

Will Tiger Woods win this weekend's Masters? Sports, page 8



Student Representatives continue to work toward changing the no-alcohol tailgating policy. Tuesday in News



The online nursing program adds two new majors. Tuesday in News

EDUCATION

Local school district hires fewer teachers

By Katie Ruppel
Staff Reporter

Applications for teaching positions in the Fort Worth Independent School District may be up, but available positions have decreased markedly, a FWISD official said.

Terry Buckner, the director of recruiting for FWISD, said the school district is predicting to hire only 450 new teachers this year compared to 900 last year because of two economic reasons: Many federal education programs are being

eliminated, meaning many unemployed educators are being hired as teachers, and fewer teachers are retiring.

While the vacancies are lessening, the same cannot be said for the applications: Buckner said she received about 5,000 applicants already for the next school year. She said both people who have been laid off and former stay-at-home moms are turning to teaching to make money. Dale Young, the director of student teaching and career services for the College of Education, said this year and last he has had a more difficult time placing his stu-

dents in schools because the uncertain economic state is pushing people to teach past the normal retirement age.

"Because of the economy last year, many people who were going to retire did not," Young said. "They kept their jobs, and it looks like it's happening again this year."

Cecilia Silva, interim associate dean of undergraduate studies, said money is a factor causing many teachers to stick around past their planned retirement age.

"The teachers that generally would

have retired are hanging on for a little bit longer, because if you look at our savings for retirement, they are not looking as nice as one would hope," Silva said. "So we might want to be reconsidering the notion that jobs are always there for teachers."

Young said that in order to keep up with the stiff competition for a smaller number of job openings, students are encouraged to study English as a Second Language or Special Education in addi-

SEE EDUCATION · PAGE 2

HARDCOVER FICTION
BEST SELLERS

- 1 True Detectives
by Jonathan Kellerman
 - 2 Handle with Care
by Jodi Picoult
 - 3 Outcast
by Aaron Allston
 - 4 The Associate
by John Grisham
 - 5 The Host
by Stephenie Meyer
 - 6 Corsair
by Clive Cussler and Jack Du Brul
 - 7 Run for Your Life
by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge
 - 8 Pursuit
by Karen Robards
 - 9 The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
 - 10 Execution Dock
by Anne Perry
- The New York Times



Newspapers need to make changes in order to survive. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

BERLIN — A cat named Felix was found alive and well beneath the rubble of a six-story building in Cologne that collapsed five weeks ago, the fire brigade in the German city said. The 12-year-old cat was in surprisingly good health, authorities said.

— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

83 52
HIGH LOW
Slight Chance of Thunderstorms
Tomorrow: Sunny
73 / 51
Saturday: Slight Chance of Thunderstorms
72 / 57



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

FESTIVE FUN



MADDY FOX / Staff Reporter

Freshman international communications major Ginny Gould, left, and freshman biology major Tab Berger, right, race to see who can shave his or her balloons the fastest as part of the Foster and Waits Hall Easter celebration Wednesday afternoon.

BRITE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Episcopal ministry to be a first for North Texas

By Elise Smith
Staff Reporter

The Brite Divinity School this fall will become the only North Texas school to offer a program that will allow students of the Episcopal Church to prepare for ministry, the president of Brite said.

Newell Williams, president of Brite Divinity School, said the program will be beneficial for people in the area who want to prepare for ministry in the Episcopal Church, but for whatever reason cannot go to seminary in Austin or out of state.

"It's something that we have wanted for a long time and local Episcopal leaders asked if this might be the right time for a program like this and we said, 'yes,'" Williams said.

The Diocese of Fort Worth split from the Episcopal Church late last year, becoming the fourth diocese to do so, according to news reports.

The Rev. Frederick Schmidt, director of spiritual formation and Anglican studies at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, said the controversy in the Episcopal Church about the split revolved around issues of the ordination of women, an openly gay bishop and interpretation of scripture.

"The issue of the ordination of women and the ordination of gay clergy is not at all necessarily the same question, but people on both sides of the issue for different reasons have tended to associate the two," Schmidt said.

He said there is now a new Diocese of Fort Worth that has taken a stand against the ordination of women, even though the ordination of women was approved by the national Episcopal Church. He said that since the late 1970s, the Diocese of Fort Worth had lived in some tension with the larger Episcopal Church.

The effect of the split on the program is unclear because the Rev. Fred Barber, acting director of the Episcopal Studies Program at Brite, could not be reached for comment in time for publication because of scheduling conflicts.

SEE EPISCOPAL · PAGE 2

KINDERFROGS

Alumnus donates \$25,000 for learning tools

By Curtis Burrhus-Clay
Staff Reporter

Little Horned Frogs at one of the university's laboratory schools will experience a more enhanced learning environment thanks to a generous donation from an alumnus' foundation, the school's director said.

Marilyn Tolbert, director of Laboratory Schools, said a \$25,000 grant from the Henry House Foundation will fund new therapeutic equipment for students at KinderFrogs, a laboratory school in the College of Education that works with children with Down syndrome and other developmental delays.

Tolbert said the contribution from the Henry House will cover the cost of some equipment that has been on a "wish list"

"Children with Down syndrome have many developmental delays and the supplies that they're providing will greatly enhance (the children's) ability to accomplish their goals."

Marilyn Tolbert
director of Laboratory Schools

of KinderFrogs' teachers and staff for quite some time. Equipment that helps develop motor skills, mobility, and speech are a few of the items coming in that will help the staff and the children, such as

kits that will help staff train their students in speech, Tolbert said.

"We are thrilled and honored that the Henry House Foundation has dedicated \$25,000 for equipment for the children," Tolbert said. "Children with Down syndrome have many developmental delays and the supplies that they're providing will greatly enhance (the children's) ability to accomplish their goals."

The Henry House Foundation was founded by J.J. Henry, an alumnus and PGA Tour professional, in 2006 to help support programs that focus on the health care and well-being of children.

Henry could not be reached for comment, but Laura Anderson, marketing director for his foundation, said selecting KinderFrogs as the program to support was an obvious decision for Henry and

the rest of his board members.

"When we became more familiar with what the KinderFrogs school is and what they do, it just seemed like the absolute perfect fit," Anderson said.

Anderson said the foundation is always looking for projects that need financial help and the fact that there was one on campus made it even more appealing to Henry.

"We liked the idea that it's a school that benefits the medical well-being of the children," Anderson said. "And the fact that it's TCU was icing on the cake, because TCU does mean so much to JJ."

Tolbert said the equipment should come in within the next two weeks.

"The kids don't know (about the equipment) yet," Tolbert said. "We'll show them when it arrives, and they'll be real excited."

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Ethics enforcer appointed

By Marisa Taylor
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Eric Holder picked a longtime prosecutor Wednesday to oversee internal ethics investigations as part of a larger reshuffling of the Justice Department staff.

The announcement that Washington prosecutor Mary Patrice Brown will serve as acting head of the Office of Professional Responsibility came the day after a federal judge set aside a jury's guilty verdict and the indictment against former Sen. Ted Stevens. The judge announced that he was naming a special prosecutor to investigate whether Justice Department attorneys had broken the law by failing to ensure that the Alaska Republican got a fair trial.

Holder, who worked alongside Brown in the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, said Brown had the "highest integrity" and would be a good fit for the sensi-

tive post.

"I trust her sense of fairness and judgment implicitly,"

Brown will become the third person to head the office, which was created in 1975. She'll succeed H. Marshall Jarrett, a former career prosecutor who headed the office for more than 10 years. As part of Holder's reorganization, Jarrett was named to oversee the 93 U.S. attorneys — another key position in the department. Kenneth Melson, who now holds that post — the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys — has been named the acting chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

OPR oversees mostly secret investigations of the conduct of Justice Department lawyers with some of the most serious allegations being referred by federal judges or other attorneys.

Under Jarrett, the office jointly investigated former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' firing of nine U.S. attorneys with the Jus-

Department's watchdog, the Inspector General. Jarrett and Inspector General Glenn Fine found that partisan politics played a role in several of the ousters. Separately, the pair also concluded that top aides to Gonzales violated federal laws and Justice Department policies by selecting employees based on their conservative and Republican leanings.

OPR also has reportedly concluded an inquiry into the conduct of former Justice Department lawyers who helped craft the Bush administration's controversial and widely repudiated justification for interrogation practices of overseas terrorism suspects.

However, the investigation has been kept secret and became the subject of criticism by Democratic senators because Holder's predecessor, Michael Mukasey, delayed the completion of the report. In a break with tradition, the subjects of the investigation also were permitted to read a draft of the results and comment on it.

EDUCATION

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tion to their content area because there are fewer teachers qualified in those areas.

Jeremy McKeever, a junior French major and a Japanese and education minor, said he is not worried about finding work because there are a lot of jobs for foreign language.

Drew Dutton, a junior secondary school education major, said he plans to get a master's in social work and have that as an addition and/or backup to his teaching degree.

While these students are prepared for their particular job markets, Young said in the last year he

has received more and more calls from people in business who are worried about their jobs and are wondering if they can come back and be a teacher.

For TCU graduates, that answer is yes: The post-baccalaureate certification is only offered to those who graduated from the university.

Students who majored in the areas of business education, history, mathematics, speech communications, computer science, journalism, Spanish, French, German or dance can receive a teacher certification by completing 25 hours of coursework after being admitted into the program.

Silva said the program is offered only to graduates of the

university so that the College of Education faculty and staff can feel confident supporting the certification.

"As a TCU graduate, we know what background you bring into the program and we know what kind of expectations the university has had of you," Silva said. "For us, telling the state that so-and-so is ready for a teaching certification is a commitment. It is a commitment to kids and to a profession."

For more information about receiving a teacher certification, visit http://www.coe.tcu.edu/cert_post_grad.asp or contact Diana Woolsey, the director of teacher certification, at (817) 257-7202.

ALUMNI

Rapper uses 'sincere' style

By Courtney Jay
Staff Reporter

"I wanna give gold and chariots to the proletariat."

Andrew McCollough, a 2005 graduate, said this phrase sticks out in his memories of the university. McCollough said he found inspiration for some of his lyrics during class lectures, such as the history of western civilization. He said this eventually lead him to a career in music where he became rapper Dru B Shinin'.

McCollough said he also credits the university's atmosphere of open-mindedness for evolving his craft. The first place he ever performed was at the university's Battle of the Bands in 2000, he said.

McCollough said people used to tell him that he "be spittin'" raps, but instead of "spittin'", he said he wanted to "be shinin'." He said he shortened Andrew to Dru, which all culminated in his rap name.

McCollough said he worked for a stock-trading company right out of college, but said he soon found his nostalgia for rap was interfering with his job.

"I missed rapping, I missed performing and creating, and somebody would say a word and I'd automatically focus on rhyming the word," McCollough said.

He said he first tried to get his shot at the music industry in Fort Worth, but when he was left with few connections in the area, he said he moved back to Topeka, Kan. But McCollough said it soon became difficult to find gigs in Topeka, where bar owners feared a hip-hop performance would lead to violence.

McCollough said he wants his raps to be heard because of all the



Rapper and alumnus Dru B Shinin' credits his time at the university as inspiration for some of his lyrics, which tend to focus on everyday life situations.

work he's put into his craft. He said he believes that people will respond to his music, so he wants to be able to reach those people.

Ike Williams, McCollough's manager, believes McCollough's sincerity separates him from other rappers.

"It's much more sincere than most rap that I've ever heard," Williams said. "And maybe it's because I know him, but I can hear the truth in it and to me, that just kind of heightens it a little bit."

McCollough said being from the Midwest, he grew up idolizing other rappers from his region like Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, a Grammy Award-winning group from Cleveland.

"We wanted to be like them, dress like them, walk down the streets pretending to be like rappers," McCollough said.

But McCollough said instead of

Rap Show

Who: Dru B Shinin' and Big Choc
When: 10 p.m. Saturday
Where: The Aardvark.

focusing on typical rap clichés like drugs and guns, he tries to incorporate everyday life into his rap. He said he uses the knowledge and international outlook he gained from the university in his music while still focusing on subjects relevant to the streets.

Williams said McCollough's music has a completely different sound from other rap.

"I think it's a real welcoming sound, which is probably not that often heard," Williams said. "Even hip hop that people like a lot of times has a bravado about it that people can't really associate with in their real life."

EPISCOPAL

continued from page 1

Williams said Barber, a priest at Trinity Episcopal Church, has been involved in Brite Divinity School's field education for students for years.

In the Episcopal Church, everything that concerns educational decisions is up to the judgment of the bishop, so officials at Brite talked with the Rt. Rev. Edwin Gulick Jr., provisional bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, to ask for his opinion, Williams said.

It made sense to hire Barber as acting director of the program because he was already part of the faculty with the approval from Gulick, Williams said.

The reason the title is "acting" director of the program is because Gulick is a provisional bishop and there will be a new bishop in a year or two who might want someone else to direct the program, though Gulick will likely remain, Williams said.

Dean of Brite Nancy Ramsay, Barber and Gulick will probably work over the summer to develop courses and identify who will teach

them, Williams said.

Barber has been a theological discussion group leader for students at Brite and meets regularly with students on campus who serve in the church and discuss their experiences in ministry, Williams said.

Cathy Neece, vice president of development at Brite, said the next step after launching this program is the formation of an advisory board. She said plans are in place to begin the development of the board and there may be an announcement within the next six months to start looking for potential members of the board.

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

High-profile people should guard words

It seems that hyperbole has become more than just a rhetorical tool lately. In the last week alone, no fewer than three instances of exaggeration from high-profile speakers have wavered near the line that divides creative expression from doltish blathering.

On April 2, Bill Keller, executive editor of The New York Times, told an audience at Stanford University that saving his paper during the struggling industry's most perilous times "now ranks with saving Darfur as a high-minded cause."

Turning to the sports world, Texas Rangers relief pitcher Eddie Guardado was quoted in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Saturday as saying that he "wouldn't be afraid to go to war with" his fellow bullpen compatriots, explaining that the camaraderie and experience among the group had improved from the previous season.

Just a day later, University of North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams tried to focus on his team's efforts in the national championship game instead of suggestions that a Michigan State University win could help revitalize spirits in the afflicted Detroit-area economy. To emphasize his point he said, "If you would tell me that if Michigan State wins, it's going to satisfy the nation's economy, then I'd say, 'Hell, let's stay poor for a little while longer.'"

Surely none of these men believes that saving a company or winning games is more important than saving whole economies or lives, but language such as theirs reflects a worldly aloofness among people stuck in the bubbles their jobs create, a special irony for Keller, whose role should require him to keep a watchful eye on the most important events of the day.

Offhanded remarks don't mean much at the end of the day, but one would like to believe that if people were more aware of the implications of their words, the world's problems wouldn't be as big in the first place.

Editor-in-chief Max Landman for the editorial board.

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

Cheaters give taxpayers little incentive for April 15



SHANE RAINEY

It is the most wonderful time of the year. I am not speaking of Christmas, but rather of the national holiday that Americans hold very dear to their hearts: tax day.

Indeed, the carnage that is April 15 and the frenzied weeks leading up to it are a bittersweet time. Some rejoice in getting small amounts of their hard-earned dollars back while others, myself included, deal with further federal wallet draining.

However, several external factors are making it more difficult than usual to pay up this year.

The first can be summed up in two words: Timothy Geithner. As head of the Treasury Department, and therefore indirectly over the Internal Revenue Service as well, one would think that he of all people would have his taxes in line. He doesn't. He didn't pay his Social Security taxes in 2003 or 2004.

If the secretary of the treasury does not have to pay his taxes, then why should I?

And besides, by not paying up this year I might be increasing my odds of being selected to President Barack Obama's administration. I'm holding out for sec-

retary of health and human services, since tax problems seem to be a requirement for that position, as nominee Kathleen Sebelius recently paid almost \$8,000 in back taxes and interest from 2005 to 2007, according to the Washington Post.

Secondly, I am a college student who doesn't make much money, and the majority of what I do earn goes toward paying for my education.

Government officials have already spent a staggering, heart attack-inducing sum of money, and my tax dollars would not even buy them a Slurpee. In all likelihood my money will be used to help fund a program that I disagree with, like socialized medicine. Plus, I will have that much less money to help fund my education.

But this is not even about money. It's about something much bigger. We can whine and cry all we want about the tax code and having to cough up more of our money, but I know I will pay everything I owe on time and without remorse because it is the right and moral thing to do. That makes it all worth it because you can't put a price on morality and a clean conscience.

But I would like to negotiate. If anyone in Washington is reading this article, here is my proposal: If you let me keep my tax money I will go buy an Xbox, which will stimulate the economy far more than anything the administration has done up to this point.

Shane Rainey is a sophomore chemistry major from Fort Worth.



Robert Slack is a sophomore theatre major from El Paso.

Newspapers deserve to be saved



LIBBY DAVIS

Newspapers are dying.

Thanks, I've got it. Personally, I'm sick of people telling me newspaper industry is dying and then wondering why I get annoyed. How would you like it if I said your job was irrelevant?

But just as television killed the radio, the Internet is killing newspapers and those in the industry aren't doing a thing to stop it.

So here is my modest proposal.

I can't fix the money problems newspapers are facing. We are bleeding out the side from lost advertising revenue as classified ads and full-page ads move to the Internet where they earn three cents a click.

But to someone who, as a child, looked forward to scooping the paper off

the lawn every morning, I can divulge another value of the newspaper.

In photo albums all over our house, my mother has stored newspapers from important events in history. Beginning with the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the collection of newspapers contains the famous front pages featuring former President George H. W. Bush's election (1988 — the year of my birth), Sept. 11 and most recently, President Barack Obama's election.

While these don't include every important event, these are the ones that spoke to her. When I look at the Kennedy paper, it's like a snapshot out of history. I can imagine the horror and shock people felt when they read the details.

And most of all, that newspaper possesses a majesty that Internet reporting can't hope to duplicate.

There is a standard for writing, correct spelling and an obligation to conveying the news. Internet reporting and blogging, though pervasive, stuffs stories with self-importance rather than the true purpose of the newspaper — reporting objective news.

I'll leave my full rant against egotisti-

cal bloggers for another day, but I will say that newspapers do what broadcast news and Internet reporters cannot do.

I can't imagine a world without newspapers, but I think newspapers need to change in order to stick around.

First, they need to have paid subscriptions online. While I have expressed my dislike for Internet reporters, these online newspapers would be run by proper journalists with real degrees.

Secondly, the newspaper needs to surrender its desire to be a timely news source and focus on developing stories for those who actually have the attention span to read them. Few reporters on the Internet bother following up on stories because no one skimming headlines online cares enough to follow a story in-depth.

I don't think the newspaper is dying. But it will if something doesn't change.

Until then, I will faithfully read the newspaper every day and enjoy the professional journalism.

Libby Davis is a sophomore news-editorial journalism and history major from Coppell.

LGBT living areas do more harm than good



COLLIN DUWE

The university's gay and lesbian community has recently found itself at the center of attention, and in my opinion, has been inaccurately represented.

The Skiff, along with local news outlets, both print and TV, have featured stories on the Iris Reaction initiative and the new DiversCity Q community. While I see some good

coming from both projects, I see more harm than good in the long run.

I believe that the longer that the LGBT community portrays themselves as victims, then the longer the world will see us as such.

Why are certain LGBT students calling for segregation and pigeonholing themselves? This segregation is reinforcing the separation that they are supposedly trying to combat by raising awareness.

According to Shelly Newkirk, who founded the initiative, Iris Reaction calls for an "ultimate goal of establishing a resource center and a full-time administrative position dedicated to maintaining a welcoming environment for the LGBT community." What other "group" on campus has a resource

center? What makes the LGBT community so special? The request for a special resource center is outlandish especially when a resource center for any students in need already exists in the Office of Inclusiveness & Intercultural Services.

As an out gay student, I have never felt unsafe, discriminated against, or unwelcome at the university. I have spoken with other students and I have yet to find a case of prejudice or hate. The university is a great environment. I have asked Newkirk personally and I am still wondering how the university doesn't support all of its students, including those who are gay and lesbian.

Collin Duwe is a sophomore theater major from Krum.

Campus Voices

How should TCU allocate the money it got from selling its jet?



I would say improve the food in the BLUU. The service is great but the quality of the food needs work.

Monika Sadarangani
freshman business major from Dallas



Use it to get better computers. There are few Macs and they seem to work the best. They could also donate it to a charity in the area.

Corey Bennett
freshman computer science major from Fort Worth



Toward a parking garage or some extension of parking.

Blake Pierce
junior supply chain management major from Dallas



What else do we need? I guess a parking garage would be beneficial for TCU. Yeah, a parking garage sounds great.

Taylor Wright
junior radio-TV-film major from Fort Worth



It should go toward funding for programs on campus. The art program is in desperate need of money and students can't always afford their gear. It is the most expensive major on campus.

Megan McBurnett
junior studio art major from Dallas

NEWS

ECONOMY

Stimulus tax breaks threaten state revenues

By Stephen C. Fehr
Stalene.org

WASHINGTON — Cash-strapped state treasuries could lose tens of millions of dollars in income and corporate tax revenue if states copy the tax breaks in the federal economic stimulus package, officials say.

Most states tie their tax code to the federal government's to make it easier for individuals and businesses to fill out their tax forms. The \$787 billion stimulus package that Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed contains about 10 new tax cuts that state officials will have to decide whether to follow.

Among these are a new tax deduction for buying a new car; an increase in the earned income tax credit, which gives workers a tax break depending on the size of their families; an increase in the first-time home buyer's refundable tax credit; and several provisions benefiting small businesses.

State officials, who have been preoccupied with paring budgets and figuring out the massive stimulus legislation, are just beginning to estimate the losses to state treasuries from coupling, or matching, their tax code to Washington's. No group has toted up a national total, but officials say it is safe to project the losses in the tens of millions of dollars.

"States need every penny they can corral from their current revenue inflows to bolster their budgets," said Sujit CanagaRetna, senior fiscal analyst for the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments.

"While the stimulus package funnels billions of dollars to states for Medicaid, unemployment and other areas, decoupling from the federal tax code will inject additional revenues into state coffers at a time when they are so very urgently needed," he said.

Nearly all of states face budget

gaps from the worst recession to hit state governments in 25 years.

Oregon lawmakers were first to recognize the problem. Before Congress acted on the stimulus in February, the Oregon Legislature voted to decouple, or disconnect, state taxes from the federal tax code.

Arizona officials say they could lose \$73 million in the current budget year in the reduction in state income tax withholding. Idaho officials pegged the state's revenue loss at \$14 million. In North Carolina, one early estimate said the state could lose \$760 million in revenue over the next two years. The wide gaps show the inexact nature of making such predictions.

Among tax breaks for business in the stimulus package that would affect some states is one called "bonus depreciation," which allows for accelerating the tax write-off for businesses buying computers and other equipment.

When Congress was considering an economic package in 2008, before the economy tanked, the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C., estimated that 23 states could forfeit an estimated \$1.7 billion in corporate and individual tax revenue over two years if they went along with the bonus depreciation provision in the package lawmakers were considering then. The center says the provisions in the enacted stimulus are similar, so the \$1.7 billion figure is probably still in the ballpark, but the economy is much worse now so businesses likely will hold off making big purchases.

The last time the federal government enacted bonus depreciation in 2002-2004, more than 30 states amended their state laws to prevent the loss in revenue, the center said. For most of the states affected by the new federal provisions, decoupling will require a simple majority in each legislative chamber and the governor's signature.

IRAQ

Some fear return of sectarian violence

By Matthew Schofield
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — Falah abu Hasan was explaining life in a squatter's camp when he noticed that his wife was giving him a hard stare.

"I am sorry," he apologized for abruptly concluding. "The militias, the Mahdi Army, is back. They hadn't been around in a few months, but they are back now. They are checking on the people."

And, like that, the conversation with a Westerner was over. Was it a warning, a vague threat that after declining chaos here, the thin layer of calm was cracking?

No one knows. And that's worrying. Veteran reporters shake their heads about where the Iraq story is heading. Iraqi officials fret. On the streets, in the cafes, over glasses of boiling hot sugary tea, violence is once again the topic.

The level of violence is far below what it was two or four years ago. March was the least deadly month in the six years of the war for U.S. troops.

Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin III, in charge of U.S. efforts here for the past 14 months, acknowledged a public perception that violence is up, but blamed that on a few high-profile attacks by al-Qaida "to erode the confidence of the people."

"We've been clear on this all along," he said at a news conference inside the Green Zone, the government district still wrapped in 10-foot concrete walls. "They will not succeed."

In March, more than 115 Iraqis died in five attacks in or near Baghdad. In 2006, that would have been a bad day or an average week in a relatively peaceful month. But it was enough to make people here hold their breath again.

The U.S. presence is reced-



LAITH HAMMOUDI / MCT

At least 10 people died and 65 more were injured on this street in Sadr City on Sunday, where hours earlier a parked-car bomb detonated. Before the explosion, this site was home to a bustling outdoor market.

ing. Two U.S. brigades and the last British brigade will be gone within six months. By June's end, the Americans are expected to be out of the cities, although 128,000 will be in-country for the elections late in the year.

According to the timeline announced by President Barack Obama, all but 50,000 will be redeployed out of Iraq by January 2011. Those left largely will be engaged in training, protecting U.S. assets and the like.

Already, the U.S. troops barely have a footprint in the capital. While the Iraqi military is everywhere, U.S. convoys or patrols are rare.

"What we have now is fragile," noted retired Lt. Col. John Nagl, chief author of the counterinsurgency manual used to suppress the violence of recent years. "But it should stand, so long as America does not panic and pull out recklessly. It is more likely than not that Iraq will become a normal Middle Eastern nation."

A man in Sadr City, a restive Shiite slum in Baghdad, expressed fear of young people dressing like and calling themselves the Mahdi Army. Some think they are recently released from American prisons

and are more likely simply criminals. Others think it's a statement: Al-Sadr's militia, which has challenged the government and U.S. forces more than once, still exists and must be considered.

The day before on the man's street, a small group of them had raced by him with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, fired at Iraqi security forces in a brief gun battle, then vanished into a maze of buildings and shacks.

"Many bad things are coming," said Haitham Mizban, editor of the Al Wafaa Lil Iraq (Loyal to Iraq) newspaper. "I'm not normally a pessimist. But it feels as if the sectarian strife is starting again."

He referred to the military cordon put last week around the downtown neighborhood of Fadil after the arrest of a leader in the Sons of Iraq and the kidnapping of Iraqi soldiers led to gun battles with security forces.

"The Sons of Iraq were killers," he said. "How are we supposed to trust killers?"

The Sons of Iraq units are made up of former insurgents who agreed to work for the U.S. to fight al-Qaida or, as the joke here goes, former al-Qaida who, after joining with the

U.S., discovered that there was no more al-Qaida.

They, in turn, do not trust the Shiite-dominated government, which has never been happy about the Americans paying and arming the Sons of Iraq. Reports, sometimes verified, have circulated of them being tortured and killed by security forces.

Those payments have ceased and the alliance with U.S. forces may be unraveling. On Thursday night, a U.S. helicopter shot up a band of members spotted placing a roadside bomb north of the capital.

Tales of vigilante justice are heard — again — just as in the early days of militias.

Fadam Al-Ghurairi, a U.S. detainee held without charge for about a year, was released to his family in Haditha, northwest of Baghdad. Two days later, he was shot to death.

The police reaction? "Al-Ghurairi was accused of killing a police officer a year ago in Haditha," said Mazin Al-Jughairi, the local police chief. "He was suspected in many crimes. His killing was likely a kind of revenge, by those who had family members he had killed or hurt."

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TCU DAILY SKIFF

Pills from South Florida flood Appalachian states

By Scott Hiaasen
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — Dr. Roger Browne was once one of Kentucky's most popular pain doctors.

His office, however, was 850 miles away, in Broward County, Fla.

When federal agents raided Browne's Coral Springs clinic, Medicare Health and Rehabilitation, last year, they found medical files on nearly 500 Kentucky residents who had received painkillers from the doctor.

Browne was just one part of a vast pill-trafficking industry stretching from Broward County through rural Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and West Virginia.

Squads of traffickers dispatched from those states descend on the Fort Lauderdale area almost daily to buy oxycodone, methadone and other narcotics from doctors at local pain clinics and resell them in Appalachia, according to interviews with police and court records.

Cars from Kentucky loaded with passengers can be seen clogging the parking lots of some Broward clinics. One discount airline flying from West Virginia to Fort Lauderdale is so popular with drug dealers that police have dubbed it the "O.C. Express."

"We're inundated with it. Florida is killing us," said Sheriff Bill Lewis of Lewis County, Ky., population 14,000. "There's a carload that leaves here so often — hell, every week or so — to go to Florida."

In February, Lewis' deputies arrested four people returning to Kentucky with almost 1,000 painkillers prescribed by Florida doctors. And last Thursday, they arrested a suspected oxycodone trafficker carry-

ing the business card of a Hollywood pain doctor in his wallet.

The carloads are lured by Florida's growing number of storefront pain clinics, where doctors can dispense pills to walk-in patients from on-site pharmacies with little oversight — exploiting lax state laws and health regulations.

Broward County is now the epicenter of a prescription-drug epidemic spreading across the eastern

"Sometimes a doctor with a pen can be some of your biggest drug dealers. It's called legal until you can prove it different."

Kent Harris

Sheriff of Unicoi County, Tenn.

United States, with local doctors dispensing 6.5 million oxycodone pills in the second half of last year — far outpacing the rest of the country — according to federal data compiled by the Broward Sheriff's Office.

"Sometimes a doctor with a pen can be some of your biggest drug dealers. It's called legal until you can prove it different," said Sheriff Kent Harris of Unicoi County, Tenn. Last week, his deputies arrested three men driving back from Florida with 1,000 pills stuffed into the motor of their car.

Police in Appalachian states confiscate Florida pills almost daily, prompting the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to ask police in the region to track and log the Florida doctors whose prescriptions they find. The Miami Herald

has documented more than a dozen such cases in rural parts of Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Tennessee this year.

The Florida pill pipeline has carved a depressing path through Appalachia, already one of the poorest regions in the country. Kentucky police call painkiller abuse an epidemic — a far bigger problem than cocaine, methamphetamine or other illegal drugs — sparking burglaries and robberies, and ruining lives.

"We have families breaking up, and people dying and people losing their jobs," said Sheriff Keith Cooper of Greenup County, Ky. "It's sad now that it's so routine."

Just as routine are overdose deaths. In West Virginia, accidental overdoses increased by 550 percent from 1999 to 2004 — the biggest increase in the country — a spike attributed to prescription painkillers, according to a recent report in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Last August, 38-year-old Timothy Hardin died of an overdose in a Fort Lauderdale hotel room while "doctor-shopping" for pills with three friends from Kentucky, according to a medical examiner's report.

Also dead: John White, 42, who overdosed in February hours after flying back to Kentucky from Fort Lauderdale, according to police. His wife told police he had come down for a doctor's appointment.

Sheriff Steve Burns of Greene County, Tenn., said he is investigating the overdose of a teenager who died recently after returning from Broward on a pill-buying mission.

"The problem I'm having is, they're either coming back and dying, or they're coming back and selling them on the street," Burns said.

"It's a problem, even if they are getting them legally."

Once in South Florida, the traffickers are hardly subtle. While on a fact-finding tour last month with Broward sheriff's detectives, two local lawmakers say they found a traffic jam of cars with Kentucky license plates outside one clinic.

"We saw cars filled with families," said Rep. Ari Porth of Coral Springs, who is also a prosecutor with the Broward state attorney's office. "I had to see it for myself to believe it."

More often, police say, pill carriers fly back and forth through Knoxville; Lexington; Blountville, Tenn.; and Huntington, W.Va. Police say one airline's flight from Huntington to Fort Lauderdale — with rates as low as \$29 one way — is particularly popular with the pill network.

"The flight is pretty much full of dopers," said Sheriff Cooper, a former narcotics detective with the Kentucky State Police.

Many local clinics are aggressive in their advertising. "Out of State Patients Welcome," blares a newspaper ad for A1 Pain, a new clinic in Fort Lauderdale. Other clinics offer coupons and discounts for patients who bring new referrals, or advertise their price per pill.

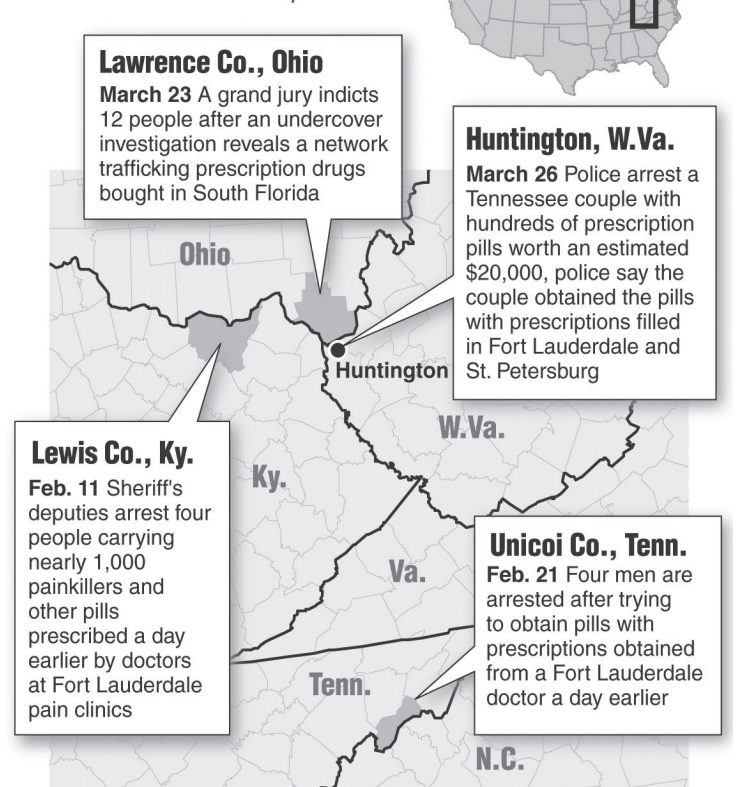
Whether by car or plane, Kentucky police say, the drug dealers typically send groups of four to eight people to South Florida to buy pills from unscrupulous or unwitting doctors — a practice commonly known as "doctor shopping."

Some clinics sell the pills directly to the patients; others provide prescriptions filled at pharmacies on the trip back north. Searching a suspect's home last year, Cooper said he found a road map tracing a route back from South Florida — eight red circles marking stops in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

The trail is well-worn. Last month, North Carolina's Board of Pharmacy warned pharmacists to be wary of people from Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio and Tennessee with oxycodone prescriptions from

Feeding the nation's pill habit

South Florida pill mills are the supply pipeline for users and dealers in several Eastern states. A recent sampler:



Graphic: Miami Herald

© 2009 MCT

Florida doctors. "Many of the individual patients have been calling ahead, asking pharmacists if they have oxycodone or roxicodone in stock," the alert said.

These traveling bands of buyers are often drug addicts who split the pills they collect with the main dealer, who typically covers the travel expenses and sells the remaining pills, according to police and court records. An oxycodone pill selling for \$3 to \$6 at a Broward pain clinic could sell for as much as \$30 on the black market in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Sometimes, the local doctors are unwitting dupes in the scheme. Others, like Browne, are knowing conspirators.

Browne, 53, teamed with a group of Kentucky drug dealers to provide thousands of painkillers through

phony prescriptions for at least a year, court records show. DEA agents arrested Browne after one of his Kentucky patients became an informant, secretly recording his meetings with the doctor.

"My son's girlfriend is telling everyone that I am coming to Florida to get pills," the informant told Browne in one meeting.

"What you need to do is not tell anybody that you come here," the doctor replied.

Browne, of Pembroke Pines, was indicted along with 13 others in the drug ring. The doctor — who spent four years as a medic at Everglades Correctional Institution in South Miami-Dade County before going into pain management — is now serving a 2 1/2-year prison term after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute oxycodone.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

continued from page 6

386 yards last season and was the team's second-leading receiver after catching 30 passes for 321 yards.

Freshman Waymon James, a four-star prospect who hails from Sherman, could end up being the jewel of this year's recruiting class. A redshirt year is probably in the cards for James, but an injury to another back or a strong showing in August practices could propel the talented youngster up the depth chart. The 5-foot-8-inch, 203-pounder was ranked as the second-best running back in Texas and the tenth-best back in the nation.

The Frogs' running attack wouldn't be complete without a little help from the quarterbacks. Junior starting quarterback Andy Dalton and senior Marcus Jackson accounted for 816 of the team's rushing yards last season. Their ability to run the ball will likely be put to use again in 2009.

2009 projected starters: Joseph Turner, Ryan Christian

Other running backs on the roster: Sophomore Jai Cavness, senior Chris Smith, redshirt freshman Edward Wesley
Running backs lost: Aaron Brown, Justin Watts

PGA TOUR

Final pairing of Mickelson, Woods would be a delight

By Jeff Shain
McClatchy Newspapers

AUGUSTA, Ga. — At least they began their Masters week with the right idea.

Stopping only to change shoes upon Sunday's midday arrival at Augusta National Golf Club, Tiger Woods rattled his first drive into the trees, right of the No. 1 fairway.

Watching from the practice green happened to be Phil Mickelson, who stepped to the tee 10 minutes later.

That's as close as you'll ever catch the duo on a practice day. Now if only they could position themselves in similar proximity on Sunday — or even closer.

For all of their career success — a combined 103 PGA Tour wins, 17 of them majors — Woods and Mickelson rarely have gone nose-to-nose down the stretch. With both coming to Augusta near top form, though, hopes are high for a rare collision course.

"I would love to be in the same group as Woods and walk the round together on Sunday," Mickelson said Tuesday, waiting a beat before finishing the thought.

"If we're in the final group," It wouldn't have the same electricity, of course, if they teed off an hour before the Sunday leaders. Then again, they probably would still draw a far larger crowd than whoever made the final pairing.

Truth be told, a Woods/Mickelson weekend draw has been as rare as the ski caps and gloves that adorned Augusta National in Tuesday's sub-40 wind chill.

It's happened only seven times on the weekend since the PGA Tour began keeping pairing data in 2001 — none in majors.

Distant Rivals

And the remarkable numbers don't stop there. A check back during the past 10 years of majors turns up surprisingly few oc-

casions when both have been in contention at the same time.

In 38 majors (remember, Woods sat out last year's British Open and PGA), just seven have ended with top-5 finishes for both men. That includes last year's Masters, when Woods was runner-up to Trevor Immelman and Mickelson tied for fifth.

Expand the parameters to top-10 results in the same major, and four more qualify. That's 11 of 38 opportunities — a 29-percent rate.

On the other hand, four of Woods' major wins have come while Mickelson finished out of the top 20. And the reverse has been true once — Mickelson's breakthrough at the 2004 Masters.

"The whole idea is to handle your own business and then on Sunday, see where you are," Woods said.

"You don't look at it and say, 'I have to beat this one person to win the golf tournament.' There

are a whole host of people that you have to beat."

For the record, Woods keeps his words to a minimum when asked about any rivalry with Mickelson. Asked Tuesday, he noted that Ernie Els has been on the other side of more head-to-head encounters.

"Phil and I certainly have battled in majors, battled in PGA Tour events," Woods said. "We've both been successful on both sides."

It's Been a While

The last time Woods and Mickelson were paired together on the weekend came at the 2007 Deutsche Bank Championship, where Mickelson prevailed with a closing 66 from the next-to-last group.

It was almost as good as the 2005 Duel at Doral, when the two slugged it out for 18 holes across the Blue Monster. Woods took that trophy, but not until Mickelson's chip from behind the 18th green lifted out.

"For me to perform well," Mickelson said, "I've got to attack the golf course the way I can and not worry about what he does and not

let his great shots or poor shots affect the way I play."

Mickelson was on top of his game last month at Doral, winning the WGC-CA Championship despite playing the final three days with severe dehydration.

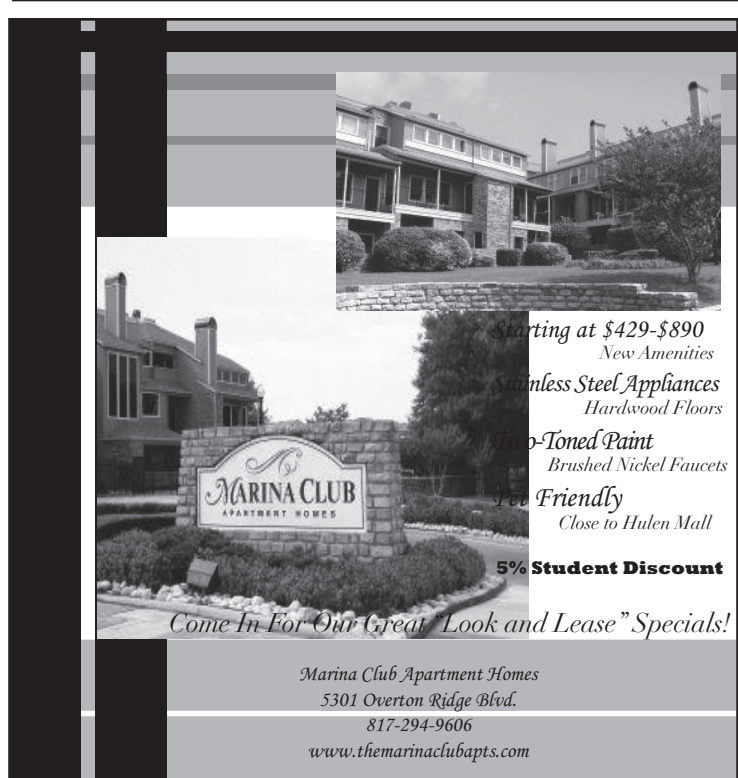
Full recovery didn't come, he said, until four days after the victory. But he added that had nothing to do with his early exit from last week's Houston Open, where he missed the cut after shooting 77-76.

"I'd planned on taking the whole week off after Doral anyway," he said.

Woods, meanwhile, showed he's fully back from last summer's reconstructive knee surgery by winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational for the sixth time.

"I really wanted to get into contention and feel the rush again on the back nine," Woods said. "The week at Bay Hill was great — to feel that and just to see how my body would react again. It's been a while."

Now, it seems, it's just a matter of getting the duo to synchronize their Sunday.



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At Appomattox, Va., Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his 28,000 troops to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, ending the American Civil War on this day in 1865.

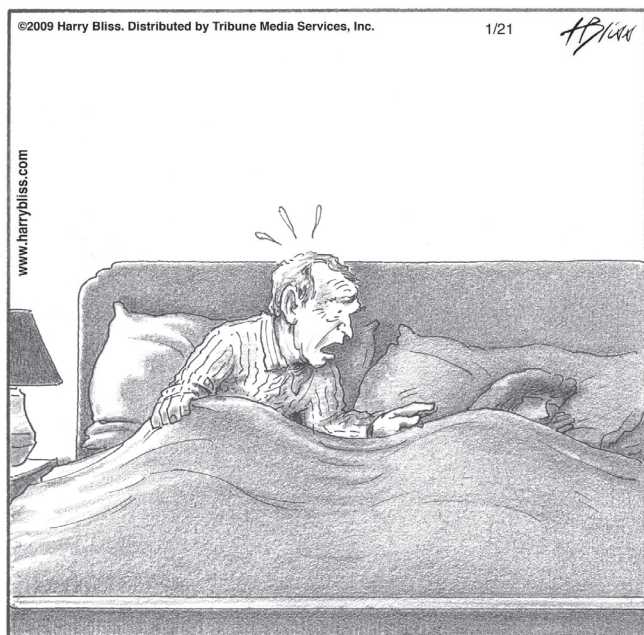
— History Channel

Joke of the Day

Q: What do you call bears with no ears?
A: B.

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by Harry Bliss



"Laura! Laura! Wake up — I just had the worst nightmare!"

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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 Tuesday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Wednesday's Solutions

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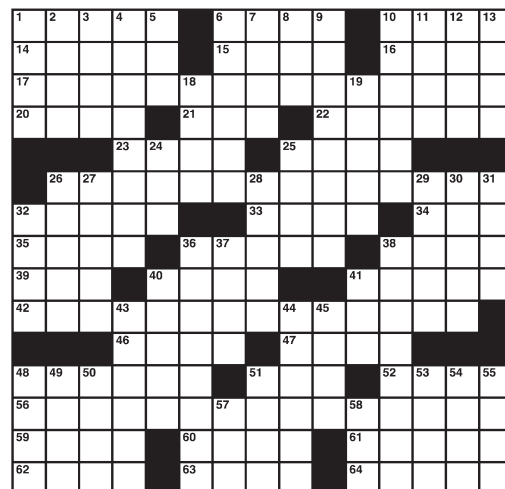
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By Donna S. Levin

4/9/09

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| UNEASE | APR | ATE |
| SUPREMACY | SORES | |
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| | ICAN | ALIENS |
| | WILLINGNESS | |
| SCENET | OAKS | |
| TONS | PALE | ADIOS |
| ONTOP | DILIGENCE | |
| OFF | UKE | DEBATE |
| DURABILITY | TBAR | |
| USER | SEOUL | SINE |
| PEEK | SHUTS | TED |

- 6 San Simeon castle builder
- 7 160 square rods
- 8 Like Syrah wine
- 9 "Be right there!"
- 10 House's headgear
- 11 Mountain sighting
- 12 Formerly
- 13 Physician represented in the play "Copenhagen"
- 18 Fury
- 19 Jousts
- 24 LP's 33 1/3
- 25 Landlocked African nation
- 26 Drink with marshmallows
- 27 Cover story?
- 28 Bunting, for one
- 29 Like a shutout
- 30 Southfork surname
- 31 Weightlifter's stat
- 32 Yaks
- 36 Indefatigable
- 37 Mount in Thessaly
- 38 Graham Greene novella, with "The"
- 40 Runway VIP
- 41 Reagan era prog.
- 43 City from which Vasco da Gama sailed
- 44 Follows
- 45 Goller Isao
- 48 An oz. has six
- 49 At the summit of
- 50 Big account
- 51 Color similar to turquoise
- 53 Tear
- 54 It gets the pot going
- 55 A/C spec sheet units
- 57 "Xanadu" band, for short
- 58 Cops' org.

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SPORTS



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JASON FOCHTMAN / Staff Photographer
 Tailback Joseph Turner covers on third down during the Frogs' 44-10 win over Air Force last season.

Backs will carry load for Frogs

By Michael Carroll
 Sports Editor

It's no secret that the Frogs love running the football. The team ran the ball 642 times last season — the fifth highest total in the country — for 2863 yards and 39 touchdowns. The Frogs' dedication to the ground game allowed the team to finish first in the country in time of possession at 35:10 per game.

The offense's commitment to running the football and

controlling the clock helped the team find success on the other side of the ball as well. Last season the Frogs' defense finished first in total defense, first in rushing defense and second in scoring defense at 11.3 points per game.

Aside from the departure of Aaron Brown, who was second on the team in rushing last season despite missing three games, the Frogs' ground attack remains largely intact heading into 2009.

Senior Joseph Turner led

the team in attempts, yards and rushing touchdowns in 2008 and should see his number called for a good portion of the carries in the upcoming season.

Fellow senior Ryan Christian, perhaps the most versatile of the running backs, should also play a prominent roll in the Frogs' ground attack in 2009. Christian, a dual threat out of the backfield, carried the ball 91 times for

SEE FOOTBALL • PAGE 6

POINT • COUNTERPOINT

Will Tiger win the Masters?

Woods still not healthy enough to rise to the top at Augusta

Golf superstar, back in top form, will succeed in bid for fifth green jacket



BILLY WESSELS



MICHAEL CARROLL

Let me be the first to break the bad news to Tiger Woods fans; the world's best player will not win this weekend's Masters.

I think he will be teeing off early Sunday instead of being in the last group, which is his norm. But at least he will make the cut to please golf fans.

It's great for the association that arguably the best player to ever play the game is back on the course, but I don't think he will be putting on another green jacket Sunday.

He is still coming off major knee surgery that should have put him on the shelf for a year, which means I don't think he is back to major form yet.

He can still dominate most courses, including the Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Fla. where he won the Arnold Palmer Invitational two weeks ago, even though I don't think he is back to 100 percent. But I think when he gets out to one of the best courses in the world, such as the Augusta National Golf Club, the site of the Masters, he may not be quite ready to tackle Amen Corner and the rest of that historic course.

The field is deep this weekend and as we have seen in past years, some relative unknown will surface from the field and make a play at this year's green jacket.

Tiger will get his 200th top-25 finish and may even earn his 153rd top-10 placing, but my bold prediction for the tournament is that the Irishman Pdraig Harrington will earn his third consecutive major championship and his first green jacket.

The greatest athlete of our generation will take to the course today at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. And make no doubt about it, Tiger Woods is going to win the 73rd Masters Tournament this weekend.

Tiger's battle back from major knee surgery has been well documented. He returned to golf amongst unprecedented fanfare Feb. 26 at the Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona. His bid for a triumphant, victorious return fell short that weekend as he lost in the second round of match play.

But just two tournaments later, Tiger was back on top of the golf world. He eclipsed a five-stroke deficit in dramatic fashion on Sunday at the Arnold Palmer Invitational two weeks ago to claim his first tournament of the season.

His birdie on the 18th hole — which won the tournament — was vintage Tiger. He knew the putt was in the second he made contact with the ball. Tiger's roar was heard 'round the world. He was officially back. And now his competition knows it.

His comeback was specifically designed in such a way that would allow his game to be back in top form in time for the Masters. His victory nearly two weeks ago proves that the plan is working. He is practically unbeatable when he is on top of his game.

Throw in the fact that no one comes ready to play at a major tournament like Tiger and the likelihood that he will add another green jacket to his collection on Sunday is all but a lock. A fifteenth major championship will put Tiger just three away from tying Jack Nicklaus' record of 18.

Tiger is back, healthy and better than ever. There's nothing his competition will be able to do to stop him from winning this weekend. As fans, all we can do is sit back and enjoy the show.



Which side are you on? Go to **DailySkiff.com** and cast your vote.

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