

Senior outfielder Chris Ellington talks about how the baseball season has gone so far for the Horned Frogs. Sports, page 8



Residential Services expands Freshman Interest Groups to get more students involved in the program. Tuesday in News



Several students are working toward creating a triathlon club. Tuesday in Sports

TCU ALLIES

Advocates propose LGBTQ resources

By Maricruz Salinas
Staff Reporter

TCU Allies, a group of faculty and staff in support of LGBTQ issues, is writing a document proposing improvements toward LGBTQ awareness and concerns on campus and will present it to the administration for review.

Jeremy Albers, associate chaplain, said the document will outline the current climate toward the LGBTQ community on campus and the possibilities of a future LGBTQ resource center for students with

a full-time staff position.

LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning. Within the community, "queer" is generally accepted as anyone who may not identify with society's accepted labels of sexual or gender identity and is also used as an umbrella term for sexual minorities, Albers said. Those "questioning" are people who are struggling to define their sexuality and understand their emotions, he said.

Daniel Terry, director of women's and men's programs and facilitator of the com-

mittee, said there are students who are "out" or uncertain of their orientation who do not feel comfortable on campus and fear what will be said or how they will be treated in the classroom.

Chuck Dunning, director of TCU Transitions, said the document is very much a work in progress, with the first draft expected to be completed within six weeks and the final document ready for publication by the end of May. Once completed, Allies and administration will work together to address the issues presented, he said.

Dunning said a resource center would provide a central location for concerned students or those in need of counseling as well as offer books, hold meetings and allow students to interact with supportive faculty and staff.

"It provides a physical manifestation of the university's commitment to the students who have concerns with LGBTQ issues," Dunning said. "We're also talking about student allies who identify themselves as straight but still want to be ad-

SEE ALLIES · PAGE 2

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS

- 1 Boom Boom Pow by Black Eyed Peas
- 2 Poker Face by Lady GaGa
- 3 Right Rough by Flo Rida
- 4 The Climb by Miley Cyrus
- 5 Kiss Me Thru the Phone by Soulja Boy Tell 'Em
- 6 Love Sex Magic by Ciara
- 7 Day 'n' Nite by Kid Cudi
- 8 Blame it by Jamie Foxx
- 9 Gives You Hell by The All-American Rejects
- 10 I Love College by Asher Roth

— iTunes



Should marijuana be legalized? Students speak out. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

OSLO, Norway — A Norwegian church used lemon-flavored cola instead of water in a baptism ceremony after its taps were temporarily turned off because of freezing temperatures, daily Vaart Land said Tuesday.

— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

73 **53**
HIGH LOW
Sunny
Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny
79 / 52
Sunday: Sunny
64 / 39



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



LIBBY DAVIS / Staff Reporter

Attendees of the Hunger Banquet listen to Bo Soderbergh, the executive director of Tarrant Area Food Bank, at the Brown-Lupton University Union Ballroom on Thursday night. The Hunger Banquet, sponsored by The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, was part of Hunger Week, a week dedicated to helping end hunger through education. The Hunger Banquet divided attendees into three income groups to determine what each person would eat. The lowest income bracket ate corn meal, the middle class had pasta and marinara sauce and the highest income bracket ate a full-course meal of chicken, salad and dessert.

NEELEY FELLOWS

Students unite behind nonprofit

By Courtney Jay
Staff Reporter

Business students in the Neeley Fellows are extending their hand to United Way in an effort to encourage the campus to get involved in the community.

This week, the group hosted Live United Week, a week-long series of events supporting the nonprofit, to tie in with United Way's current campaign, said Emily Taylor, a junior accounting major.

The Live United campaign urges people to reach out to their community by donating and advocating for causes they care about.

Daryl Wagoner, assistant vice president of marketing communications for United Way of Tarrant County, said United Way works with more than 1,300 organizations across the country to improve communities.

"We know that communities really benefit when people decide to get involved ... by donating or volunteering or just speaking up for causes they care about, and that's what the United Way calls living united," Wagoner said.

Taylor said she wanted to work with the organization because its members focus on education, health and income. She said education is very important to her.

Catherine Anderson, a junior accounting major and group member, said the biggest event of Live United Week is tonight's baseball game against the University of New Mexico.

Taylor said the Frogs for the Cure football game inspired the group to promote the organization at a sporting event.

"We liked the informal atmosphere of setting something up at a game, and we also knew it's springtime; everyone wants to be outside," Taylor said. "A baseball game is a great way to bring everyone together for a common purpose but still give them the opportunity to learn about the United Way."

Robert Strong, a junior finance and accounting major, said the group will be on one of the patios serving ice cream, handing out T-shirts and answering any questions students may have about United Way.

Strong said throughout the week group members handed out brochures

at an information booth in the Brown-Lupton University Union.

Taylor said the group used the information booth to promote the basic themes of the United Way and ask students to sign a poster saying they would either give, advocate or volunteer, whatever was easiest for them.

Anderson said she was impressed with the originality and boldness of the Live United campaign.

"The United Way is really an organization that works on root causes," she said. "It helps with education and income, so rather than the short-term problems, we really try to look at long-term problems."

Taylor said the group's focus is to raise awareness in the hope that students will choose to give time or money to an organization that is important to them.

"One of the main things about promoting it is just asking the students on campus to think about if they're giving, advocating and volunteering because that's essentially the mission statement of the United Way," Taylor said.

INTERNET

Alumnus launches admissions resource

By Naheil Qudah
Staff Reporter

University Drive isn't just a street name anymore.

TCU alumnus Marc Istook co-created a Web site by the same name in order to offer prospective college students some guidance in choosing a university, as well as some helpful tips for settling into college life.

Istook said he and co-creator Shannon Mears, a Pepperdine University graduate, have been working on the project for three years. The Web site was launched in early March, he said.

The Web site contains external links to helpful articles from universities and news sources. It walks users through the decision to go to college, what standardized test options students have and finally, how to choose a college, get accepted, make good grades and pay for it all.

"We hope to make it a full-fledged college admission resource," Istook said.

In addition to articles, the Web site displays a series of webisodes, or short Internet videos, covering topics such as what to look for when visiting a prospective school and

SEE UNIVERSITY · PAGE 2

TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle system from BLUU to local hot spots proposed

By Naheil Qudah
Staff Reporter

Students may soon be able to make a trip to downtown Fort Worth without worrying about driving and fighting for a parking spot, but when the option will be available is currently uncertain.

Twelve student body representatives proposed the idea of the "Sundance Shuttle" to the Board of Trustees on Thursday afternoon in the Spring 2009 Student Relations Committee Meeting.

The shuttle would travel on a triangular route, transporting students between the Brown-Lupton University Union, Sundance Square and the Fort Worth Stockyards, said student body vice president Matt Dietrichson.

"Students wouldn't need to bring a car to campus to enjoy all the aspects of Fort Worth," Dietrichson said.

Justin Brown, a student representative for the Honors Cabinet, said improved local transportation could be an additional selling point to prospective students who are deciding between TCU and otherwise similarly regarded universities.

"Baylor and Rice are really trumping us in this area," Brown said.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, said Fort Worth's local transportation system, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, also known as the T, has expressed an interest

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NEWS

ALLIES

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vocates or sources of support for students who aren't straight."

Terry said that as students graduate, the level of activism fluctuates too much to maintain inertia. Creating a more welcoming atmosphere on campus depends on appointing a full-time director for LGBTQ matters, especially someone trained in counseling and organizing for the college community, he said.

Albers said some of the speculations for improvement include the addition of unisex bathrooms for those undergoing gender identity transformations, efforts to include sexual orientation and gender identity training at orientation and dealing with diversity in the workplace.

"We're not trying to brainwash everyone into believing a certain thing, but we are asking for a cultural sensitivity," Albers said.

Demand or expenses shouldn't be a factor because one can't name the magical number that warrants attention, Albers said.

"If we're really going to value diversity, we need to lift up and recognize the smaller and larger minorities," he said.

Dunning said he wants to create networks between local and national organizations, such as the Fort Worth chapter of Parents, Family, Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource

Professionals, a national organization that supports and develops programs and policy changes in support of LGBTQ issues on college campuses.

"The idea has been that religion has been one of the main proponents for oppression of LGBTQ students, but there's also a message of love and acceptance."

Jeremy Albers
Associate Chaplin

Dunning said the idea of writing a formal document came about after a meeting Allies held with Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Mills said the university wants a safe and welcoming environment for all faculty, staff and students and that it's doing the right thing.

"As you look into a situation, there are things that you do that you don't realize are causing a challenge to others," Mills said.

Mills said everything presented in the document will be given careful consideration, though adding a full-time staff position for the LGBTQ community would be a challenge.

Allies has 70 members enrolled and 30 active members, Terry said. The committee in charge of writing the document has 12 members including professors, residential staff, two alumni and two students in order to provide a broader perspective about the campus, he said.

Terry said the difficulty in determining the demand lies in the inability to assess the number of LGBTQ students on campus, especially because if a survey is conducted, it assumes everyone will be truthful about their sexual orientation or that everyone understands how to identify themselves. The rule of thumb within society is that 10 percent can be considered part of the LGBTQ population, Terry said.

Albers said the estimated number of LGBTQ students on campus could be approximately 400 students out of the estimated 8,000 total, if not higher.

Past aggression from the church has made the LGBTQ community wary of schools affiliated with the name "Christian," Albers said. The percentage of LGBTQ people at the university is lower because it probably wouldn't be the first choice of those students, he said.

"It's not an oxymoron to be an LGBTQ student and a Christian or from another faith tradition," Albers said. "The idea has been that religion has been one of the main proponents for oppression of LGBTQ students, but there's also a message of love and acceptance."

CALIFORNIA

City copes with joblessness

By Chris Collins
McClatchy Newspapers

MENDOTA, Calif. — The customer seemed interested in a black blouse offered for \$1 at the thrift store. But instead of buying it, she set it on the front counter.

Maybe tomorrow, she told the cashier, she would have the money. Or the next day. But not now.

"That is the way people are now," said the cashier, Alicia Reyes, as she watched the middle-aged woman walk out of the store. "They just come in here and look. They just come in here to kill the time. And then they take off."

Welcome to life in Mendota — the unemployment capital of California. With a 41 percent jobless rate, the town's social fabric is tearing at the seams. Alcoholism and crime are on the rise. To save money, some mothers wash and re-use disposable diapers. Unemployed men with nothing to do wander the streets and sit on benches.

The irony is obvious: In a large swath of the nation's most productive farming region, many struggle to fill their own cupboards.

During this third year of drought, farmers on the west side are following hundreds of thousands of acres and hiring fewer than half the workers they did two years ago. They blame the dry weather and federal environmental laws — meant to protect endangered species of fish — that have severely restricted how much water can flow into the west side.

With the prospect of more water shortages in the future, many farmers are shifting toward less water-dependent crops that don't require as many workers. That could prove devastating to hundreds, if not thousands, of families in west-side towns who have always depended on agriculture jobs.

Julie Hornback, the director of the county's Employment and Temporary Assistance Depart-

ment, said that she started hearing several months ago about families leaving west-side towns, desperate for jobs.

Many have returned to their hometowns in Mexico or Central America, said Mendota's mayor, Robert Silva. Some seasonal workers haven't bothered heading north this year.

Their reasons are simple: "If they're going to suffer, they might as well suffer back home," Silva said.

Council Member Joseph Amador runs a small motel that is usually full during the harvest season. But not last summer —

"It's reminiscent of the Depression. In those days you had soup lines, now you have food lines. This is a disaster area."

Robert Silva
mayor, Mendota, Calif.

and he's sure he'll have vacancies again this year.

Normally during a tough farming season, unskilled workers on the west side can fall back on construction jobs. But with the sour economy, that is not an option.

At a recent food-and-diaper giveaway in Raisin City, Saul Rodriguez and his wife, Tiffany, both 20, stood in line holding their 1-year-old son. The couple lives in the tiny community of Burrell, where they know there isn't much of a future for their family.

"We hear friends who say jobs are better outside the Valley," Tiffany Rodriguez said.

Saul Rodriguez has decided to join the Air Force because, he said, "there's nothing out here."

Back in Mendota, Reyes, who runs the dilapidated thrift store with her daughter, spent a recent morning watching customers trickle in and out. A sign hanging above an American flag

behind her read: "Lord, help me hang in there." So far that day, she had sold only a pair of glass jars — for \$5.

Normally, Reyes can keep her business afloat by bargain-shopping for clothes and other items at yard sales in Fresno and re-selling them in Mendota. But with times as tough as they are now, even her thrift store may have to close.

"It's been terrible, terrible, terrible," said Reyes, 60, shaking her head. "The people have no money, no jobs."

But some people are determined to stay.

Hilario Munoz, 56, an immigrant from El Salvador who has lived in Mendota for eight years, used to harvest melons, tomatoes, asparagus and lettuce but hasn't had work for six months.

Asked what he does all day, Munoz replied in Spanish: "Just like you see us now — relaxing, surviving on unemployment."

If he can't find a job soon, Munoz said, he may try to find work at one of the slaughterhouses near Fresno. But he'd rather not. Though he grew up in Central America, Munoz considers himself a Mendota native.

"It's like when a person is born, he feels like he belongs to that place," Munoz said. "I feel like I am part of this community."

Many people in Mendota are turning to alcohol to battle depression, said Amador, the council member. And some single-family homes are occupied by two or three families, in what Amador described as "basically labor camps."

Some laborers are traveling up to 100 miles to work in fields near Bakersfield for just a few hours a day, said Ruben Duarte, a pastor in Huron.

He said that his church, Iglesia Renuevo Espiritual, is scrambling to gather food, clothes and diapers for more than 50 families.

"In my 25-plus years in Huron, I can say that this is the toughest or one of the toughest situations our community has experienced," Duarte said.

UNIVERSITY

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how to decorate dorm rooms.

Istook wrote, edited, shot, hosted and produced the webisodes, and said they are segments from a DVD they hope to distribute to schools and bookstores.

"It is a for-profit venture with a socially responsible angle," Istook

said. "For every DVD we sell, we will put one at a school or educational institution."

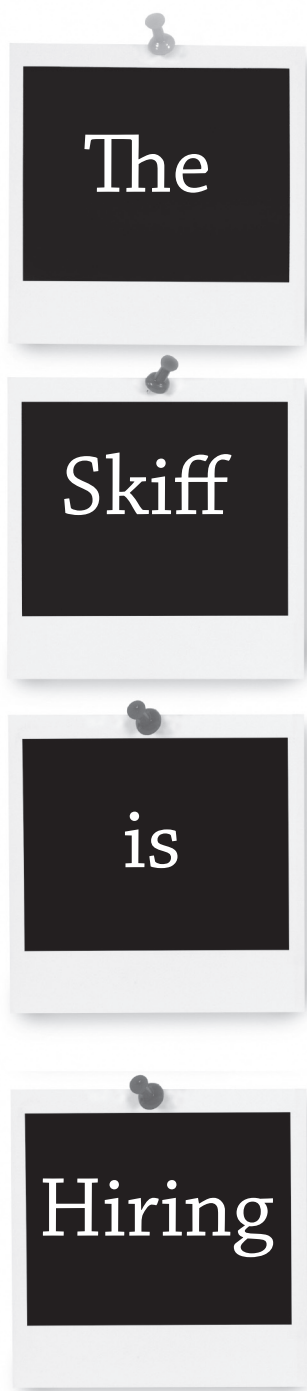
Istook said the company created a Facebook page in order to promote the Web site. So far, he said, there have been several thousand hits, but there is no way of knowing how many students have actually been helped by the service yet.

Raymond Brown, dean of ad-

missions at TCU, wrote in an e-mail that he was impressed by the Web site.

"As a whole, it seems to re-inject some sanity in a process that has become all too often angst-ridden," Brown wrote. "I'm delighted a TCU person is responsible for producing this. It's very well done."

The Web site can be accessed at www.universitydrive.com.



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THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT [PG-13]: 11:15a 1:55p 4:25p 7:05p 10:05p
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I LOVE YOU, MAN [R]: 11:40a 3:30p 6:15p 9:15p
KNOWING [PG-13]: 11:55a 3:15p 6:25p 9:25p
MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 2D [PG]: 11:05a 12:00p 1:40p 3:00p 4:30p 5:45p 7:00p 8:30p 9:30p
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THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT [PG-13]: 11:40a 2:20p 5:00p 7:40p 10:20p
I LOVE YOU, MAN [R]: 11:20a 2:00p 4:40p 7:20p 10:10p
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT [R]: 11:50a 2:30p 5:10p 7:50p 10:30p
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MEETING

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in using a vehicle to transport students at no additional cost. An agreement has not yet been made, he said, because the late-night weekend hours that students would be most likely to use the service conflict with the T's availability.

Mills said the T was also concerned by the amount of drinking college students tend to do when they spend the night out.

"They don't want to be seen as a 'drunk bus,'" Mills said.

Mills said that aside from the T, another option would be to extend the university's service with Roadrunner, the company that currently runs the on-campus shuttles.

In order to pay for the additional costs, Student Body President Kelsie Johnson suggested raising the cost of parking stickers by \$25. The new price of \$100 per sticker would provide the university with \$125,000 to help finance the new transportation system.

In addition to the creation of the Sundance Shuttle, the committee also suggested using a larger portion of the university's budget for financial aid. A montage of candid student videos about how the recession has affected their academic performance and college experience accompanied the suggestion.

Brown also said there is an on-campus push for a Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Questioning resource center.

"Something that says it's okay to talk about these kinds of issues — that can kind of open up a broader dialogue," Brown said.

Mills said the university has discussed, and plans to move forward with, the installation of 1,300 security cameras to make campus safer.

Trustee Mary Lowe said students concerns were realistic and were not far-fetched.

"Hopefully we can work and make your dreams come true," Lowe said.

OPINION

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The Skiff View

Sidewalk debate shows need for openness

A group of political science students has taken on an active role in addressing student concerns about off-road vehicles obstructing pedestrian traffic on campus sidewalks during passing periods. It is refreshing to see students working first hand to improve the university community.

However, now that the student body has representatives working on its behalf, the university and its administration must be willing to meet these students halfway and strike a deal. This is the only way the university can call itself a community.

A simple solution would be for Physical Plant workers to follow operation procedure, namely the line that reads, "ORVs will park and not operate during scheduled class changes." The document also points out that pedestrians have the right-of-way on campus and speed is to be reduced when approaching passing pedestrians and other ORVs.

But these rules aren't always followed. Senior political science major Patrick Thomas and his group have made the first step by raising awareness and seeking help from the Student Government Association. The least the Physical Plant can do in response is to take part in the dialogue.

The fact that the Skiff, the community's news outlet and a platform for such dialogue, could not interview Willett Stallworth, director of the Physical Plant, is a bad sign. This is despite the reporter's repeated attempts made via phone and e-mail.

Community improvement isn't a one-way street.

Managing editor Saerom Yoo for the editorial board.

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

Celebrity mothers shouldn't be criticized, deserve respect



ASHLEY TAMBUNGA

A recent TMZ entertainment story about Madonna's adoption of David from Malawi showed the superstar comfortably holding her adopted son's hand.

The accusations that Madonna used her fame and money to work over the legal system are hypocritical, to say the least. Celebrities have used their

Babies, babies everywhere — and none are left alone from the public eye.

From the controversy surrounding Nadya Suleman's motherhood of her 14 children to the public scrutiny of Madonna's questionable adoption methods in Malawi — it seems that babies are often in the news. It is not that the public scrutinizes the children so much as it examines and sometimes vilifies the mothers.

It seems like every other magazine on the shelves has a picture of Angelina Jolie holding one of her three children, with Brad Pitt in the corner.

Suleman's face appears at least twice a week on television shows, arms filled with babies.

We never know what the next fad in Hollywood will be. One year ago, we had Britney Spears' mental train wreck and today we are dealing with Joaquin Phoenix trying to get in touch with his hip hop side. Though, to be honest, I'm not entirely convinced that Spears won't end up adopting a child later down the line. During late 2007, media across the country attributed a "close friend" as saying she was looking to adopt 6-year-old twins from China.

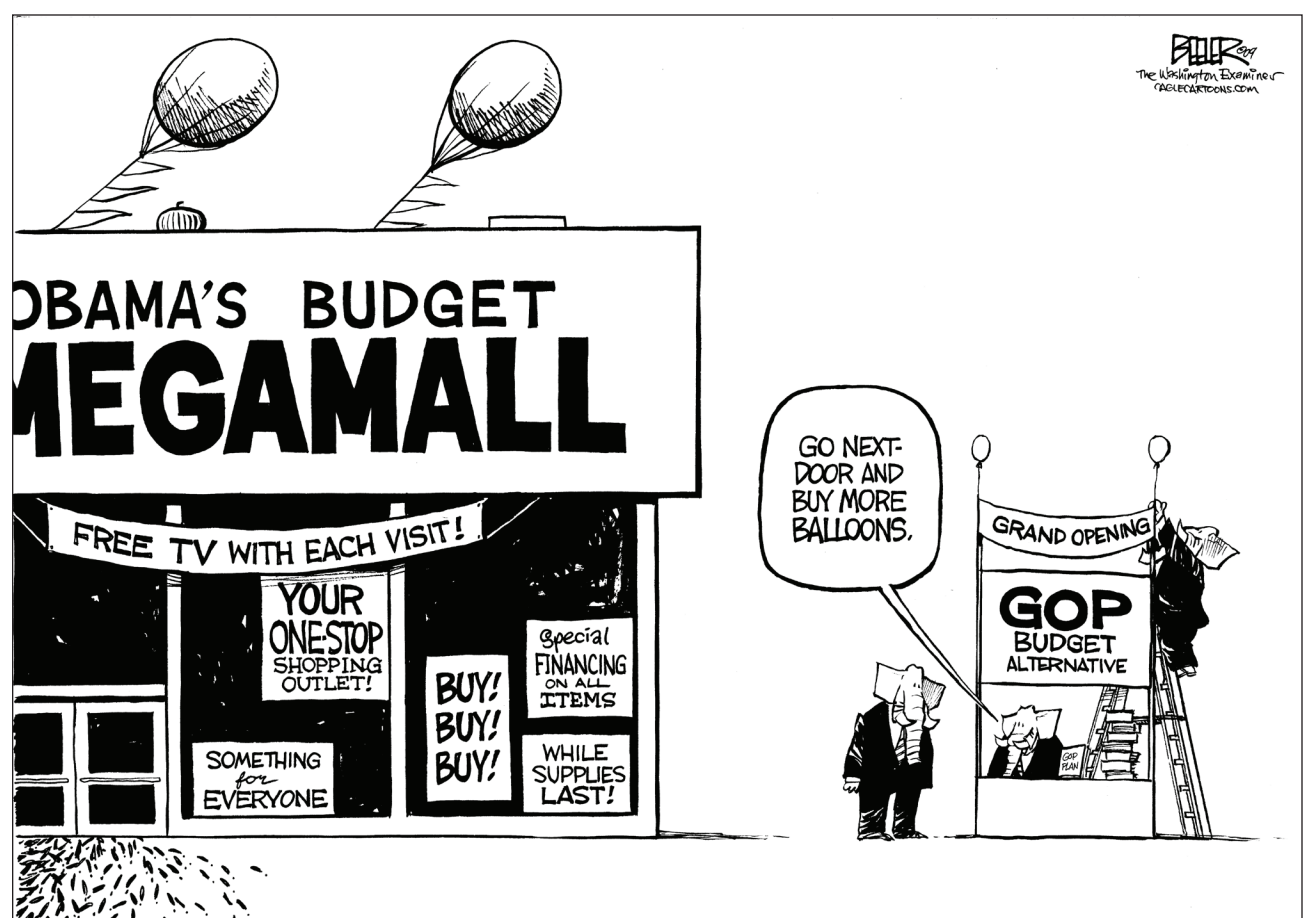
Celebrities have used their fame and fortune for much worse than adopting a child from a Third World country and I think we should remember that before pointing fingers.

fame and fortune for much worse than adopting a child from a Third World country, and I think we should remember that before pointing fingers.

Motherhood has become such a dominant co-star in the real lives of celebrities, and maybe the attention it grabs is not entirely superficial. I don't think these celebrities mind the spotlight, but that doesn't seem to be their motivation.

As long as celebrity moms are going to love their adopted children and provide for them, we should leave them alone.

Ashley Tambunga is a junior English major from Fort Worth.



Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

Notre Dame should ignore Obama flak

A conservative Catholic group has organized an online petition protesting the University of Notre Dame's invitation to President Barack Obama to give the commencement address next month. It's collected more than 200,000 signatures, and the bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend is on the bandwagon. He says he'll boycott the ceremonies because of Obama's support for stem-cell research and the freedom to choose an abortion.

Notre Dame's president, the Rev. John Jenkins, must not waver on the invitation, and Obama should have no second thoughts in accepting. The graduating seniors deserve the privilege of hearing

the president, sure to give a memorable speech, and the university should relish the prestige.

None of the previous eight was flawless in the church's eyes.

Obama would be the ninth president to get an honorary degree from Notre Dame. None of the previous eight was flawless in the church's eyes. Ronald Reagan was divorced; George W. Bush permitted torture. Notwithstanding the Virginia-based Cardinal Newman Soci-

ety's view on stem-cell research, Obama's first acts as president — extending health care to all children, expanding educational opportunities to the poor and ending torture of prisoners — coincide with the church's moral priorities.

World-class universities should not be applying ideological litmus tests in choosing graduation speakers. Notre Dame should uphold the important principle of respect for differences of opinion.

This editorial appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Wednesday. It was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

Cancer event fun, will support vital research

Cancer Society has been helping by offering support to cancer victims, information, as well as funded research to "kill" the disease.

So my question to you now is what would you do to help cure cancer? Would you come out and have fun, eat barbecue or hunt Easter eggs for a cure? That is what our Fort Worth community's Relay for Life is asking of you when it hosts the 25th annual race at Farrington Field tonight. Money raised at the event will help to fund research, give support to cancer victims and lobby the government for new laws and regulations to help current or

future cancer victims.

The night will be packed with cancer survivors, caretakers, as well as TCU students. TCU currently has 20 teams signed up for Relay for Life. It's a great cause to get involved in, and a way to help ACS continue its mission of "eliminating cancer as a major health problem." Cancer will not go away without our help, and we as a community should show our support and make at least a minimal effort to achieve its mission.

Vlora Bojku is a junior business major from Colleyville.



VLORA BOJKU

In 2009 about 565,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer, or more than 1,500 people per day, according to the American Cancer Society. Cancer is the second most common disease causing death in the U.S., topped only by heart disease. A report from International Agency for Research on Cancer found that in 2007 approximately 12 million people worldwide died from cancer, which would amount to 20,000 deaths each day. Those are some staggering numbers.

Cancer hits home with many people. Unfortunately, most of us have either a friend or a relative who has had cancer. Those of us who have never had the disease can only guess what emotions they experience and what their diagnosis or condition will be like.

To combat this disease that seemingly "never sleeps," the American



MCT



Should marijuana be legalized in the United States?



"I don't think it should be legalized because it does intoxicate you and it doesn't help you. It doesn't make you more productive."

Halie David
freshman interior design major from Amarillo



"It's a gateway drug so that could open opportunities for the use of other drugs ... more than it is today."

Mathilde Perrin
sophomore nursing major from Houston



"Yes. Alcohol and tobacco are more damaging to the brain than marijuana. There is no legitimate reason it couldn't be legalized."

Amir Tafarroji
freshman business major from Houston



"No, I really don't think so. We have enough idiots running around as it is."

Courtney Devlin
senior nursing major from Houston



"No, people would be high all the time. More people would start smoking if it were legalized."

Benjamin Williams
sophomore writing major from Fort Worth



"No, I just think people would abuse it if it were legalized."

Jon Wulf
junior radio-TV-film major from Omaha, Neb.

SPORTS

Bryant eyes a different trophy

By Charles F. Gardner
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — Kobe Bryant might not lift the league most valuable player trophy again this year, but he won't care much if the Los Angeles Lakers reach the goal that eluded them last season.

That, to be precise, is winning the NBA championship.

The Lakers have carefully weaved their way through the regular season while keeping that goal firmly in mind.

Los Angeles ended a draining 13-day, seven-city road trip and avoided a three-game losing streak with a 104-98 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday night. A sellout Bradley Center crowd brought signs and Spanish flags to salute Pau Gasol while many chanted "MVP" when Bryant went to the free throw line in the fourth

quarter.

"We're happy with it," Bryant said of the Lakers' 5-2 record on the swing that started in Chicago and headed east before ending with back-to-back games in Charlotte and Milwaukee.

"It was tough, the first three quarters or something like that. It seemed like we were kind of stuck in the mud a little bit. We were able to hang in there with them and got something going."

The Lakers (59-16) will play five of their last seven games at home as they prepare for the postseason, and Lakers coach Phil Jackson said he would think about resting some regulars once the team reaches the 60-victory mark. Center Andrew Bynum is due to return from injury soon, and it appears unlikely the Lakers can catch Cleveland for the league's best record.

But Bryant, who finished with a game-high 30 points while

playing 39 minutes Wednesday, clearly isn't ready to sit.

"Break for what?" Bryant said. "People spend their hard-earned money to watch us play, and I'm going to play. We always have a lot of supporters here in Milwaukee, and it was good to hear that."

Bryant is having a sensational year and would be a shoo-in to repeat as league MVP if not for the incredible performances by two of his Olympic teammates, Cleveland's LeBron James and Miami's Dwyane Wade.

It appears James is the leading contender for this year's honor after leading the Cavaliers past the 60-victory mark and into the top-seeded position in the Eastern Conference. Bryant won the award for the first time in 2007-'08, in his 12th pro season.

But that's not to minimize the impact of Bryant.

He already has done plenty

"It was tough, the first three quarters or something like that. It seemed like we were kind of stuck in the mud a little bit. We were able to hang in there with them and got something going."

Kobe Bryant
Lakers basketball player

this season with the Lakers, including a 61-point night against the Knicks at Madison Square Garden in early February.

He has started all 75 games while averaging 27.3 points, 5.4 rebounds and 4.9 assists.

WOMEN'S TENNIS



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Thirteenth-ranked junior Nina Munch-Soegaard serves the ball during her singles match against Miami on Feb. 22. The Horned Frogs fell 6-1 to the Hurricanes. The team has three conference home matches scheduled for this weekend.

Team to battle three conference rivals

By Mark Bell
Staff Reporter

Women's Tennis

TCU vs. Utah: 2 p.m. Friday
TCU vs. BYU: 2 p.m. Saturday
TCU vs. New Mexico: 10 a.m. Sunday
Where: Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center

The No. 28-ranked women's tennis team returns home this weekend to play three matches against conference opponents, with the expectation to win all three, the team's coach said.

"Based on the rankings, we're favored to win all three," head coach Jefferson Hammond said. "Our expectation is to do that, but we have to get out there and earn it."

The team plays the No. 49-ranked University of Utah on Friday, No. 57-ranked Brigham Young University on Saturday and the University of New Mexico on Sunday, all at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center.

The Horned Frogs (7-9, 1-1 MWC) are coming off of a tough loss to then-No. 71-ranked UNLV and sit in fourth place in the Mountain West Conference.

"Hopefully we can win all three," freshman Kayla Duncan said. "We want it extremely bad, especially after losing to UNLV. We want to be back on top of conference."

The team has two players ranked nationally: No. 13 junior Nina Munch-Soegaard and No. 86 senior Macall Harkins. Also, sophomore Idunn Hertzberg has won her past five matches and posted

a 5-1 record in March, the best on the team.

"I had a rough start in the beginning of the season, but it's gotten a lot better and I'm playing well," Hertzberg said. "I'm excited to come out and play this weekend."

The team also has two of its three doubles tandems nationally ranked with the No. 24-ranked duo of Harkins and senior Anna Sydorska and the No. 77-ranked pair of Munch-Soegaard and sophomore Maria Babanova.

"We feel really good about our doubles combination and doubles strategy," Hammond said.

The team goal is still to win the conference tournament, Hammond said. The Horned Frogs hope to win the conference regular season but need a couple of teams to lose for that to happen, he said.

"The regular season isn't in our hands right now," Hammond said. "We just have to come out strong and see how the cards fall."

ELLINGTON

continued from page 8

put it all together so it should start rolling from here on out.

Q: Is there a game, series or moment that was particularly memorable?

A: Stephen Strasburg (of SDSU) is pretty memorable. He's a great pitcher.

Q: How do you think you've performed so far this season?

A: I'd say I've been playing average. We have a great lineup and I get to hit between some great hitters so fortunately when I get some pitches they have to pitch around the other guys in the lineup. I think I can do better though.

Q: What do you think about your freshman teammates?

A: Our freshman teammates are great ... and they've been playing lights out. Without them we wouldn't have a team. They've had a big influence on our team and they've done a really good job.

Q: The team has been ranked almost the entire season. Is that something you and your teammates pay attention to?

A: No, we don't really pay attention to it. We just want to go out and try to play the best baseball we can play and whatever happens with the rankings happens.

Q: What does the future hold for Chris Ellington?

A: You know I like to take it one day at a time. My passion is baseball so I'm sure it'll be something to do with ball. If it's not playing I'll probably be coaching.

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Debate on abortion takes new direction in S.D.

By Josephine Marcotty
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Sarah Stoesz was standing in line at a car rental counter in Sioux Falls, S.D., when she felt the tectonic plates of abortion politics shift beneath her feet.

People around her were talking about abortion — with strangers, in public. More shocking, they were embarrassed by the broad abortion ban their legislature had just passed. It made no exceptions for incest, rape or the health of the mother. "What kind of state are we from?" one asked.

That was the moment when Stoesz, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, saw an opening in a fight long defined by those who see it as black and white.

What she heard that spring day in 2006 were the outraged voices of everyone else in the vast middle — people who saw it as gray.

This month Stoesz, 50, accepted a national award from Planned Parenthood New York City recognizing her role in defeating two South Dakota abortion bans — one in 2006 and another in 2008. It also acknowledged that the gamble she took on the prairie — staking out the middle ground on abortion — paid off. Now, the national conversation is changing as well.

"That proved to be a successful strategy," said Katie Paris of Faith in Public Life, a Washington, D.C., religious group that studies social issues. "At the national level a lot of rhetoric has changed."

Since 2005, two national organizations — Faith in Public Life and Third Way — have been founded with a mission to end the country's culture wars. Both are probing public opinion on volatile issues such as gay marriage and immigration, both are trying to bring opposing sides together, and both are trying to move public opinion toward solutions instead of polarization.

Abortion is a case in point. National polling has found the same moral nuances that surfaced in the South Dakota campaigns. "The majority want to keep it legal," Paris said. "But the majority also see it as the taking of a life."

President Barack Obama also appears to be walking that path. He has eased, but not eliminated, limits on stem-cell research

"This is not a situation where Planned Parenthood figure out the silver bullet."

Scott Fischbach
executive director,
Minnesota Citizens
Concerned for Life

and supported birth control as a way of reducing abortions, rather than banning them on moral grounds.

"That reflects a new conversation and a new politics," Paris said.

But others in the abortion debate question that view. Scott Fischbach, executive director Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), said that as long as a group such as Planned Parenthood provides abortions, "They should have nothing to be proud of."

Fischbach said he is skeptical of Stoesz's middle-ground strategy. "This is not a situation where Planned Parenthood figured out the silver bullet," he said. "We want them to think that they did. But the fact is, South Dakota is pro-life."

When Stoesz flew to Sioux Falls in 2006, she hardly sensed the mood that would become crucial to her success. The state legislature's abortion ban allowed an exception only to save the life of the mother and was meant to challenge Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision on

abortion.

In South Dakota, Planned Parenthood has only a toe-hold. One of its two clinics there provides about 800 abortions a year, but no South Dakota doctors will work there. Outside physicians fly in once a week.

Within days of the ban's passage, a small group of community leaders, politicians and liberal groups decided to challenge it at the ballot box. Planned Parenthood, they said, had to be on board. At first, Stoesz wasn't sure. "It felt very lonely," she said.

But when the governor signed the bill, it was as if someone flipped a switch. Stoesz's phone began ringing. "Strangers (were) calling and calling, saying, 'This is outrageous,'" she said in a recent interview.

Many in the abortion-rights movement urged her to do what Planned Parenthood usually does: Go to court. Taking it to the voters in one of the most conservative states in the country would be costly and dangerous, they said.

Instead, Stoesz went with her gut. The ban had changed the conversation and created an opportunity to test public sentiment.

"We needed a movement," said Connie Lewis, vice president of external affairs for Planned Parenthood. "We could not rely on a lawsuit to build a movement."

She raised \$35,000 to test public views with a set of surveys and focus groups. Their findings: Many South Dakotans felt women shouldn't have the option of abortion simply to end an unplanned pregnancy. But victims of rape or incest? A woman whose health was at risk?

That was different. The ban lost by 10 points.

Two years later, Vote Yes for Life, which led the fight for the first ban, launched a second initiative. This time, they asked voters to approve a law that banned abortions except for rape, incest and the health of the mother.



KYNDELL HARKNESS / Minneapolis Star Tribune via MCT
Sarah Stoesz, the chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, talks with Lars Leafblad and Patrick Troska after her presentation in Minneapolis on Feb. 27.

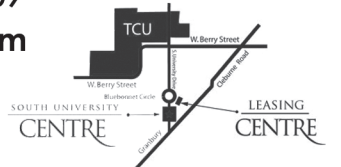
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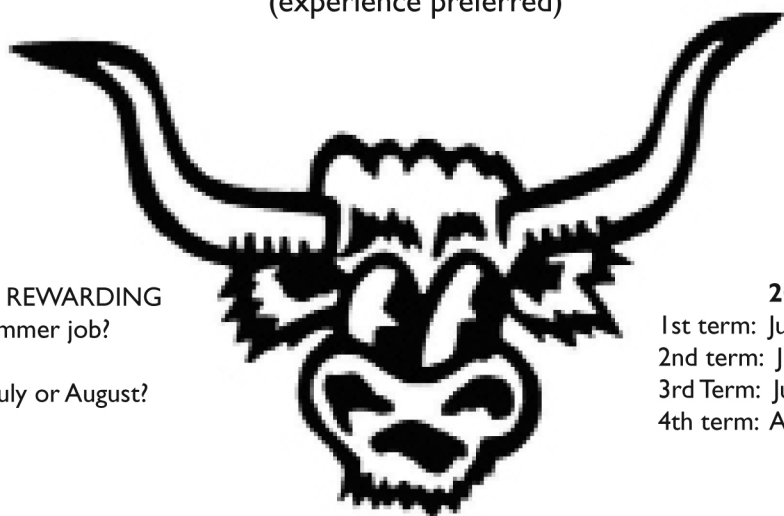
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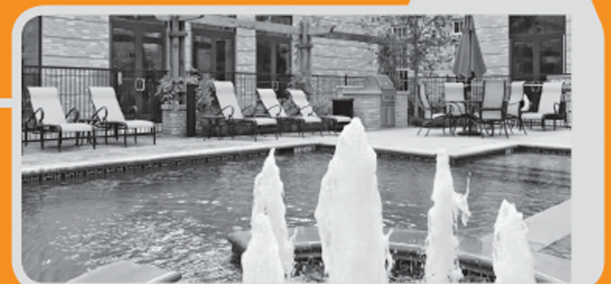
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FEATURES



While his peers are graduating and going into careers, one senior is looking forward to being funny for a living. Tuesday

Mechanical Maestro

Prof. uses both sides of the brain with high-tech music

By Bibek Bhandari
Staff Writer

Jose Feghali locked himself in a room, fidgeted with his mind and played with his computer when his project didn't live up to his expectations.

The university artist-in-residence, piano professor and self-proclaimed geek wasn't satisfied with the sound quality of the software he was using during a class he conducted between the university and London's Royal Academy of Music in 2008. He said he wanted people to experience music in its best quality regardless of technology and distance.

When Feghali contacted the former programmer for Microsoft's ConferenceXP, a video conferencing program he was using for the class, he told him that the program was not capable of working with uncompressed audio, which produces the best possible sound quality.

"I took a weekend off from my life," Feghali said.

After hours of research and play with the software's code, which is open for anyone to modify, he found the fault. He said the programmer had put 1,000 bytes per second in the buffering instead of 5,000 bytes per second to get the best audio quality. But when Feghali contacted the head programmer with his discovery, the programmer sent him an e-mail with "LOL [Laugh Out Loud]" as the subject line.

"A piano player discovered something. It was unusual, and [he] didn't believe," said Feghali.

Feghali has appeared on stage in more than 800 performances worldwide, including Carnegie Hall in New York City. He has played with orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra in the U.S.

As Feghali's fingers promenaded the keys of the grand piano in his studio, Schumann's "Fantasy" in C major serenaded the closed room filled with his technological toys — audio mixers, computers, microphones and cameras. Feghali's brief performance reflected his passion. His head gave a nod to every note he hit, his cheek muscles moved up and down and his eyes closed with an expression as if he was reaching the highest point of satisfaction.

"To be able to have a life in music is very sobering," the 1985 gold medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition said. "You're a part of a very, very special club."

The narrow corridor of the John Giordano Piano Wing of the Walsh Center for Performing Arts — with piano music from closed doors of the practice rooms welcoming every passerby — leads to Feghali's studio. With legs crossed and his glasses hanging on his shirt, Feghali talks in bytes and megabytes, disclosing his intimate relationship with technology.

A Boy and his Toys

Looking at the gadgets at his father's factory that manufactured bicycle rims, metal cabinet bearings and caster wheels in Rio de Janeiro and trying to figure how the audio and the speaker worked in a recording machine his father handed him triggered Feghali's initial interest in technology.

His mother, Aurea Feghali, recalled that as a child, her son enjoyed playing with electronic kits, chemistry sets, walkie-talkies and

reading about science. Talking to her son from Brazil, who translated her words from Portuguese, she said he opened up televisions and other electronic appliances to figure out how they worked.

"He seemed more curious about the science behind the technology than with the technology itself," she said.

As a teenager, Jose Feghali spent the time he had between piano practices in his London apartment in Belsize Park, flipping every page of Electronics Today International, Scientific American and PC Magazine to assemble a computer. Gifted with an inquiring mind and intense interest in technology, he set up his first working device: a metronome, which is used to establish a steady tempo in music performances. He assembled his own home computer. He also repaired his car, his motorcycle and his refrigerator to save time, money and improve his mechanical skills. He still fixes his 1973 microwave because there are no available replacement parts.

Since then, he has been working — but failure to finish projects and get results keeps Jose Feghali's mind on the run.

"Once something doesn't make sense to me, it drives me nuts," Jose Feghali said. "It keeps me awake all night."

Noteworthy Innovations

In 1989, he experimented with the Turtle Beach sound card, one of the first available cards for PC that converts the sound into CD quality — 16 bits, 48 KHz — on the computer.

Fred Videon, the current programmer for ConferenceXP and software engineer at the University of Washington, said in a telephone interview that Jose Feghali is an enthusiastic user of ConferenceXP and has contributed to the program. After Jose Feghali discovered that enhanced audio and video could benefit the program, it was added.

Videon, who has known Jose Feghali for a year, corresponded via e-mail until he met him at the Internet2 Performing Art Workshop in Miami in January. Videon commented on Feghali's modesty when it comes to expertise.

"He consistently tells me, 'I'm not a programmer,'" Videon said.

Using the Internet2 technology, an advanced network application and technology used for educating and high-speed data transfer, Jose Feghali has conducted graduate classes that give students an opportunity to learn from the professionals regardless of the physical boundaries.

Richard Gipson, director of the TCU School of Music, introduced Jose Feghali to the Internet2 technology. Gipson had been working with the technology since its infancy when he served as the director for the University of Oklahoma School of Music.

"He has gone farther and quicker than I had expected it was possible to go," Gipson said. "His level of expertise, problem-solving ability and his innate curiosity is mindboggling."

While he is not practicing, performing or experimenting with technology, Jose Feghali likes delving into the world of physics, relativity, quantum mechanics, cosmology, astrology and listening to jazz from artists like trumpeters Louis Armstrong and Wynton Marsalis.

Jose Feghali said he wants to continue pursuing all of his passions and professions. Musically, he is currently working on his solo project, a CD of Schumann's compositions, which is titled the "Everest Climbing Project." He is going to play, produce, engineer, design and write the notes.

Technologically and academically, he is working on the exchange of master classes using technologies such as ConferenceXP and Internet2 between TCU and the Juilliard School and University of Southern California and adding advanced audio quality in the program for better output.

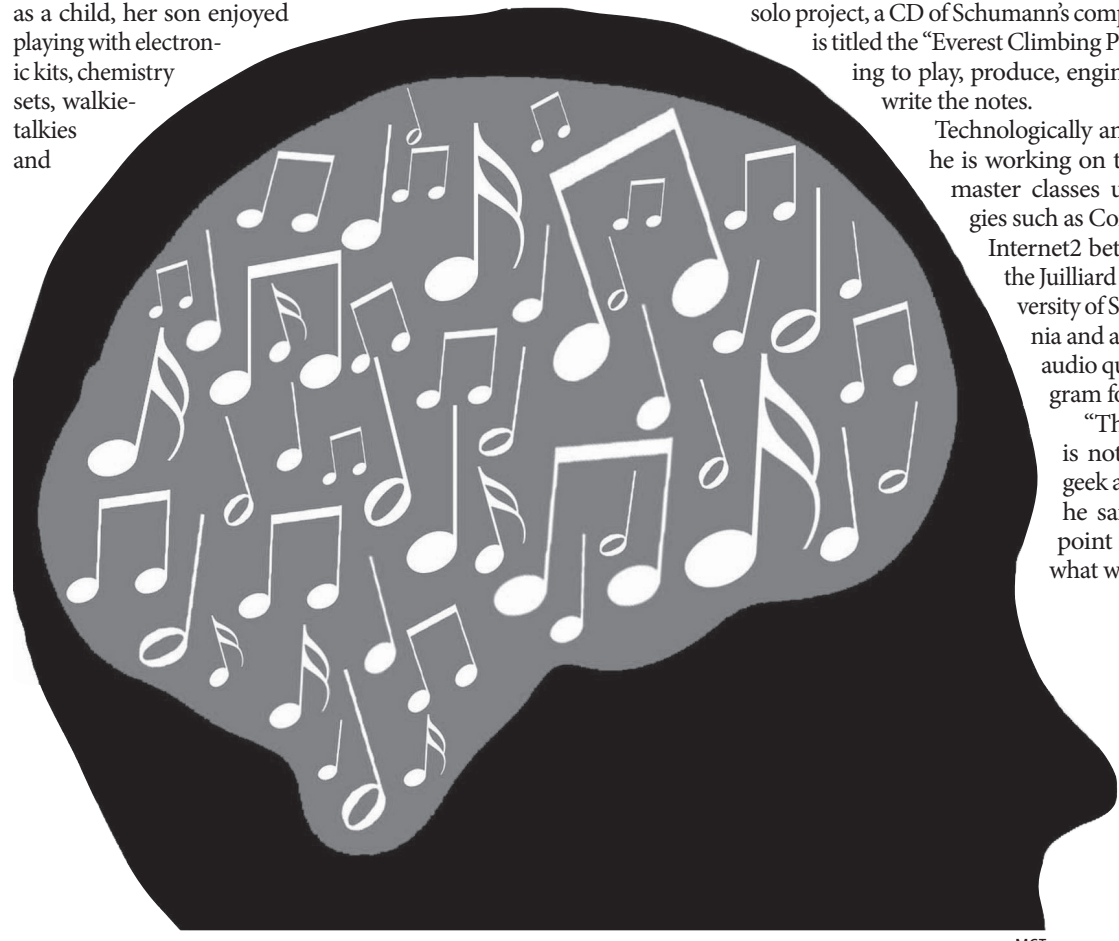
"The whole point is not about being a geek and the gadgets," he said. "The whole point is to apply it to what we're doing."



Courtesy of RON ENNIS

Former Van Cliburn gold medalist and Artist-in-Residence, Jose Feghali, right, and his assistant Matt Bowers, center, chat with the The Royal Conservatory of Music in London's Christopher Elton, on-screen, for a School of Music workshop in January 2007 through high-resolution video conference and Internet2 technology.

“He has gone farther and quicker than I had expected it was possible to go. His level of expertise, problem-solving ability and his innate curiosity is mindboggling.”
Richard Gipson,
director, School of Music



MCT

Students push for rules of the road on campus sidewalks

By Courtney Jay
Staff Reporter

Students walking to class flood the sidewalks until the crowd is parted by a golf cart or a micro truck, causing them to either move to the grass or stop in their tracks. One group of political science students say they are determined to give the sidewalks back to the students.

Senior political science major Patrick Thomas said off-road vehicles, like the utility trucks the Physical Plant uses, pose a danger to pedestrians so the group is raising awareness of the issue by pushing legislation through SGA.

"What we're trying to do right now is to keep the carts off the road during passing periods and I think if we get that, it'll be a step in the right direction," Thomas said.

The operating procedures section of the

university's policy on off-road vehicles outlines rules to ensure the safe operation of carts.

According to the document, "ORVs will park and not operate during scheduled class changes."

The document also states that pedestrians have the right-of-way on campus and speed is to be reduced when approaching passing pedestrians and other ORVs.

Though the rules are clear, Thomas said they aren't always followed. He said the goal of his group is to create further awareness of the issue, then to contact the Student Government Association for help in creating stricter provisions.

If the group succeeds in passing new legislation, they will join past groups who have improved aspects of the university and the community through the lab portion of the Practicing American and Texas Politics

course.

Karen Anisman, associate director of the Center for Civic Literacy and facilitator of the lab, said that in the past, groups in this course accomplished changing the type of toilet tissue in the dorms and worked on research for the Fort Worth Transportation Authority on people who would use a commuter train that is supposed to be built to run through Fort Worth.

Student body president Kelsie Johnson said she believes the university's administration would be open to the idea. Regarding enforcement, Johnson said she had spoken to Willett Stallworth, director of the Physical Plant, one of the departments that uses the carts. She said he told her he was reminding his drivers about the rules but could not speak for the other departments.

Repeated calls and e-mails to Stallworth were not returned.



CHANCE WELCH / Features Editor

Sophomore geology major Albert Parent yields the sidewalk to senior international economics major Hanan Fiddick on Wednesday. Parent said he was once given a verbal warning by TCU Police for driving when the sidewalks were congested but doesn't know how effective any other type of enforcement would be.

ETC.



Today in History

On this day in 1860, the first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously leaves St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.

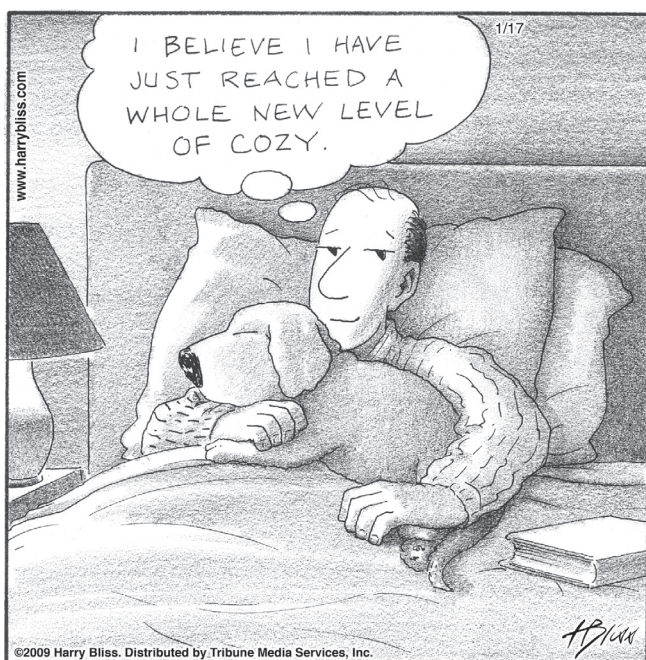
— History Channel

Joke of the Day

Q: What do you call a chicken coop with four doors?
A: Chicken sedan

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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Thursday's Solutions

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

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- Sp. misses
- Robert who played Anthony Soprano Jr.
- Jumbo scoreboard display
- Sacred five-book collection
- Residencia room
- Numerical prefix
- Words to a drunk?
- "Is there more?"
- Chigger, e.g.
- Creedal holding
- One concerned with 13-Down
- 2000s Senate leader's turnaround?
- Rifles
- Indian royalty
- Morning glistener
- Has
- Amazes
- "Was it you?" answer
- "Scream" director
- Craven
- Stinker
- Bourne portrayer
- Hilton on the ice?
- Vague
- Novelist Shaw
- Apply to
- Pharyngeal tissue
- What you never see after strikes?
- College attendee
- 13 can trap a 24-Across
- Circus performers
- Middle Earth beings
- Eggs order
- Preceders of omegas
- Stream
- "Lady Jane Grey" dramatist
- Man-goat deities

DOWN

- Lade
- St. Louis landmark
- Marginal comments
- Evidence in paternity suits
- Actress Trudie who's married to Sting
- Motorboat's wake
- "Right you are"
- Fine tributary
- Miss identification?
- Where Mount Carmel is
- Scottish landowner
- 2009 Tribune Media Service, Inc. 4/3/09
- India and Pakistan under British influence, e.g.
- School founded by Henry VI
- What birds take?
- Medical supplies
- Like some pride
- Strategic WWI river
- First light
- Everycity, USA
- Kmart founder
- Windy day features
- Finland's second largest city
- Comes close
- Verdi's slave girl
- "Stop"
- Street supplies?
- Carol syllable
- Enrolled. Abb.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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Religion Directory

Episcopal

Trinity Episcopal Church welcomes TCU students. Sunday services are 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Holy Eucharist with Choir 11:30 Eucharist with contemporary music. 3401 Bellaire Dr. South at Stadium Dr. 817.926.4631

Bible Church

College Impact: Christ Chapel Bible Church Sundays @ 11am in the Bubble www.collegeimpact.org Exalt "A Midweek Refuel" Wednesdays from 7-8pm in West Sanctuary. Ryan McCarthy College Minister 817.703.6939 ryanm@christchapelbc.org

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

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Catholic

Holy Family Catholic Church Pastor: Rev. Joseph Pemberton Mass Times: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 7:45 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 12:00 Noon 6:150 Pershing Ave Fort Worth, TX 76107 817.737.6768 www.holyfamilyfw.org Young Adult Ministry: Contact Amy at HFSAYAM@gmail.com

Disciples of Christ

South Hills Chrisitan Church (DOC) Rec Dottie Cook Minister Worship 8:30 and 10:50 Young Adult Sunday School with breakfast 9:45 3200 Bilgade Road 817-926-5281 Call for directions

First Christian Church (Disciples) welcomes TCU students. We're your downtown church, TCU's "Mother Church." Sunday School 9:45, worship 10:50; Wednesday meditation 6:15. 6th and Throckmorton, 817.336.7185 www.fcctfw.org. Bring a friend.

Evangelical

Trinity Vineyard Fellowship www.trinityvf.org Come experience the God you always knew existed and always dreamed you would encounter. 910 Collier St, Ft. Worth TX 76102 (817) 521-8773

Presbyterian

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church 2700 McPherson Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas 76109 817.927.8411 office www.ststephen-pcusa.com Service Opportunities Abound...Go to our website for more information Worship 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. Sundays

Church of Christ

Make your life count! Join God's mission at Southside Church of Christ 2101 Hemphill St. Fort Worth, Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m. college class at 11:00a.m. Evening worship at 6:00p.m. Wednesday Bible Study at 8:30p.m.

United Church of Christ

First Congregational Church, UCC 4201 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School All Ages 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service www.fwfccucc.org Open and Affirming, Welcoming All!

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SPORTS



The women's soccer team hosts Texas Tech on Saturday. See a recap of the action. Tuesday

BASEBALL

BACK ON TRACK

Senior outfielder shares thoughts on season, teammates and future

Q&A

By Saerom Yoo
Managing Editor

Senior outfielder Chris Ellington immediately made his mark in Horned Frog baseball when he joined the team last season, starting 45 out of the 55 games he played in. He was named second-team all-conference when he led the team in slugging percentage, .579, and on-base percentage, .380. This season, he ranks second on the team and 17th in the Mountain West Conference in batting average at .354, and ranks first on the team with 20 RBIs. After Wednesday night's 2-1 victory over UT-Arlington, Ellington reflected on the season so far.

Q: How was it bouncing back tonight after the series against San Diego State?

A: We pitched really well, we played good defense and we played together and that's what we haven't been doing.

Q: Before tonight, you had lost four out of six games. What was the cause of the recent slump?

A: You know, sometimes in baseball you just have to go through adversity. ... I think that was our adversity of the year and we had a good comeback tonight so that should get the rest of the season going.

Q: The season is nearing its halfway point. How do you think it has gone



CHRIS ELLINGTON

Chris Ellington connects with the ball during the game against Texas State on Feb. 25.

Courtesy of ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

so far?

A: I think it's gone really well. I think we hit really well at times, we pitched really well at times and we played really good defense at times and now we're trying to

TCU vs. New Mexico

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

SEE ELLINGTON · PAGE 4

FANTASY BASEBALL

Closers can help push your team over the hump



BILLY WESSELS

This is the longest week ever. Longer than the week before Christmas, your birthday or Easter if you have been good this Lent.

It's the final few days before the beginning of Major League Baseball's regular season and I'm acting like a child on Christmas Eve who knows he is getting a shiny new bicycle because he just saw it in the garage last week.

So since we are about to start, I am going to assume you have already done all the drafting you are going to do and are just making some final decisions on your roster spots like the major league clubs.

Hopefully you make better decisions than the Rangers did by adding Andruw Jones to the 25-man roster. Don't expect much from the former slugger that has fallen from grace. As the fifth outfielder, expect maybe 200 at bats a sub-.200 batting average and eight home runs.

I hope I'm wrong because I love my Rangers, but I really don't see this lotto ticket hitting the jackpot.

The position I am going to focus on in this fantasy advice column is the one

with the highest turnover rate in baseball. The closer.

Because of the high turnover rate, it is hard to find any consistency in the position. If you happen to get a guy like the Twins' Joe Nathan or the Mets' Francisco Rodriguez, relish them. They should both get 45 saves and have an ERA around 2.00 without bating an eyelash.

But the goal when looking for closers is to find guys that might not be the closer right now, but have a shot of taking the role at some point during the season.

Guys like that to look for are the Rockies' Manny Corpas and the Cubs' Carlos Marmol. Both of these guys were the closers for their respective teams last season, but both lost their jobs to new roster additions; Kevin Gregg was added to the Cubs and the Rockies added former Oakland A's closer Huston Street to their roster.

I like Street more than Gregg and I expect him to keep the closer's role longer. I would guess Marmol is back closing for the Cubs by July. Expect 32 saves and a 3.20 ERA in a full season from Street. Expect Gregg and Marmol to combine for 45 saves and an ERA around 3.50 throughout the year.

That's all the advice I have for now, but when the season starts next week I'll be back with more fantasy baseball wisdom to share.

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

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