thing faculty have been inter- creation of a University Compensation Advisory Committee is also on today's agenda.

Two Beaumont girls killed in bus accident

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

DEVERS — Two members of a after their bus rolled on its side on its way to a game, according to Texas Department of Public Safety the vehicle and had to be pried officials.

Backpacks littered the muddy ditch where the charter bus landed after skidding on its side. Passersby stopped at the scene to comfort students, who stood in the rain. The team was traveling to Hum-

ble, near Houston, for a playoff game when the accident occurred about 2:30 p.m. on Highway 90, about three miles east of Devers. The bus was heading west when an eastbound truck pulling a flat bed trailer loaded with plastic foam insulation lost its load, the DPS said. The bus swerved, lost control and rolled into the ditch, said DPS in Beaumont, but no details were spokesman Tom Vinger.

dents, one coach, one chaperone Debbie Sebastian said.

and a bus driver. Two unidentified female students were pronounced dead at the scene while others on Beaumont high school girls soc- the bus were taken to hospitals cer team were killed Wednesday in Beaumont and Liberty, Vinger said.

> Two other girls were trapped in from the wreckage, Trooper Richard Vasser said.

The students were from West Brook High School, said Jolene Ortego, spokeswoman for the Beaumont school district.

The team's coach and 11 girls were transported to Liberty-Dayton Community Hospital with mostly minor injuries, but all had been released by Wednesday evening, said Rita Dellostritto, an emergency nursing practitioner at the hospital.

Eight of the injured were taken to Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital immediately available about their On board were 25 people: 22 stu- conditions, hospital spokeswoman



Emergency personnel work at the scene of a school bus accident Wednesday near Devers. At least two members of a Beaumont high school girls soccer team were killed Wednesday after their bus rolled over on its way to a game, according to Texas Department of Public Safety officials

Etiquette lesson prepares students to make good first impressions

BY SONA THAPA Staff Reporter

About 50 students practiced proper dining etiquette Wednesday night in the Bass Building Living Room as the of the American Marketing Associa- priate seating assignment. She said confidence to make themselves look director of catering services demon- tion, was beneficial and relevant to whether a man comes with a date good," said the senior marketing and strated techniques ranging from sil- the business world. verware use to table manners.

haven't practiced etiquette."

Kara Larsen, a junior marketing and

The dinner brought up things that woman next to him before seating

proper attire.

finance major, said the dinner, which ensure students were following her are in a situation where manners matwas sponsored by the TCU chapter instructions, Carter explained appro- ter, they're going to have the skill and or not, he should always help the entrepreneurial management major.

"We want students to leave here As she moved around the room to feeling confident that next time they

Amelia Pyz, vice president of events

GRANT From page 1

One goal of the CUE is to teach TCU students to feel comfortable teaching in a lowincome setting.

TCU students who join the CUE begin spending time in districts beginning their sophomore year. In their junior year, they begin to take on more responsibility, and by the time they begin student teaching their senior year, they already have experience in an urban setting.

Mary Patton, an associate professor in the CUE, said she wants the new director to go out and seek foundation funding so the CUE can begin to realize its goals.

"I want somebody who can get funding for the CUE because we got initial funding from the VIA, but it is barebones," Patton said.

Patton said the majority of TCU education majors come from suburban backgrounds and want to teach in a similar surrounding. She said her personal goal is to help TCU student teachers explore opportunities outside highincome school districts.

"I want to help students become successful in an urban setting because schools will often place first-year teachers in the most difficult and challenging situations," Patton said.

Molly Weinburgh, associate director of the Institute of Mathematics, Science & Technology Education, said her involvement with urban education began before she started working at TCU.

Weinburgh said she worked with a \$5.7 million national science foundation grant while teaching in Atlanta to help bring equal science education to low-income schools.

When she started at TCU, Weinburgh said, she was instinctively drawn to the CUE.

"Between my own love with the idea of equity, and how to get science to all, that naturally puts me in urban schools because there is a high probability the students are not getting equal science educa-

touch with their dining skills once that are noticeable, Larsen said. they enter college.

Kathryn Carter said students lose students do not think about often but himself.

"Because students live in the dorms, way to place one's purse and jacket er and how to say goodbye's and they don't get the chance to sit down at the dinner table without causing thank you's. Sarah Stipek, president ner where students would be chalat the dining table," Carter said. "All trouble to other guests. She also dis- of TCU's AMA, said they have been lenged to learn proper etiquette, said of a sudden after graduation, they are cussed, among other things, drink hosting this event for the past two thrown into a business setting and setting, how to use silverware and years.

Carter briefly described the proper of introducing guests to one anoth-

for AMA, said the dinner will teach Carter also talked about the art the students to make a good first impression.

> The dinner was set up in a manthe sophomore business and psychology major.

tion when compared to other schools," Weinburgh said.

Fort Worth, White Settlement, Everman and Burleson are the four main independent school districts where the CUE places its student teachers, Weinburgh said.



TCU DAILY SKIFF

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CUTTING TAXES TO HELP FUND SCHOOLS?

Wednesday Governor Rick Perry presented a plan to fund Texas schools. It will cut school property taxes by one-third but add a \$1-a-pack cigarette tax.

-Associated Press

THE SKIFF VIEW Small thefts can add up

If a guy walked into The Main, stuck his hand in the cash register and pulled out more than \$1,600, people would probably think there was something wrong with that.

But if the student body, over the course of the school year, walks out of The Main with plates, bowls, forks, spoons and knives that cost Sodexho, TCU's food service provider, \$1,660 to replace, nobody even thinks twice about it.

As Tuesday's Skiff reported, that is exactly what has happened on campus this year. Students have been helping themselves to campus flatware, enough so that almost everyone living on campus could have four place settings in his or her dorm room.

The amount may not seem like a lot at a a school with an endowment of almost \$1 billion, but these small instances of petty theft across campus can add up.

Students living off campus raiding campus bathrooms for rolls of toilet paper, pocketing a pen after writing a check at Financial Services or hurrying back to the dorm with that plate of food to catch the latest episode of "American Idol" all contribute; while these things may make life easier for the individual, they can make life at a university more costly for everyone.

So be conscious of what you're doing. At a school with ever-increasing tuition rates set at \$22,980 for the 2006-2007 school year and meal plans costing up to \$1,600 a semester, students should work together and do everything they can to keep price hikes at a minimum.

Tuesday's Skiff reports said the Student Government Association is setting up an amnesty program so students can return flatware in their dorms without having to worry about getting in trouble. If you have helped vourself to The Main's silverware, take advantage of the amnesty program, and think about what you can do in the future to help make campus life more affordable for everyone.

News editor Mike Dwyer for the editorial board.

NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK WE BASQUE EXTREMISTS HEREBY RENOUNCE TERRORISM AND WE'RE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH YOU AS EQUALS.



CHRISTINA RUFFINI



This Monday, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation based on the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act constructed by Sen. John McCain, R-

COMMENTARY



Ariz., and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. Among other things, the bill calls for a guest-worker program and would allow illegal immigrants six

years to become legal. During that time, illegal aliens would pay fines and back taxes, as well as learn basic English and civics.

The other side of Congress has its own bill, the famed H.R. 4437, which would make it a felony to not only to enter the nation illegally, but also to aid anyone in doing so. It includes penalties if someone "assists,

in construction areas, building both their real-world experience and their maturity levels.

It would be beneficial from a security standpoint, as well. In this age of terrorism and heightened awareness, a tighter border, including one with a 700-mile wall, would mean a more secure nation.

Economically, the money made by American citizens and legal aliens would be recycled back into the system via taxes and purchases. Instead of the United States losing \$17 billion annually to Mexico alone, as reported in McCain's bill, much of that would be added to the gross domestic product.

Next, we have the flags and chanting. It's a swelling of national pride. Too bad it's the wrong nation.

One can reasonably assume that those who left their countries of origin for the United States did it for good reasons. No one forced them to come here: these were personal decisions. If Mexico (or El Salvador, or Belize, or whatever nation) is so great, why don't they go back? It's not like anyone is making them stay. During my many trips across the border, only once have I had a problem entering Mexico.



Student exhibits offer great art

It's rare that we can see, right in from of us, the products of students' time spent at TCU, so when we can, it's worth visiting. Moudy Building North,

STUDENT ART EXHIBITS: MOUDY ART GALLERY **MASTER OF FINE ARTS:**

Educational value of porn pushes limits

"Deep Throat" isn't just an icon of investigative journalism anymore. More college campuses are embracing it as the name of the seminal 1972 sex film, as pornography classes become more common and more respectable in the land of academia.

Linda Lovelace and her colleagues have no doubt influenced American culture, and in some way, it is the responsibility of academics to study that influence.

According to Sunday's edition of Time magazine, proponents of the "porn curriculum" are divided over actually showing pornography in class. Some argue that well-informed discussion is as valuable to students as actually watch ing X-rated films, and others contend that showing students the material is invaluable to students' understanding of social mores and values. Those who would immediately dismiss the value of viewing sex films in class would also ignore the impact of viewing a private act in public - the embarrassment and awkwardness that students may feel can be used to discuss important societal norms.

encourages, directs, or induces a person to illegally enter the United States.

My research tells me H.R. 4437 is the hot button. The repercussions of this could be huge. The passage of the law that would come from these two proposals could result in a mass exodus of between 7 million and 11 million immigrants. It would mean enormous sting operations that would fracture families. The nation's economy would lose its cheapest form of domestic labor, causing a massive need for workers in the United States' service fields.

There's plenty of possibility for protest here. And protest they did.

Hispanics protested in Fort Worth, Dallas, Phoenix, Los Angeles and almost every other major city in the United States.

"We're not criminals," their signs said. And in photos on the cover of Tuesday's Star-Telegram: "Somos Americanos" and "Aquí estamos y no nos vamos (We're here and we're not leaving)!! Latino power." Many waved Mexican flags, and some chanted: "México. México. México."

There are too many problems to count with this scene, but a few of them should be tackled.

To begin, it would be good for the United States to remove illegal immigrants. There would be economic problems at first, but eventually, the United States' business community would adapt, as it has in years past. High school students would start mowing lawns and babysitting children instead of lounging about, playing Halo 2 all day, and people would start cleaning their own houses. College students would pay off debts by working at factories or

And if they want us to include them in our society, maybe they should wave our flag instead.

Becoming a U.S. citizen is a lengthy, costly process, and applying for a green card can be difficult as well. But these goals are not unattainable. The immigration system is designed so that those who passionately want admittance into this nation can achieve it, and with the potential of a guest-worker program, it could become easier to realize the American dream. In addition, all illegal immigrants would have six years to complete the process.

But as for the here and now, there is something every illegal alien must understand: If you are in this nation without documentation, you are breaking the law. You are not guaranteed the rights of American citizens, but you are subject to our rules. The United States has the right, as a sovereign nation, to do whatever it pleases when it comes to immigration, including kicking out illegal aliens or building walls or, on the extreme side, shooting anyone caught crossing the border without documentation.

The harsh, cold truth is, if you're an illegal alien, you are not an American, and yes, you are a criminal. Get legal, or get out.

Brian Wooddell is a senior news-editorial journalism major from The Woodlands.

which COMMENTARY

art history

and graph-

ic design,

almost

always has

interesting



displays, Stephanie Weaver varying

from student work to teacher's to juried local shows. And it's always very interesting.

But right now is the time to visit; it is when we can really see what's going on.

I say this because the first of the student art exhibits is now in the Moudy building.

Every year, the graduating seniors and graduate students display their work before they leave, giving us an opportunity to see what they've been up to, as well as possible employers and purchasers.

The first four exhibits are Master's Thesis exhibits, so each of the graduating masters students in studio art have one week to show off their work. That week, the student fills the entire gallery in Moudy with his or her work, beginning with a Monday opening reception. This is a great time to go and meet the artist, discuss his or her work and share in light refreshments.

Following these, there is a senior studio art

| Steven Battle | March 27-31 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| • Christopher Bond | April 3-7 | | | |
| Sean Ibañez | April 10-14 | | | |
| Jason Reynaga | April 17-21 | | | |
| | | | | |

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS:

| • | Studio Art Seniors | April 24-28 |
|---|------------------------|-------------|
| • | Graphic Design Seniors | May 1-5 |

show and a senior graphic design show.

All of these shows provide an excellent opportunity to see what's happening in art at TCU.

This morning, I walked through Steven Battle's show, "Skinned," and was pleased to discover interesting pieces all made of polymer and pigment. They made an elaborate, colorful sort of netting that was fun to view.

Each show has a completely different selection of art, so I know that even if this one hadn't appealed to me (it did), the next one might.

I don't often get a chance to visit a museum or art gallery, but I can't turn down a show on campus, just waiting for me to come by.

The chance to see art at this level is interesting; I always wonder if some day I will walk into a museum and see a painting, sculpture or other piece of art by one of the artists displayed at TCU now. And I will be able to say, "I saw his work when he was just a new artist starting out; he graduated from my school."

I have even considered buying work here. I will be moving from an apartment into a house when I graduate and will be met with many empty walls. This might be the time to acquire art. While I don't know where I'd put one of Battle's works, I was astounded when I saw how many he was selling for just \$200.

Whether I decide to purchase anything, it's worth looking. There are a lot of interesting things going on in Moudy, and I'd hate to think I was missing out.

And the gallery wasn't the only thing of interest; right now the whole building is stuffed with student art projects: paintings, sculpture, ceramics and plush projects. It's quite an experience.

The Moudy building may be on the outer edge of campus, but it's worth the trek. Make the effort to see at least one show before the year ends. And if you've already seen one, see another.

> Opinion editor Stephanie Weaver is an English, philosophy and French major from Westwood, Kan.

However, a simple discussion of sex will cause almost the same embarrassment and awkwardness.

Perhaps the best solution is to have students view the material on their own time and then discuss their reactions in the classroom environment. That way, they can take time to deal with their personal responses and consider the implications of those responses.

On the most basic level, pornography deals with morality, and students signing up for the porn curriculum should be prepared to have their moral boundaries pushed. Professors who feel the need to shock their students with extreme examples, however, should not be opposed to allowing the students to view material in an environment of their choosing, so they can focus on the material instead of the people.

This staff editorial appeared in The Daily Cougar at the University of Houston. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

COURTNEY REESE MIKE DWYER ADRIENNE LANG TRAVIS STEWART STEPHANIE WEAVER

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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.





SADDLE UP Want to get into mountain biking but never knew where to buy the gear or where to start? We break down the world of cycling on Friday's Features page.

SXSW COVERAGE FACE THE MUSIC You saw them live at SXSW, but how do their albums hold up?

Athlete - "Tourist"

If you combine reflective lyrics, rich guitar tones, the soothing quality of Joel Pott's voice and an assorted blend of percussive instruments, you wind up with COMMENTARY "Tourist," the Kelsey Hasler sophomore

release from the Londonbased band Athlete.

"Tourist" follows Athlete's debut CD, "Vehicles and Animals," which was released in 2003 and sold more than 250,000 copies. Lead singer Pott reflected that the band, a quartet of men who have been friends since the age of 14, had two goals in mind for "Tourist": to increase the richness of the music and to be more honest and open.

Athlete decided early on that rather than telling people to like the band, it would gradually let people discover it on their own and pass along the music. The buzz growing around Athlete after appearances in Austin during SXSW and in Fort Worth with Switchfoot makes it easy to see why this grassroots approach has been successful for Athlete.

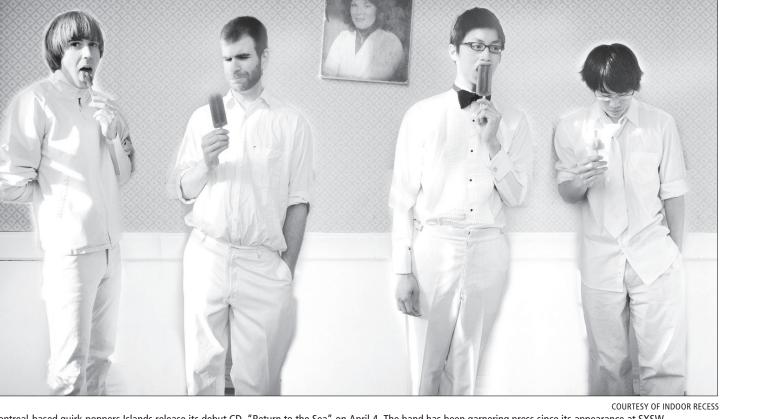
Seeing the band live is like

spending time with a really good friend: No matter where the evening goes, you can go into it knowing you're going to have a good time.

Compared to the self-proclaimed "quirky pop" of "Vehicles and Animals," "Tourist" deals more with life's harsh realities. The majority of the songs were inspired by real experiences of the band members, such as being on tour and having to deal with missing people at home.

The most standout song on the album is "Wires," the band's first single. The song was written by Pott after the birth of his daughter, who suffered from a seizure just a few hours after birth and had to spend time in the intensive care unit. The song is heartbreaking in both its sincerity and the simplicity of the emotions Pott is feeling.

Each of the 11 tracks on "Tourist" echoes the band members' desires to be honest in their writing. From the up-tempo catchiness of "Modern Mafia" to the sweet melodies of "Twenty-Four Hours," "Tourist" is designed to be appealing to any mood.



Montreal-based quirk-poppers Islands release its debut CD, "Return to the Sea" on April 4. The band has been garnering press since its appearance at SXSW.

Islands - "Return to the Sea"

If its boisterous show at SXSW is any indication, Canadian quirk-popsters Islands' new album, "Return to the Sea," may be the best record of the year. Islands is the resur-

COMMENTARY Darren White

rected project of former Unicorns Nick Diamonds and J'aime Tambeur, and it's full of all the same odd sounds, melodic breaks

and quirky lyrics as its prior project. The press release reports that the two started making music again after having their parts cut from the Woody Allen film "Melinda and Melinda."

The Unicorns made a name for themselves as the kings of quirky. There songs started and stopped at odd times, had wierd time signatures and featured a bevy of instruments and sounds. The lyrics veered from the self-referencing ("I Was Born A Unicorn), to the ridiculous ("Let's Get Known"). They also toured with a little known band called The Arcade Fire.

Unlike the Unicorns, though, Islands demonstrates a sense of maturity and exploration without denying its obvious quirks.

The band features a revolving cast of musicians, with Tambeur and Diamonds at the center. Banjos, saxophones violins permeate the mix, making many of the songs sound like a good ol' hoedown.

On "When There's a Will, There's a Whalebone," Islands experiments with deep funk and hip-hop grooves while still retaining an almost Beatles-like sense of melody.

In the same style, "Rough Gem" is a rollicking pop track that's just waiting to be used in a car commercial.

Lyrically, celebration in the face of impending doom seems to resonate through the entire record. Titles like "Whalebone," and "Volcanoes," Diaminds' writing style often reads like an elementary school book report.

On stage, Islands looks something like a rolling carnival. Band members are multicultural, dress in all white and, with Nick Diamonds' bowl cut, look like the happiest third-graders you've ever seen.

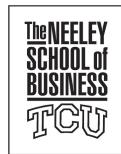
Islands is a notoriously secretive band, but if its live shows and "Return to the Sea" are any indication, people will be talking about it soon enough.



COURTESY OF ASHALWERKS Athelete returns with a more sonically rich album with "Tourist."



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Yeah Yeah Yeahs - "Show Your Bones"

Yeahs' latest release, "Show Your Bones," hit critical mass sometime around mid-March, when, even though they weren't even in Texas, taxicabs in Austin started advertising the album on COMMENTARY their ride receipts during Darren White

South by Southwest.

Since then, every major media outlet has written about the band, from Spin to the Washington Post, mostly about the eccentric good looks of lead singer Karen O. In fact, it's hard to find an article about the band that doesn't use the terms "sexuality," "beauty," or "goddess." The hype machine looms large over the Yeahs.

But how is the music?

The short answer is, it's okay. Most of the band's notoriety outside of its home base of New York comes from its all-too-good single "Maps," off of 2003's "Fever To Tell." "Bones" expands on the

The hype surrounding the Yeah Yeah sonic sledgehammer sounds of "Maps," but never quite captures the magic of its career-making single.

> The lead-off track, "Gold Lion," is the strongest track on the album, combining buzz-cut riffs with a snarling delivery, but the album quickly loses steam with the second track, "Way Out." It's here that Karen O lets the cards drop and reveals her most obvious influence, Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders and Joan Jett.

The album loses its path until "Mysteries," midway through the disc. Here, the band returns to the quick-hit riffs and punkisms that seem to work best for them.

"What could have been" permeates the record. Guitarist Nick Zinner gained some notoriety for programming the electronics for Bright Eyes' album, "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn," last year, but doesn't seem to employ his consider-



COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

able talents to the band's greatest good here, opting instead to just be a mere guitar player.

In the wake of apparently more earnest bands like Rilo Kiley, "Show Your Bones" comes just a few years too late, leaving the listener underwhelmed.







FAMOUS QUOTE

"Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo." — H.G. Wells

TODAY IN HISTORY

1870: 15th Amendment adopted 1980: President Reagan is shot

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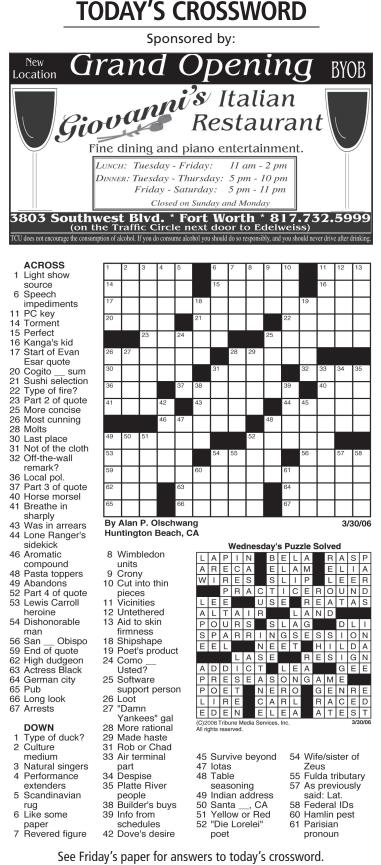


Directions Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Friday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

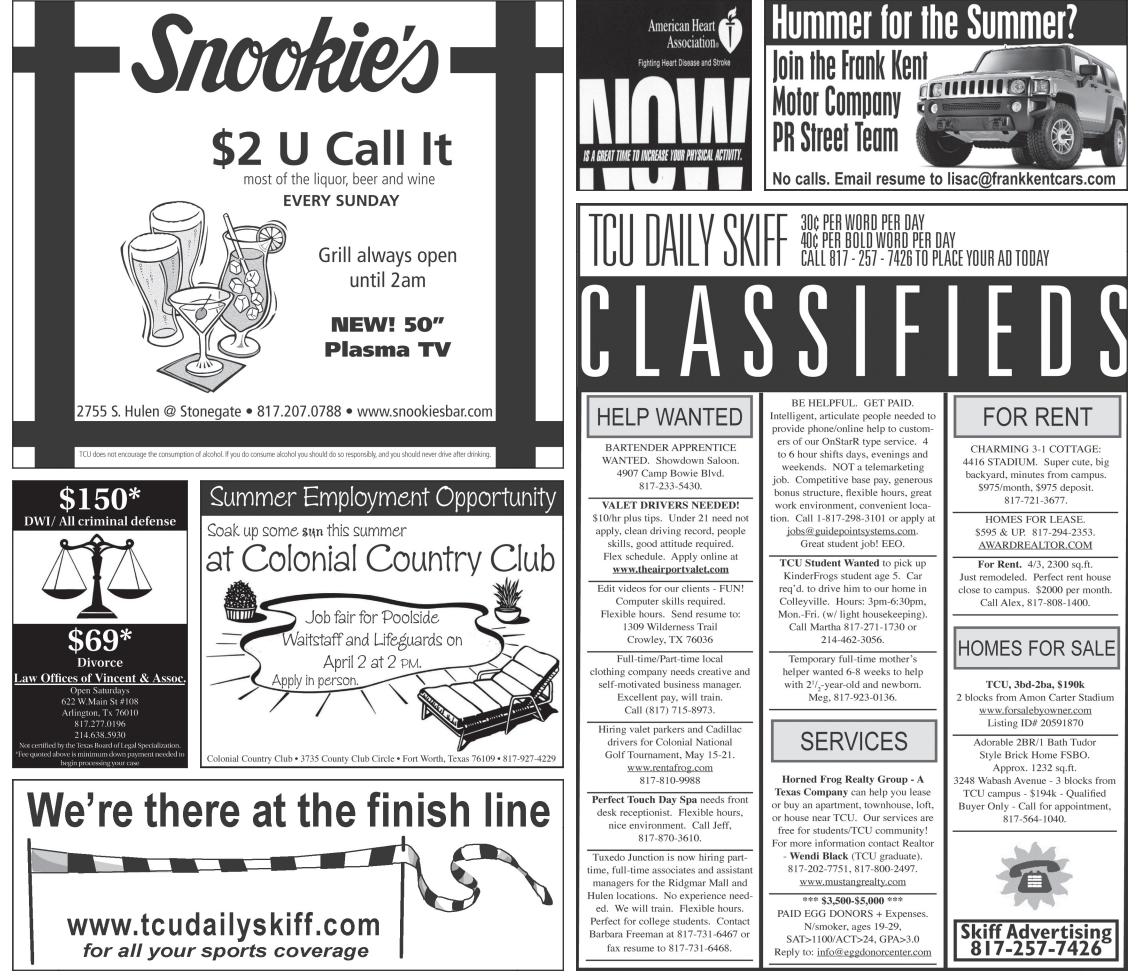
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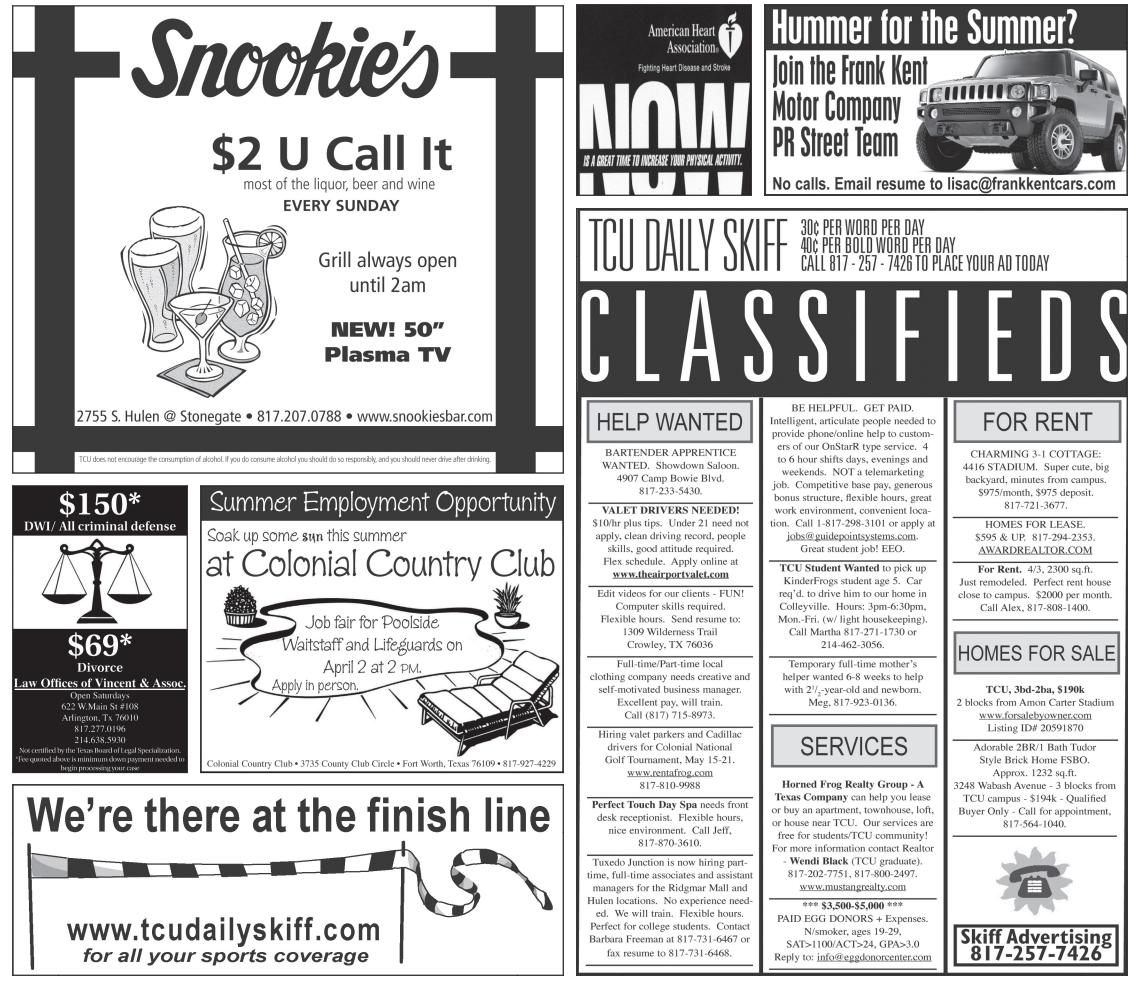
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TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

1889: John T. Reid opens 1st U.S. golf course in Yonkers, NY. 1990: Jack Nicklaus made his debut in the "Seniors" golf tournament.

BASEBALL

Team to begin conference play

By MICHELLE NICOUD Staff Writer

The TCU baseball squad will play in the first Mountain West Conference preseason tournament in San Diego on Thursday afternoon against Brigham Young.

The Frogs will also face the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, San Diego State and Air Force in games scheduled through Sunday.

Seven of the nine MWC schools in the conference participate in baseball. The preseason tournament is designed to compensate for the fact that each team will not play each conference opponent an equal number of times, head coach Jim Schlossnagle said.

Schlossnagle also said that these games will help alleviate the sense of mystery that often comes with meeting unknown opponents in competition for the first time.

"It's a better situation because we'll be facing four teams at one time and getting video tape and lots of info about the others," he said. "Every team will be doing that."

The Horned Frog lineup will be put up against some heavy offensive threats, such as BYU's Ben Saylor, who leads the Cougars in hits with 23. SDSU's Paul Smyth is the Aztecs' hitting leader, with a .349 average and 38 hits.

Considering the numbers, Matt Carpenter, a sophomore infielder, said the preparation of the Frog pitchers will be a major factor in the team's success.

"The pitchers do a great job mentally and physically to compete at the highest level," Carpenter said. "[They] take it one at-bat at a time and really focus."

Carpenter said a good performance at the tournament will send the team into the April 7 conference opener versus Air Force with a positive outlook.

"We take one game at a time, but hopefully we'll go into next weekend with confidence," he said.

The Horned Frogs next home game is 7 p.m. Tuesday against Baylor at Lupton Stadium. The Frogs last encounter with the Bears came on March 21 in a 10-4 loss in Waco.

MEN'S TENNIS Frogs win first of two games in doubleheader

By TRAVIS STEWART Sports Editor

The men's tennis team won the first match of Wednesday's doubleheader by a resounding score of 6-0 over Wichita State - but not every one of those wins came easy.

Long after the afternoon match had already been clinched with four TCU victories, senior Rafael Abreu and sophomore Cosmin Cotet were still battling for victories that, while meaningless for the win, proved to be statement games for a roster that is struggling to find its groove after a difficult stretch in its schedule.

Head coach Joey Rivé said the Frogs' performance against WSU was a good sign for/his players.

"It just goes to show that some of these times, playing these matches, you can really lose some confidence when you go through a tough stretch," Rivé said. "It's tough to learn how to win again. That's kind of what we saw today - was their ability to kind of figure it out at the end, make some changes and come through."

Abreu, who fell behind quickly, 6-3, against WSU's Goran Vujaklija, clearly was not on top of his game early.

Vujaklija continually worked the corners and kept Abreu in constant motion for the first set but began to falter early in the second when the TCU senior's conditioning began to show.

"He was hitting the ball really, really well," Abreu said. "I was thinking to myself, 'if I keep hitting the ball higher and higher, he might slow down. Keep the ball high and keep running and I have a good chance to win the match.""



Junior Radu Barbu returns the ball against Jason Ray during Wednesday's match with Abilene Christian. The Frogs won 7-0.

Abreu took firm control after he broke Vujaklija's first serve and only lost one game in the final two sets.

Abreu said even though his win would count for little, maintaining focus is a necessity.

"I was focusing only on myself," Abreu said. "You never know when it's going to be a clinch match. We have to be focused on our game and cheer for the guy next to vou."

The Frogs' were not done however, and had to immediately begin focusing on their evening match with Abilene Christian. Rivé said he is confident in his team's ability to handle two matches in a single afternoon.

"I feel like the guys are getting in good shape," Rivé said. "I'm not seeing too much moaning and groaning. Tonight we'll move some guys around a little bit, but

it should be a good match."

For coverage of Wednesday's evening match against Abilene Christian, a 7-0 TCU victory, check online at www.tcudailyskiff.com.

| RESULTS FROM WEDNESDAY'S MEN'S TENNIS MATCH | |
|---|--|
| • No. 23 TCU def. Wichita State, 6-0 | |

SINGLE COMPETITION

1. Rafael Abreu (TCU) def. Goran Vujaklija (WSU), (3-6, 6-0, 6-1)

- 2. Andrei Mlendea (TCU) def. Boris Gubic (WSU), (6-0, 6-2)
- 3. Radu Barbu (TCU) def. Tiago Espirito Santo (WSU), (6-2, 6-4)
- 4. Jacopo Tezza (TCU) def. Augusto Alvarado (WSU), (6-1, 6-0)
- 5. Cosmin Cotet (TCU) def. Thiago Dos Santos (WSU), (6-4, 4-6, [10-2])
- 6. Kriegler Brink (TCU) def. Moti Eisikovits (WSU), (6-3, 6-1)
- Doubles play was scheduled to follow singles play but was not held because TCU clinched the match with four singles victories.





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