

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Next up for the Horned Frogs baseball team is a series against Houston this weekend.

Sports, page 8

TODAY'S HEADLINES

News: Kansas University tries to combat binge drinking, page 6
Opinion: Internship regulations helpful, page 3
Sports: Soccer player reflects on career, page 8

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Biased media use poor evidence to make claims about global warming.

Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

LITTLETON Colo. — A longtime Colorado judge has been fired after issuing an arrest warrant for a teenager over an overdue library DVD.
 — The Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER


70 43
 HIGH LOW
 Sunny

Tomorrow: Sunny
 74 / 50
 Saturday: Sunny
 75 / 55



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

NEWS

One of the university's student-run radio programs will tackle issues in diversity during a live broadcast Monday. Tomorrow



NEWS

Despite statistics showing low post-graduation employment, male black students are tackling the job market with confidence. Tomorrow



SCHIEFFER SYMPOSIUM

MEDIA MATTERS



Photos by MATT COFFELT / Staff Photographer
 CBS news anchor and TCU alumnus Bob Schieffer talks to columnist Maureen Dowd and former Walt Disney Company CEO Michael Eisner in the convergence lab at the Schieffer School of Journalism on Wednesday.



From left, founder and editor of The Weekly Standard Bill Kristol, "Today Show" co-host Ann Curry, CBS news anchor and TCU alumnus Bob Schieffer, The New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd and former CEO of the Walt Disney Company Michael Eisner. For video coverage go to dailyskiff.com.

Schieffer: Industry's role crucial

By Thomas Koenig
 Staff Reporter

The role of media will always be a major factor in the country, no matter how it is delivered, Bob Schieffer said during the annual Schieffer Symposium on Wednesday night.

"Accurate, independently gathered information is as crucial, and as important and as vital a part of democracy as voting," Schieffer said.

The symposium featured a panel composed of prominent names that may have been one of the best in the Symposium's history, Schieffer said. The panel included Michael Eisner, founder of the Tornante Company and former CEO of The Walt Disney Company; Ann Curry, co-anchor of "Dateline NBC" and news anchor on the "Today Show;" Maureen Dowd, columnist for The New York Times and 1999 Pulitzer Prize recipient; and William Kristol, founder and editor of The Weekly Standard and columnist for The Washington Post.

Eisner said that even with the basic structures of the media changing, the industry is in great shape and continues to evolve. "It's never been more vibrant and more comfortable," Eisner said.

The Schieffer Symposium was created in 2005 and features a panel of media experts with Schieffer serving as moderator. Past participants include Tom Brokaw, Bob Woodward and Tim Russert.



Schieffer



Dowd



Curry



Kristol



Eisner

All of the panelists agreed that the Internet will continue to be a huge factor in news because of the amount of information that people can find. Kristol said that even though it may be a

SEE SYMPOSIUM · PAGE 2

FACULTY

Salary increase opposes trend

By Ashley Melnick
 Staff Reporter

Despite a national trend of stagnant salaries among college faculty, TCU faculty salaries remain on the rise, a university official wrote.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, wrote in an e-mail that the average salary among all workers at TCU increased 3 percent last year and will be increased 2.5 percent this year based on merit. The percentage increase in pay raise is based on faculty performance, which is assessed by department chairs each year.

Nationally, nearly a third of all college faculty members took a pay cut during 2009 and 2010 with an average salary decrease of 3 percent. Overall, most college faculty saw no change in their salary at all, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Nowell Donovan, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said faculty salary is determined by each department chair. This is done by ranking faculty members and calculating the appropriate pay raise based on their performance within the department. The chair typically can raise salary by 2 to 4 percent. Once the chair makes a decision, the dean of the respective school or college will assess the faculty salaries and may choose to adjust the salary based on his or her knowledge of faculty performance. Donovan said he makes the final decision but doesn't interfere with a pay increase unless it is a case he is specifically knowledgeable about.

"I, as provost, do not interfere be-

SEE SALARIES · PAGE 2

TEXAS

State reps may ban texting & driving

By Ashley Melnick
 Staff Reporter

Jordan Johannsen, a junior business major, said that although she occasionally texts while driving, she knows when to set aside her phone.

"I never text on busy roads because it's just not worth the risk," Johannsen said. "I can always text that person when I'm at a stoplight, so that means holding off on texting for a little — that's no big deal."

As of late March, Washington became the 20th state to pass a ban on texting while driving. While Texas does not have such a law, the dangers associated with texting while driving are among serious topics of concern for state congressional leaders, a Texas House of Representatives staffer said.

Clayton Stewart, the chief of staff for Rep. Mark Shelton, R-Fort Worth, said Austin legislators have already taken the initiative to pass a city ordinance outlawing texting while driving. Stewart said many residents have already contacted Shelton's office about such legislation.

TCU Police Chief Steve McGee said few students are involved in car acci-

SEE TEXTING · PAGE 2

FORT WORTH

City to expand bike routes and lanes

By Katie Vance
 Staff Reporter

A city program adopted in February would expand bike routes and lanes near the university but will not necessarily connect the campus to downtown Fort Worth, a city planner said.

Julia McCleary, a City of Fort Worth senior planner with the project management division, said the program, titled Bike Fort Worth, does not have a method for determining where bike lanes and routes will be created.

The program developed after Fort Worth area cyclists made a request for more bike routes and lanes at a Fort Worth City Council meeting last year.

McCleary said the first project in the Bike Fort Worth program would be to build bike shelters and racks downtown and to re-stripe streets to include a lane reserved for bus and bike use. Fort Worth received a \$400,000 stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

According to the Fort Worth City Council Web site, Bike Fort Worth is a



KATIE VANCE / Staff Photographer
 Jason Eagar teaches a bike-riding class to members of the triathlon club, TriFrogs, on March 3. The club meets Wednesday nights for the class in the basement of the Recreation Center.

long-term plan to make the city more friendly and safe for cyclists. There is currently no funding in the city budget for any specific projects. However, making bike lane and route construction a priority will allow the number of routes to increase as the city expands, according to the Web site.

"Roads that have the potential to re-

ceive funding for re-stripping or reconstruction will have bike lanes added," McCleary said.

The city has not yet determined a timeline for bicycle-related road changes or improvements, McCleary said. The additional bike and bus

SEE BIKE PROGRAM · PAGE 2

NEWS

SYMPOSIUM

continued from page 1

burden for producers of traditional news, it is great for the consumers.

The symposium, which was entitled, "A Gridlocked Congress and an Angry Public: What Now is the Role of the Media," also featured a lot of political discussion.

Curry said that during her international reporting, she did notice a softening in anti-U.S. feelings after the election of President Barack Obama in some parts of the world.

The discussion got a rise out of the audience when Kristol and Eisner traded quips about two politicians who have taken a lot of criticism from the media. Eisner said he thought the Republican nomination of Sarah Palin was not a good choice, and Kristol reminded him of the recent troubles of Democrat John Edwards.

The serious symposium was not without its fair share of humor. Dowd joked that people imagined Sarah Palin as a young and beautiful Dick Cheney, while Kristol wisecracked that Repub-

licans were just trying to become more diverse after their recent snafu at a sex-themed club.

Schieffer ended the discussion encouraging students wanting to get into the industry by telling a story of how he got a job at CBS by luck. He said he walked into an interview that was not meant for him, but was actually meant for Bob Hager, who would go on to become a long-time correspondent for NBC.

"I'm the only person at CBS News who was hired by mistake," Schieffer said.

SALARIES

continued from page 1

cause I'm not knowledgeable really about the details," Donovan said.

Mills wrote that TCU is able to increase the average salary because it is affected by tuition. Tuition not only affects all salaries, but also provides new positions at the university. But there is no direct relation between tuition increases and faculty positions or compensations.

Kenneth Janak, director of budgets and financial planning, wrote in an e-mail that tuition is ultimately determined by the Board of Trustees.

"Each year the Chancellor's Cabinet submits a tuition recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the board's meeting in November, and the

"TCU has remained steadfast in addressing compensation in order to attract and retain the best talent possible so as to strengthen the experience that students receive."

Kenneth Janak
director of budgets and financial planning

board may or may not agree with the recommendation," Janak wrote. "And final approval for tuition rests with the Board of Trustees."

The Chancellor's Cabinet is made up of the chancellor and

vice chancellors.

Tuition, as well as housing and dining revenue, collectively fund the operating costs of the university, Janak wrote. Aside from salaries and benefits for faculty, tuition increases when other operating costs increase, such as library subscriptions, utilities, food, building maintenance and technology support. Overall, compensation for faculty is the largest operating expense for the university, as it is for most universities throughout the country, Janak wrote.

"TCU has remained steadfast in addressing compensation in order to attract and retain the best talent possible so as to strengthen the experience that students receive," Janak wrote.

TEXTING

continued from page 1

dents on campus, and very few, if any, are because of texting, McGee said campus police only patrol campus parking lots, which is why the department does not have any records regarding accidents caused by texting.

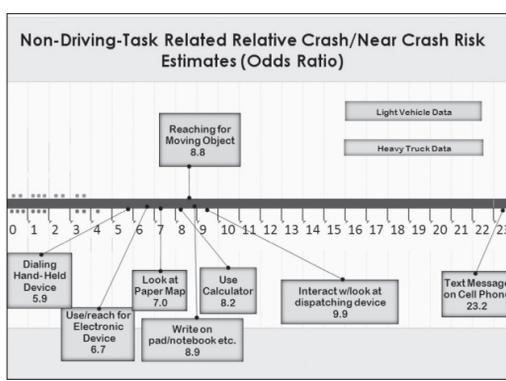
Sgt. Alvin Alcon of the TCU Police said texting while driving on the roads is a problem. Alcon said his son damaged his car because he was texting while driving.

The only cell phone regulation that is in effect in the area is the state ban outlawing the use of cell phones in school zones, Alcon said. Students should be aware of the law when they are driving by the Alice Carlson Applied Learning Center, an elementary school located on West Cantey Street, Alcon said.

"I really think that in the future you will see laws enacted that any use of a cell phone or any kind of electronic devices other than wireless voice command will be prohibited driving anywhere," Alcon said.

When drivers text, their collision risk is 23 times greater than when they are not texting, according to a Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study released in July 2009. The study was conducted by installing video cameras in trucks for an 18-month period.

Sherri Box, the PR and marketing manager of VTTI, said other distractions while driving were observed in trucks as well as in previous studies with



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

"I really think that in the future you will see laws enacted that any use of a cell phone or any kind of electronic devices other than wireless voice command will be prohibited driving anywhere."

Alvin Alcon
TCU Police Sergeant

other vehicles. These included drinking, attending to a child in the back seat and grooming oneself. Out of all the distractions, texting was the most dangerous, Box said.

"We believe our observations regarding distractions in the most recent naturalistic truck studies can definitely be extrapolated to all drivers," Box said. "We fully expect our ongoing research studies will prove

this to be true. Distractions cause the driver's eyes to be off the forward roadway regardless of the type of vehicle they may be driving."

Paige Allen, a sophomore communication studies major and Austin native, said she thinks the Austin city ordinance is potentially confusing but added that the texting ban should be statewide.

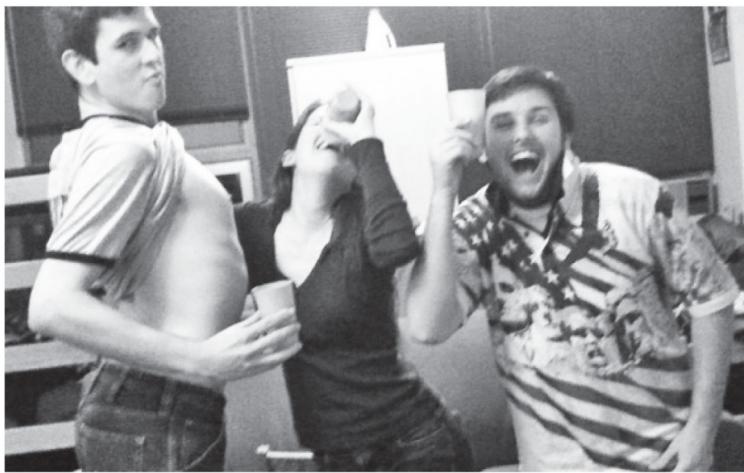
"It does get complicated when you go home," Allen said. "You forget that it's illegal, and you catch yourself texting."

Stewart said the idea of banning texting while driving in Texas is being seriously considered by lawmakers, but the creation of any potential bill would take time.

"Any time you have a piece of legislation or want to pass a new law, there are certain things you have to check," Stewart said. "(You) go through a system of accountability to make sure that you're not leaving any gaps in the law."

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TCU news 24/7



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Moudy

Thurs, 4/8 & Fri, 4/09
10 am to 8pm
Library

BIKE PROGRAM

continued from page 1

lanes will be added to roadways already cleared for renovation.

Wendy Farrens, Tri Frogs triathlon club president and a graduate student in the education administration department, said club members do not ride on roads because of safety concerns.

"We don't want to be on the road with traffic," Farrens said.

If the roads were safer and more convenient, she said, she would use her bike for transportation instead of just recreation.

"Having more space for not only bike riding but for people in the community to get out and be active would be very beneficial," she said.

Jason Eagar, an employee in the TCU Leadership Center and a Tri Frogs staff adviser,

said he thinks the City of Fort Worth could do a lot to benefit cyclists without making a drastic change to the current budget. He suggested education on road safety and a "share the road" campaign for both cyclists and automobile drivers through fliers, e-mails and local business support.

"It's a small enough community in Fort Worth that information can pass quickly," Eagar said. "The more cyclists that get out on the road, the more drivers will have to pay attention to them."

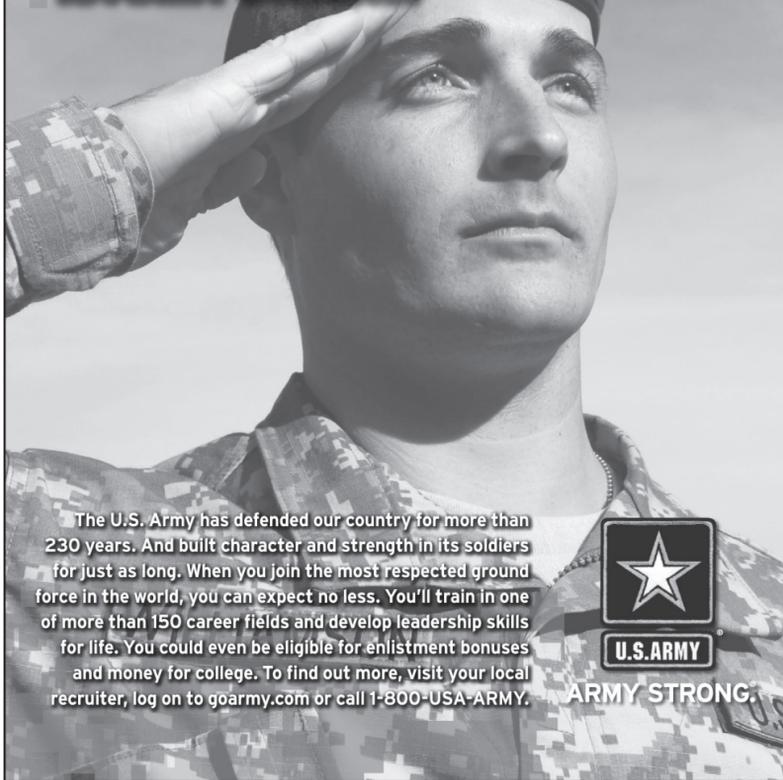
According to the Fort Worth City Council Web site, the long-term goals for the program are to triple the number of bicycle commuters, decrease the number of bicycle-related crashes by 10 percent and have Fort Worth designated as a bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.

McCleary said one of the first steps in the program would be for city planners to find evidence of the current quality of the cycling community in Fort Worth. She said that in 2007, an American Community Survey reported that 0.2 percent of Fort Worth residents could be considered bicycle commuters. That is about 1,373 people based on a 2007 population estimate of 686,850.

Identifying the number of bicycle-related accidents was more difficult to determine because there isn't a notification system of when and where these accidents occur, McCleary said.

The best way to improve safety is for more cyclists to use the roads downtown, McCleary said, because cyclists and automobile drivers will notice each other and learn how to better share the road.

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

State should ban texting while driving

According to a study conducted by a Virginia Tech Transportation Institute released in 2009, peoples' collision risks are 23 times greater when texting while driving. Talking on the phone is hazardous while driving, as is adjusting the radio station and putting on makeup, but texting — especially for the current generation — seems to be the greatest and most dangerous evil of them all.

In order to further raise awareness about the dangers and consequences associated with texting while driving, Texas needs to pursue legislation that would make it illegal. Washington implemented a ban on texting while driving in late March and was the 20th state to do so. Texas needs to now follow suit. While many natives take special pride in the wide open spaces of this state, this is where the problem lies. Driving across Texas, one can cross 10 or 20 different counties, which may or may not have ordinances related to texting while driving. In order to effectively create and put into effect a law with punishable consequences concerning texting while driving, lawmakers would need to implement a law state-wide.

Laws against texting and driving exist in school zones in Texas already. Now if the full affect of this restriction is to be fully enforced, such rules need to be consistent throughout the entire state.

Opinion editor Andrea Bolt for the editorial board.

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

YOUR VIEW
 opinion@dailyskiff.com

Benefits of internship laws outweigh negative aspects

I'd like to respond to Michael Lauck's column "Unpaid internship laws misguided." His premise is that new regulations make business into "charitable organizations." As a computer science major, I had two internships, one at a large company, and one at a small company. Both were paid internships. Neither company was being "charitable" as they were receiving services they paid for. The fact of the matter is that these laws prevent companies from abusing students in a down economy to get free labor.

Lauck's idea that internships are a gamble for a company is ill-conceived at best. Texas is a "right to hire, right to fire" state. That means a company can fire you at any time for any reason (well, almost any reason). How is it a gamble when an employer can fire someone at any second, and aren't paying the intern in the first place?

Further, saying that internships should be about starting out at the bottom is ludicrous. Any company sending interns to get coffee or clean the bathroom is clearly abusing an intern. The entire point of an internship is to get marketable experience on the job so that you are more competitive in the work force. While janitorial tasks may have been the norm in the past, times change. Is Lauck going to argue that slavery should be legal next too just because that's how "companies" got labor in the past? Lastly, Lauck insinuates that

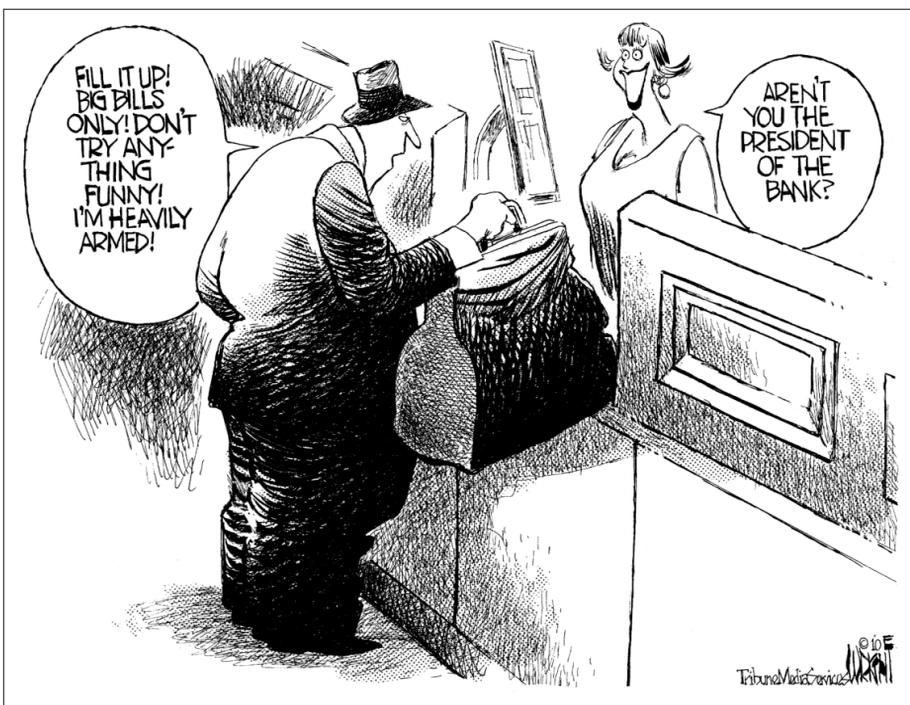


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working for a company that treats you badly is an intern's "personal problem." I'd hope this man never works in human resources. This is the exact kind of argument harassers try to pass off to shame harassees into not reporting them, etc. Federal mandates are there to correct obvious, poor working conditions. Again, where would the line be drawn if laws like this did not exist?

Lauck is right that laws do have negative consequences. The question is, do the benefits outweigh them? In this case, the answer is clearly yes.

Thomas Guidry is a 2007 graduate in computer information science from Lafayette, La.



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

Bias undermines global warming



JOHN ANDREW WILLIS

Last week was uncharacteristically hot. Seriously. Look at average high temperatures on your favorite weather Web site. Better yet, check out a historical weather book. That is, if you can locate a book's location in the library from the call number.

You know what all this heat means, right? Yup, global warming is back on.

That's right. We all changed our minds about climate change in February when it got really cold in most of America. When Washington, D.C., got so much snow that work on the beloved bureaucratic machine we call government was delayed, the message was clear. Mother Nature was going to do whatever she wanted, regardless of minute human activity like polluting the world's air and water with burnt carbons that have been compressing deep in the earth for millions of years.

As Stephen Colbert pointed out on his Feb. 10 show, a week or so of cold is obviously grounds for dismissal of a few hundred years of temperature trend and related studies.

"That is simple observational research," Colbert said. "Whatever just happened, is the only thing that is happening... Which leads me to my next terrifying weather alert... It is dark outside. Based on this latest data, we can only assume that the sun has been destroyed. The world has been plunged into total darkness."

What's especially enjoyable about these news clips in early February, of course mostly from

the typically conservative channels, is specifically who they chose to chastise. Not only do the newscasters use shots of snow accumulation as their sole evidence to discredit a theory, but they use Al Gore as a scapegoat. Leave it to a pundit to blame bad science on a politician.

Associating Gore with peer-reviewed information that follows the scientific method is about as backward as, well, the truth in these clearly biased major news networks. Gore made an entertaining movie with a lot of interesting scenarios. Unfortunately for the naive viewer, as well as the American public that processes biased news networks' interpretations of the film, many projections are grounded in what university professionals refer to as "junk science."

Our parents and teachers used

Leave it to a pundit to blame bad science on a politician.

to emphasize that you can't believe everything you hear or read. Looking back, that's pretty important advice in a nation where sensationalism often trumps neutrality in mainstream news networks.

On one hand, I'd love to explain to Sean Hannity the irony in the fact that the varying seasonal temperature is actually consistent with many real scientists' theories on climate change. However, I'm not sure I have the patience to react to the question, "Well, in what scene is that explained in 'An Inconvenient Truth?'"

John Andrew Willis is a junior Spanish major from Dallas.



Political satirist Stephen Colbert gestures from the stage during a taping of his show at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, on Feb. 17.

QUICK NEWS

GM ready to repay loan, sees chance of profit

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Co., steadily returning to health after its near-collapse in 2009, said Tuesday it plans to pay off its government loans by June — five years ahead of schedule — and could report a profit as early as this year.

GM said it lost \$3.4 billion in the fourth quarter of 2009 on revenues of \$32.3 billion. But sales and production have increased and GM has gained U.S. market share since the start of the year.

Repaying \$6.7 billion in government loans has been a top priority for CEO Ed Whitacre. The government's autos task force set a repayment deadline of 2015 as a condition of giving GM the loans last year. As of the end of March, GM has paid back \$2.4 billion and GM Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell said GM plans to pay the rest by June at the latest.

Nearly half of US households escape fed income tax

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tax Day is a dreaded deadline for millions, but for nearly half of U.S. households it's simply somebody else's problem.

About 47 percent will pay no federal income taxes at all for 2009. Either their incomes were too low, or they qualified for enough credits, deductions and exemptions to eliminate their liability. That's according to projections by the Tax Policy Center, a Washington research organization.

The result is a tax system that exempts almost half the country from paying for programs that benefit everyone, including national defense, public safety, infrastructure and education. The bottom 40 percent, on average, make a profit from the federal income tax, meaning they get more money in tax credits than they would otherwise owe in taxes. The government sends those people a payment.

Obama seeks new tone in outreach to Muslim world

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the year since President Barack Obama pledged a new beginning in the relationship with the Muslim world, the White House has begun to change the U.S. focus.

Terrorism still dominates U.S. security concerns, but the White House believes it doesn't have to dominate the conversation. Since Obama's speech in Cairo last year, the White House has tried to talk more about health care, science and education.

It's a strategy based on the belief that the prior administration viewed the world through the lens of terrorism.

Obama advisers who are rewriting a document spelling out the country's national security strategy plan to leave out references to "Islamic radicalism," counterterrorism officials said.

Swiss make 1st test of round-the-world solar plane

PAYERNE, Switzerland (AP) — A solar plane with wings as wide as a 747 and the power of a small motorboat took to the skies for the first time Wednesday, cruising a mile high at bicycle-like speeds for nearly 1½ hours in a step toward becoming the first sun-powered aircraft to circle the world.

In its maiden test flight, "Solar Impulse," designed by Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard's team, completed a series of turns, slip maneuvers and bank angles reaching 5 degrees. Most importantly, it proved able to take off and land. The team plans to fly it around the world in 2012.

"There has never been an airplane of that kind that could fly — never an airplane so big, so light, using so little energy," said Piccard, who in 1999 co-piloted the first nonstop round-the-globe balloon flight.

Toyota official: 'We need to come clean'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five days before Toyota announced a massive recall, a U.S. public relations executive at the automaker warned colleagues in an internal e-mail: "We need to come clean" about accelerator problems, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"We are not protecting our customers by keeping this quiet," wrote Irv Miller, group vice president for environment and public affairs. "The time to hide on this one is over."

The recently retired Miller wrote the e-mail on Jan. 16, as Toyota officials were on their way to meet federal regulators in Washington.

The e-mail reveals concerns within the company's leadership that Toyota wasn't dealing with the safety problems effectively and could damage the automaker's sterling reputation for producing safe and reliable vehicles.

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Food for Thought

Hunger Week continued Wednesday night with a banquet illustrating the way people in developing nations eat and how hunger has become an epidemic.



Senior religion and sociology major Justin Floyd and sophomore psychology major Lindsey Ethington, members of Disciples on Campus, speak to students about hunger around the world in the BLUU Ballroom on Wednesday night.



As a part of the event, students attending the Hunger Week Banquet eat food that people in developing countries would eat, such as cornmeal with water.

TEXAS

Perry: Software outdoes textbooks

By Kelley Shannon
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry proposed Wednesday that Texas abandon using traditional textbooks in public schools and replace them with computer technology.

"I don't see any reason in the world why we need to have textbooks in Texas in the next four years. Do you agree?" Perry asked participants at a computer gaming education conference in Austin.

During his wide-ranging speech, the governor offered some new ideas for boosting student performance and defended his education record. Perry, a Republican seeking re-election this year, also addressed a dispute with Democratic challenger Bill White over Texas' dropout rate.

Paper textbooks get out of date quickly, Perry said, sometimes even before they reach the classroom. He noted that since he took office in 2000, some schools have used textbooks saying Ann Richards was governor. She served from 1991-95.

Perry said using computer software to teach students allows the curriculum to be updated almost instantly and said children learn through technology, including math computer games.

"There's obviously opposition (to switching to totally computerized material), but there's always opposition to change," Perry said. He said the switch would have to be done cost effectively and that he didn't yet know whether such a move would save money. The governor said he wants to explore the proposal when the Legislature meets in 2011.

Rep. Mark Strama, an Austin Democrat who also attended the gaming conference at Ad-

vanced Micro Devices, said he's interested in pursuing that goal as well. He said lawmakers took a step in that direction last year by allowing schools to spend textbook money on electronic instructional materials.

Texas is one of the biggest clients for U.S. textbook publishers, so the content of the state's school books can have a nationwide effect. Because there's no legislation yet laying out Perry's idea, it's unclear how it might affect the marketplace if it's approved. Strama said it may be that the legislation would provide schools an online alternative to paper textbooks rather than ban them outright.

Perry said students who have no computer at home may obtain access as technology keeps developing and costs come down. Strama said that's part of the answer, but that he sees a move away from textbooks as an opportunity to ensure that children have computers available.

"This is the way to solve the digital divide problem for children who don't have access to technology at home, because if every child is getting something like an iPad or a tablet (computer) that has all their instructional content on it, it also is something they can use for other purposes when they're at home," Strama said.

White's campaign said the Legislature already has given the State Board of Education authority to review some online materials and add them to the approved list for schools to use, but the state board hasn't done so. Spokeswoman Katy Bacon asked why Perry hasn't urged the education board chairman to speed up the process.

In his speech, Perry touched on Texas' high school dropout rate, acknowledging that there are improvements to be

"I don't see any reason in the world why we need to have textbooks in Texas in the next four years."

Rick Perry
Texas Governor

made. He repeated his suggestion that high school-age teens be required to be enrolled in a traditional school or a "virtual" school online before they can get driver's licenses.

There are different ways of calculating the dropout rate, and Perry and White dispute the numbers.

Perry's campaign says the dropout rate is 10 percent. White's campaign cites studies showing the rate may be higher, possibly above 20 percent. Bacon said Perry and state officials don't know what has become of about 30 percent of students who do not graduate or get a GED credential within 10 years.

"There's a whole category of kids that is simply lost in the last five years," Bacon said.

The Texas Education Agency says the high school dropout rate is 10.5 percent, according to a definition that all state governors have agreed upon. The four-year graduation rate is 79.1 percent, the agency says. That doesn't include dropouts, student who continue in high school for a fifth year and those who receive a GED.

Perry said White's method of calculating dropouts includes students who die before graduating.

"If a child dies they count that as a dropout. I think that's a little harsh," Perry said.

But the White campaign said statistics show the number of students who die doesn't account for the gap.

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NEWS & SPORTS

CALIFORNIA



AP Photo / JIM MONE
Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., left, waves to the rally crowd as Sarah Palin looks on before Palin addressed the crowd in support of Bachmann's re-election Wednesday in Minneapolis.

Info about Palin visit withheld

By Robin Hindery
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A California lawmaker said Wednesday that a state university is breaking the law by failing to disclose correspondence about an upcoming fundraiser appearance by Sarah Palin.

Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, filed a public records request with California State University, Stanislaus last week, requesting any documents related to the former Alaska governor's scheduled June 25 speech to mark the school's 50th anniversary.

The university's compliance officer, Gina Leguria, responded to Yee on Tuesday, saying there were no such documents.

Yee said he has evidence to the contrary. On Wednesday, he circulated a March 29 e-mail sent from a top university adminis-

trator to faculty and staff that he said should have been disclosed.

In the e-mail, Susana Gajic-Bruyca, vice president for university advancement, justifies the choice of Palin, who commands speaking fees as high as \$100,000.

Gajic-Bruyca said the high-profile — and controversial — public figure would attract significant interest and boost attendance at the black-tie gala, whose tickets cost \$500 each. She stressed that private donations would fund the event hosted by the nonprofit CSU Stanislaus Foundation.

"Not a cent of state funds will be used for this event," she wrote.

Yee said Gajic-Bruyca's e-mail is the sort of document that should have been provided in response to his public records request. He has asked the state attorney general to investigate the matter.

"What other documents and correspondence are they hiding?" Yee said.

Evan Westrup, an attorney general's office spokesman, said the office had received Yee's request and would review it.

University spokeswoman Eve Hightower said that the fundraiser is a foundation event and that all public records requests are being referred to foundation board president Matt Swanson. She did not respond to Yee's accusations related to Gajic-Bruyca's e-mail.

The Associated Press and other organization have sought details of the compensation package provided to Palin in exchange for her appearance. The foundation has said its contract with Palin prevents it from revealing that information, and on Wednesday it rejected the AP's public records request, citing the non-disclosure clause.

KANSAS

School targets binge drinking

By Jesse Fray
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas University officials are sending 34 students on a whirlwind tour of colleges across the country, as the university turns to students for help in its fight against high-risk drinking.

The journalism students will be developing a campaign to establish a culture of responsible drinking at KU. They hope to complete the project in 90 days.

"We're delighted to be working on something that's going to so directly benefit KU," said Bob Basow, who teaches the campaigns class involved in the project. "A culture of responsible drinking will enable students to have a good time and enjoy the vibrant social atmosphere (but) there won't be negative consequences."

KU officials contacted Basow about having his students take on the project after two KU students died in drinking-related incidents last year.

On March 8, 2009, 19-year-old Jason Wren was found dead inside his Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house after a night of binge drinking, according to authorities.

Dalton Hawkins, 18, was found dead on April 24 after falling off the roof of a scholarship hall on campus. He, too, had been drinking, authorities said.

"KU is to be enjoyed and

enjoyed responsibly, so we're looking forward to doing something that will make that happen," Basow said of the campaign project his students are involved in.

The students left last week to check out the scene at University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where the community has embraced its fight against dangerous drinking.

A Lawrence Journal-World/6News series this month highlighted Lincoln's

A large, visible, police presence in the city's bar district discourages bar owners and students from breaking the law.

Landlords are fining tenants caught having wild, out-of-control parties.

KU leaders said many of these solutions could also be applied to Lawrence, if the community embraced and fought the problem together.

"We have good working relationships with all these entities here in Lawrence and I think it's just a matter of getting together in a more systematic way," said Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost in the office of the vice provost for student success at KU. "We really want to see a more integrated community effort."

Tuttle said it's important to get students behind the effort and to get across the right message, which is why the office contacted Basow's students for help. Officials at UNL said they found great success in utilizing several classes to help them with research and marketing efforts.

The KU students will also be traveling to Colorado State University, the University of Missouri and the University of Virginia, all of which boast successful approaches to curbing high-risk drinking.

Their trips and project are being sponsored by Anheuser-Busch and Lawrence-based O'Malley Beverage of Kansas Inc.

"A culture of responsible drinking will enable students to have a good time and enjoy the vibrant social atmosphere (but) there won't be negative consequences."

Bob Basow
Kansas University professor

successful approach to the problem, in which city police, landlords, bar owners and university leaders spent the last decade working together to create an environment of stiff consequences involving high-risk drinking:

Students can be expelled for drinking on-campus or in fraternity and sorority houses.

Bar owners can receive a citation if they serve someone who is underage or already intoxicated.

BASEBALL

continued from page 8

well as their inability to prevent them.

When asked what is causing the drop in the teams play, sophomore Taylor Featherston said it was a tough question and he was unsure of the answer.

That phrase just about sums up the sentiment of the entire team.

Schlossnagle didn't attribute the recent disappointing play to any one aspect of the game that the team could improve but said that the best thing the team could do now is "to try and show that we can go out and win three games in

a weekend."

This is a long season, not even halfway done, and the Horned Frogs are still nationally ranked, but as the season goes on, they are going to have to put together some quality wins to get to Omaha. They look to improve their case for Omaha at the University of Houston this weekend.

NEBRASKA

Afghan studies center under fire

By Kate Linticum
Los Angeles Times via MCT

OMAHA, Neb. — On the dusty plains of Afghanistan, a surprising number of people are said to know the word "Nebraska."

It began as a fluke in the early 1970s, when administrators at the University of Nebraska at Omaha launched the Center for Afghanistan Studies. They wanted to distinguish the school as an international institution, and no other university was studying the then-peaceful nation half a world away.

As Afghanistan became a central battleground in the Cold War and then in the war against terrorism, the center — and its gregarious, well-connected director, Thomas Gouttierre — were fortuitously poised.

Equal parts research institute, development agency and consulting firm, the center has collected tens of millions of dollars from the U.S. military, the State Department and private contractors for its programs at home and in Afghanistan.

Like much of America's involvement in that nation, it has not been without controversy.

The center has come under fire from some academics who say it has not generated the kind of scholarly research needed to help solve Afghanistan's problems. It has also been criticized by women's rights groups for its dealings with the Taliban.

Most frequently it has been targeted by peace activists, who say the center's past and current collabora-

tions with U.S. war efforts in Afghanistan are unethical.

"I don't think the University of Nebraska has any business teaching kids anywhere in the world how to be killers," said Paul Olson, president of Nebraskans for Peace, an activist group that has been calling on the university to close the center for the last decade.

As evidence, Olson points to the center's \$60 million contract with the U.S. government in the 1980s to educate Afghan

"I don't think the University of Nebraska has any business teaching kids anywhere in the world how to be killers."

Paul Olson
President of Nebraskans for Peace

refugees who were living in Pakistan during the Soviet occupation.

It printed millions of textbooks that featured material developed by the mujahedeen resistance groups — including images of machine guns and calls for jihad against the Soviets.

Gouttierre says criticisms of the center are "revisionist" and fail to acknowledge the challenges of working in a society that has been at war for three decades. The center's aim, he says, has been to build cultural understanding and empower the Afghan people.

"Our interest is humanitarian," he said. "They are

victims who lost years of their lives on Earth."

In 2002, the State Department gave the center a \$6.5 million contract to print 15 million textbooks. Images of AK-47s were absent in these books, but they included phrases from the Quran, prompting criticism that U.S. funds were inappropriately being used to print religious material. The following year, the government did not renew the book contract.

The university has defended the center. Terry Hynes, senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, called it "a superb asset" to the school.

These days, the center leads a Department of Defense-funded literacy training program for the Afghan army. It also hosts a program for social scientists who are being trained to accompany U.S. military teams in Afghanistan to help facilitate cultural understanding. Eighteen such groups, known as "human terrain teams," have come to Omaha over two years before shipping overseas.

Gouttierre stood before a cramped class of trainees one morning this winter. In a lecture that lasted several hours, he talked about the history of Afghanistan and about U.S. involvement there since Sept. 11.

"We under-sourced the military and we outsourced redevelopment," Gouttierre said, his voice rising. What Afghanistan needs, he said, is rebuilding. And the stakes could not be higher.

"If we succeed, it's going to be seen as an American success," Gouttierre said. "And if we fail, it's going to be an American failure."

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 - The Associated Press

Joke of the Day
 Q. Why did the king go to the dentist?
 A. To get his teeth crowned.

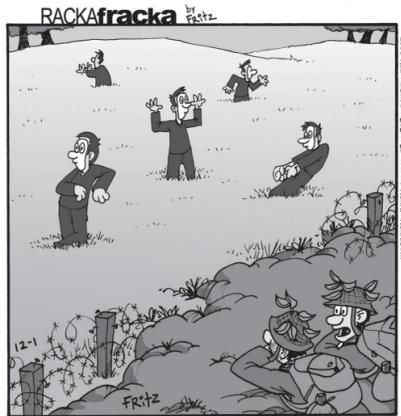
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- ACROSS**
- Must
 - "Iron Chef America" chef
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 - Trails
 - Dickens's mysterious Mr. Drood
 - Fidel's successor
 - "Named Sue"
 - Israeli ambassador
 - Moshe
 - Like some profs.
 - Web links
 - Uneasy about a farm team member?
 - Michael Phelps sponsor
 - "Dies" =
 - Humble
 - Play footsie, say
 - It may be up
 - Plus
 - Shoe part for Astaire
 - Uneasy about a long shot?
 - Maps
 - Fair-hiring abbr.
 - Hi or lo follower
 - "Flowers for Algernon" author
 - Daniel
 - "Analyze That" star
 - Top-shelf
 - Where Caligula reputedly tried to seat his 67-
 - Across
 - Uneasy about an aquarium fish?
 - Winery prefix
 - Casual top
 - Stock phrase
 - Exploit
 - Etonic competitor
 - Peachy
 - Wood shaper
 - Appear
 - drastically
 - Word to add to 20-, 37- and 54-
 - Across to make sense of the answers

- DOWN**
- Call before the game
 - in the bucket
 - Stockholm native
 - Colored a bit
 - Like some daring football kicks
 - Steep
 - Brewery feature
 - Act like fools?
 - Let out, say
 - Honored with a crown of foliage
 - Start of a spell
 - Go for a Masters? agency
 - CBS part: Abbr.
 - Roaming types
 - Green Goblin
 - Spider-Man films
 - Rock producer
 - Brian
 - Newspaper revenue component
 - "Tass: news
 - Red inside
 - 190 in Mass. et al.
 - Magic harp thief

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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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 sudoku and crossword solutions.

Wednesday's Solution

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

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SPORTS



The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex says goodbye to Texas Stadium this weekend. Tomorrow

SOCCER

A celebrity on the soccer field

By Alexis Mladenoff
Staff Writer

You may have seen her on the Horned Frog soccer posters all year, but having her face plastered all over campus isn't what made Kelly Faerber feel like a celebrity.

As the senior player reflected on her career with the TCU soccer team, she said one of her favorite things was something that happened after the games were over.

"After the games, we'd always have all these kids run down to the field with soccer posters and have all the players autograph them," Faerber said. "I remember the first time I was asked to sign these posters. I was like, 'Wow, I don't really believe I'm that much of a celebrity!'"

Faerber said she loved that memory more than any other because the feeling of kids looking up to her and the rest of the team was so special.

She said she knew she belonged at TCU before she was even enrolled. On a visit to campus during high school she realized this was the place for her.

"Some things you just kind of know, and I felt that when I came here," Faerber said. "I knew I was going to be up for the challenge of trying to come here and play soccer, but I thought if it doesn't work out I'm still at a great school where I can continue my education."

Faerber's soccer career

at TCU started strong. She saw action in all 18 games and started in 15 at midfield. After contributing a lot to her team in the 2006 season, she expected to do the same during her sophomore year, but an injury put a halt on that.

Head coach Dan Abdalla said Faerber's dedication to the team didn't waver even when she had to stay on the bench.

"She was one of the players that it didn't matter if she was on the game field or at practice, she was always one that was making us all better by what she was doing," Abdalla said. "She always put the team before herself."

Coming back from her injury, Faerber didn't see as much game time during her next two years on the team. But now that her TCU soccer career has ended she said she misses being with her teammates the most.

"I miss the girls so much," Faerber said. "They're like your backbone and your best group of friends. And getting to see them every day is definitely something that I miss."

As she reflected on that injury, she said she learned more about life lessons rather than just getting back to her full strength.

"I wish I would have realized I could have worked harder to get back into a starter position, but more than that I wish I would have realized I should live in the moment because there will come a day when



MICHAEL CLEMENTS / Athletic Media Relations
TCU soccer player Kelly Faerber playing against UTSA at Garvey-Rosenthal Soccer Stadium in August 2009.

I won't be able to play at all," she said.

Abdalla said Faerber was always a leader. He said she was unselfish in her roles on the team and that made her a valuable player.

"She's one that if you could take her heart and passion that she has and put it in every single player, you'd be in great shape,"

Abdalla said. "She's the kind of person that a coach just absolutely loves."

Even though her soccer days as a Horned Frog are over, Faerber continues to play in a co-ed adult league. She said that while the competition isn't as dominant on the co-ed team, being able to get outside and play has kept her happy.

BASEBALL



CHANCE WELCH / Multimedia Editor
Redshirt senior Paul Garrish follows through after a pitch Tuesday night against Oklahoma. The Frogs lost 2-4.

Baseball heads to Houston for series

By Parker Fleming
Staff Writer

After ending their five-game homestand with a 2-4 loss against the No. 12 Oklahoma Sooners, the TCU Horned Frogs travel to Houston this weekend for a three-game series with the Cougars (13-14 on the season). After a hot start to the season, the Frogs (20-7, 5-2 in Mountain West Conference play) have cooled down quite a bit.

Ranked as high as No. 4 in some polls, TCU has fallen now to No. 11 in the national rankings.

The Frogs boast a 6-5 record since March 19, and their offense has stalled in their recent games. The Horned Frogs' road to Omaha for the College World Series has become that much more difficult, thanks to the loss to Oklahoma, and some key losses to Air Force, San Diego State and Dallas Baptist.

Head coach Jim Schlossnagle said "there is no one game that makes or breaks the sea-

TCU vs. Houston

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son," but losses start to add up, and the competition for the Top Eight spots is tougher every week.

Schlossnagle pointed out that in four consecutive home games, the Horned Frogs have had to play from behind, giving up runs in the top of the first.

He also noted that the team has not been itself in the past few weeks. Errors, failure to get the third out to prevent runs, and runners left on base have defined the Horned Frogs' play as of late. Schlossnagle pointed to "two-out runs" and the Horned Frogs' failure to generate them, as

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OPINION

Messi style resembles Maradona



MARSHALL DOIG

After watching Barcelona's Lionel Messi single-handedly (footedly?) destroy my beloved Arsenal's chances of advancing in the UEFA Champions League by scoring four goals Tuesday night, comparisons to the greatest Argentinean player, Diego Maradona, began running through my head.

There have probably been plenty of debates already about who is better, so I figured I would throw my hat in the ring and compare Messi and Maradona.

Lionel Messi is a 22-year-old phenom, currently the FIFA World Player of the Year (2009), and a member of one of the most successful Barcelona (and national) teams in history.

He has won every possible Spanish club trophy, as well as the UEFA Champions League, Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup with Barcelona, and he did it all last season. He was also Barcelona's leading scorer that season.

In 2008 he won a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics for Argentina, and he's received countless individual honors since the 2005 season, both internationally and at the club level.

Messi is the youngest player to ever start a game and score a goal in Spain's top soccer league, La Liga, the youngest Argentinean to ever play in a World Cup match and the youngest top scorer ever in

the Champions League.

Messi has won practically every competition except for the World Cup a one of the only things that still separates him from reaching the level of Maradona.

Let's pause for a moment to examine a few similarities between the two:

Both began professional careers by the time they reached age 16 and debuted for the Argentinean national team before they were 18.

Both played for Argentinean club Newell's Old Boys and Spanish giants Barcelona. Maradona himself named Messi his true successor in 2006.

Now, on to Maradona.

Diego Maradona is not only considered by some to be the greatest Argentinean player ever, but the best player ever. Period.

He shared the FIFA Player of the Century award with Pelé and his popularity endures so much today that there's even a Church of Maradona, complete with its own set of Ten Commandments.

Although Maradona did not have as much club success as Messi has had so far, his legend mostly stems from one game against England in the 1986 World Cup. Maradona's famous "Hand of God" incident occurred during this match and gave Argentina the lead and his greatest soccer accomplishment, from the same game, is perhaps overshadowed by this feat.

After his "Hand of God" goal put Argentina up 1-0, Maradona received a pass near the halfway line in his own half of the field. He proceeded to take the ball down the field, beating four England



AP PHOTO / Manu Fernandez
FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi duels for the ball during a Champions League quarterfinal soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain on Tuesday.

players before sidestepping the goalkeeper and scoring.

It took Maradona about 65 yards in 11 seconds to score the one of the greatest goals ever and Argentina went on to win the World Cup that year.

The most interesting fact of all? Messi scored a carbon copy of that goal in a game for Barcelona. If Maradona was dead, I might just start believing in reincarnation.

Maradona is still the unquestioned greatest Argentinean player ever, but Messi's career has barely started. One thing that Messi must have, however, to even have a chance at surpassing Maradona is a World Cup title. He may have his chance this summer.

Check back in 10 years. There might be a new Maradona by then.

Marshall Doig is a sophomore news editorial journalism major from San Angelo.



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