TCU SKIFF EST. 1902

DAILYSKIFF.COM · FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 · VOL. 106 ISSUE 105

Budget would nix private student loans

The Flyin' Frogs will host the TCU

Field Complex starting today.

Invitational at the Lowdon Track and



FINANCIAL AID

By Mark Bell

Staff Reporter

sity official said.

President Barack Obama's proposed 2010

budget would create mandatory funding

and increases for Pell grants and replace

subsidized loans made by private banks

with direct government lending, a univer-

If the budget passes as written, students

would no longer go to private banks for

student loans, said Mike Scott, director

of scholarships and student financial aid.

They would instead go directly through

their college campus for a government-

A Horned Frog football player talks about divine inspiration on and off the field. Features, page 5

TOP DVD SALES

- Marley & Me 1
- 2 Slumdog Millionaire
- 3 Twilight
- 4 Bolt
- 5 Seven Pounds
- 6 Quantum of Solace
- 7 **Bedtime Stories**
- 8 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
- Pinocchio 9
- 10 Beverly Hills Chihuahua - Billboard

funded loan, he said.

Sports, page 10

"There are pros and cons to direct lending," Scott said. "Direct lending would make the process simpler for the university; we would have more control over the process. The negative is trusting the government to effectively and efficiently run a program this large."

The budget initially passed both the House and Senate, but the two chambers must still meet to reconcile differences and create a final version of the budget. According to the budget proposal, the government will be working out further details on the loan program in the coming weeks.

According to the budget proposal, Obama's budget recommends the elimination of the Federal Family Education Loan program and the origination of all new loans through the Direct Loan program.

Senior engineering major Jeremy Jenkins said that although he receives a private loan from a bank right now, he is in favor of the proposed direct lending program.

"It's good because having the government take control of the loans will lessen interest rates and cut out the third and fourth parties," Jenkins said. "The only downfall is the loan and credit restrictions will most likely be more strict because it

is the government."

university?

Tuesday in News

Chesapeake's master development

plan has been approved by the City

Council. What does that mean for the

According to a New York Times article, under the FFEL program, the government pays lenders like Citigroup and Bank of America with both the subsidy and the maximum interest rate for borrowers set by Congress. Private lenders still provide valuable marketing, customer relations, billing, default prevention and collection of delinquent loans services, according to the article.

According to the budget proposal, the Direct Loan program would make cam-

SEE LOANS · PAGE 2

HONORED

March to signify LGBTQ support

STUDENT ACTIVISM

By Libby Davis Staff Reporter

A silent march in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning

students and their supporters is scheduled for today at 11:45 a.m.

LGBTQsupport silent march

DarronTurnassistant er, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he Where: Begins at Bass Building and ends in the BLUU When: 11:45 a.m.





College tuition may not be worth the expense for some. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

HONOLULU — A 28-year-old man has been sentenced to three weeks in jail for urinating on a 66-year-old woman during a Continental Airlines flight last month from Los Angeles to Honolulu.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunday: Mostly Sunny 72 / 49





Faculty and honors students line up in front of Ed Landreth Hall before Honors Convocation on Thursday morning.

Event hosts first student speaker

Internet will be inevitable part of life, student says

By Rose Baca News Editor

The summer Preston Swincher turned 22, his parents were out of town and he decided to throw a house party with a "few" friends to celebrate his birthday.

By the time his parents arrived home the next day, Swincher had the house back to normal, and his mother even noted how the house was cleaner than it was when they left, while his dad asked, "So, how was the party?"

In order to avoid making the same mistake again, Swincher asked his father the inevitable question.

"I asked him, 'How did you know?" Swincher said. "And he said, 'I googled it."

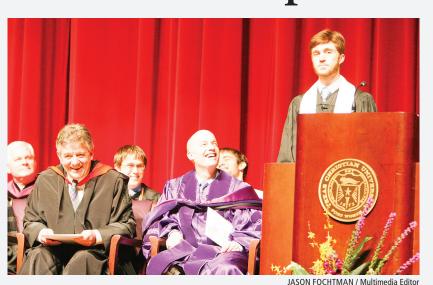
Swincher, a senior entrepreneurial management and musical theatre major, honors student and first-ever student speaker at the Honors Convocation, spoke in front of about 400 faculty, students and parents in Ed Landreth Auditorium on Thursday,

His speech, "How the Internet Crashed Our Party," addressed how the Internet in the digital age has reshaped the way people relate to each other, and perhaps most importantly how people fundamentally relate to the knowledge that humanity has placed on the Internet.

Swincher said that at an early age people are taught not to talk to strangers, but as social beings they need to converse and mingle with strangers in order to exchange ideas with minds that are informants to their own.

In response to the technological developments, the generation that was taught not to talk to strangers is posting private information on the Internet for everyone to see, Swincher said.

"Social networking is my generation's



Provost Nowell Donovan, left, and Chancellor Victor Boschini, share a laugh after senior honors student Preston Swincher cracks a joke during his speech "Living a Facebook Life in a Google World" during Honors Convocation Thursday morning. Swincher was the first student to be the featured speaker at the Honors Convocation.

cultural reaction to this," Swincher said. "It's our way of reaching out and creating our self-image by sharing ourselves with a world we have been meticulously and cautiously sheltered from."

Swincher said one of the most unique manifestations of behavior that stems from social networking is "Facebook stalking," and what Swincher said could also be defined as procrastination.

We're so busy, but ironically, we're addicted to Facebook," Swincher said. "I'd like to think every hour wasted on Facebook is just an indicator that we still care (about our friends)."

This social strength phenomenon is what Swincher said has become an Internet oxymoron.

People no longer need an institution to deliver the things we can now get on our own, he said. Peer-to-peer file sharing is threatening the recording industry, open source software is insulting Microsoft's hold on the software industry, and Wikipedia is already beginning to replace most well-known encyclopedias, he said.

"We've delivered free information,

we've delivered free messaging, and we've delivered free entertainment," Swincher said.

The Internet has given people an expectation that is driving their demand for a web-based world, and the economy and society are struggling to keep up, he said.

Just as ancient man began documenting his life on clay to keep track of it all, Swincher said our lives have become so complicated that we need technology to keep up.

We're going to live and breathe this technology until it becomes seamlessly integrated with our lives," Swincher said.

As technology becomes literally, physically and semantically smaller it's going to be that much easier to become engulfed by it, he said.

My username on the Web is going to ditch the 'name' and I'm just going to be a user, because what's in a name when the Internet is already going to know who you are," Swincher said.

SEE SPEECH · PAGE 2

will attend the march as an administrator to support the students and to make sure there are no problems. stu-

See page 3 for Shelly Newkirk's column on Living Learning Communities and LGBTQ issues.

"For

dents, this

march is a way to bring light to the issues the LGBTQ community faces and show support for a LGBTQ resource center," Turner said.

SEE MARCH · PAGE 2

STIMULUS PACKAGE **Plans for** high-speed rail system unveiled

By Robert Schroeder MarketWatch

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama announced plans for a high-speed railway system in the U.S. on Thursday, saying such a network would save energy, create jobs and reduce dependence on automobiles and airplanes.

Obama outlined a proposal to launch new high-speed passenger rail services while also rebuilding existing rail infrastructure. He said the recently enacted stimulus package invests \$8 billion in a national network of high-speed rail corridors, but that states will need to contribute funds as well.

Obama is also asking for an extra \$5 billion over the next five years for the railway projects.

"Imagine whisking through towns at speeds over 100 miles an hour, walking only a few steps to public transportation, and ending up just blocks from your destination," Obama said.

Obama said there's no reason high-speed rail can't be built and used in the U.S., as it is in other countries like Japan and France.

The government has identified 10 ma-

NEWS

SPEECH continued from page 1

Desktop screen devices that let the user physically sort through electronic photos directly from their camera, or a small electronic devices worn around a person's neck that can make recommendations for specific brands of paper towels are just a few examples, Swincher said, of how technology is becoming integrated into our lives.

"It's like Minority Report, except instead of Tom Cruise, it's for kids," Swincher said.

what is real and what is digital has become so thin that society will not be able to discern the difference until it reaches out to touch it. And soon technology will cease to be a form of communication will no longer be able to ignore the with barriers, he said, because it problems that face humanity."

will become just as effective as talking to someone face to face.

Genevieve Lawson, a senior advertising/public relations major, said Swincher's interpretation of how the Internet affects our world was dead on.

"The Internet has the potential to be a great communicator," Lawson said. "But (it) also has the potential to be pretty devastating if it's not viewed in the most positive wav."

The free examination of the Internet can create transparency, and it is this clarity that Swincher said he hopes will allow humanity Swincher said the line between to unearth its mistakes and provide solutions.

"The Internet is drawing tight the wire that connects us all," Swincher said. "And when we're all standing shoulder to shoulder we

datory to provide guaranteed gov-

ernment funding, something the

university supports. The proposal

nent the \$2,500 American Oppor-

tunity Tax Credit created in the

stimulus package, Scott said. The

tax credit allows those paying for

the first four years of post-second-

"It is one of the few ways the

government helps middle to up-

per-middle income families pay for

of their bills, he said.

college," Scott said.

LOANS

continued from page 1

pus-based, low-interest loans more also recommends making permawidely available. The funds to support this program would operate at the federal level. Replacing the FFEL program with direct government lending would save \$94 billion over the next decade, money ary education to write off a portion Obama said he would use to expand Pell grants, according to the proposal.

Scott said the proposal would make the Pell Grant program man-

RAIL

continued from page 1

jor corridors for potential highspeed rail projects, including in California, northern New England and the Gulf Coast.

leased by the White House said prehensive high-speed programs the Northeast corridor that includes Washington, D.C., and New York City is also eligible to House said.

compete for funds. The White House said the first federal grants will go out as early

as this summer and will go first to projects that can be completed quickly and yield job creation in the near term. The next round A summary of proposals re- will include proposals for comcovering whole rail corridors or sections of them, the White

MARCH

continued from page 1 Shelly Newkirk, a sophomore social work major who helped arrange the event, said she is not expecting opposition during

the march. The march, which will begin at the Bass Building and end at the Brown-Lupton University Union, will stop at Sadler Hall, Newkirk said. The participants will lay irises on the steps of Sadler Hall to represent is sponsored by the Office the university's coopera- of Religious and Spiritual tion with the LGBTQ sup- Life.

porters, Newkirk said. Newkirk said she ex-

pects between 30 and 130 supporters, adding that more are welcome to join the march as it occurs. University police will

also accompany the march, Newkirk said. According to the event's Facebook page, the march will end with the place-

ment of rainbow flags in the ground by the University Union. Newkirk said the march



PAIGE McARDLE / Design Edito

Members of Alpha Delta Pi dress up sophomore math major Cole Frederick during a competition for Phi Kappa Sigma Phi Kap Phield Day at Worth Hills. The fundraiser consisted of a series of events that benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Customers have a side of free advice at coffee shop

By Tom Kertscher

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

WAUWATOSA, Wis. — Julie Helmrich had answered questions about sleep problems, chronic lateness and an obsession with masturbation when she paused to read aloud the next query from a customer at Cranky Al's Bakery and Pizza.

What is up with female hormonal swings? someone, presumably a man, had written on a card.

Hormones can be like gasoline on a fire, Helmrich calmly explained.

"I know you think they're bad on the outside," she said into her wireless microphone. "You should feel what it's like on the inside."

Then Helmrich, a clinical psychologist of 29 years, offered some advice.

"This is going to sound like a joke, but I think it's wise for you to monitor your wife's periods," she said. "You talk about stuff later."

So it goes at "Shrink 'n' Drink," a Q-and-A session convened by Helmrich one evening each month at Cranky Al's.

wise counsel. There aren't any couches, but the doctor doesn't bill, either.

"It's more fun than therapy," said Lisa Waitrovich, a regular. "Sometimes you feel better about your problems by the end because they're not as bad as evervone else's."

I'm habitually and chronically late. What is wrong with me and how do I fix it?

"You can go down the psychiatry route," Helmrich answered, noting some therapists connect tardiness with passive-aggressive behavior. "Or you can set the alarm."

"Shrink 'n' Drink," said Helmrich, 52, but the purpose is serious.

"People really deserve highthey can use right away," she said. "My profession should be doing this all over the place. We should be giving away what we know. What good does it do living in

my head?" Helmrich was drawn to psy-About 40 adults buy themselves chology at age 14, when she

a little beer or wine, maybe some and her younger brother were she kept a quick pace, sometimes pizza, and take in 90 minutes of in charge of her family's 40-cow dairy operation in Iowa. The trigger was the suicide of a seemingly

contented family friend. After completing her doctorate in clinical psychology at Georgia State University, Helmrich eventually opened an office in Milwaukee, focusing on interpersonal relationships.

Social setting

"Shrink 'n' Drink" was the product of a roughly four-minute conversation with Alex Brkich, who with his wife, Susie, owns Cranky Al's. Helmrich said she was always being asked marriage and family questions in social settings, so she thought she would take them on Humor is an important part of at a neighborhood hangout like Cranky Al's.

It seems the sessions are filling a need. "Shrink 'n' Drink" is celquality, scientific psychology that ebrating its first anniversary this month.

> At the March session, more than half of the tables were filled by customers who had made reservations. In answering their written questions, which are submitted anonymously, Helmrich could get a bit academic. But mostly

reading and answering a question in less than a minute.

What should I say to my friend who wants to complain to me about a crummy sales job when there's 8 percent unemployment in Wisconsin?

"Usually what complainers need is somebody to say 'Aww.""

My husband has a fantasy of going to a bar in his pajamas and robe. What does this mean? Should I be concerned?

"This is not the kind of fantasy that I'd be worried about."

The questions, and the advice, just kept coming.

For good sex, be sure to exercise and eat healthy, and put on clean sheets and nice music.

To the person who has to be competitive about every little thing, show compassion.

And if you always wake up at 3 a.m., you might want to get help for depression.

None of it was life-or-death stuff, to be sure.

But a psychologist who's work-.it-ould muc.. rostly make then. ing a "Shrink 'n' Drink" isn't so



INTERIOR - TCU AD OFFICE, THE DAILY SKIFF - AFTERNOON



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Eager Sales Rep and TCU student - NATALIE - waits for the phone to ring. It's silent. The room is tense. Other sales reps occasionally eye the phone as well, hoping it will ring.

NATALIE glances at her co-workers, and thinks to herself.

NATALIE

I have to get the next client. No matter what it takes, the next time that phone rings I WILL be the one who answers it. I'm so close to my sales quota...

Across the room, CHRIS screams joyfully. All eyes turn to him.

CHRIS

Yes! That new pizza place down the street just told me in this email they're going to run a half-page, full color ad for the next two months! Yall know that means my commission check will make me really happy.

CHRIS smiles, obviously pleased with himself. NATALIE rolls her eyes and continues to scour the internet for potential clients in the local area.

The room becomes silent again. The increased competition between sales reps has become a war. The sales rep with the most clients gets the dollars AND the bragging rights.

Just then, the phone rings, and startles everyone...Find out if NATALIE will get to it first...

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DAILY SKIFF TCU Box 298050, Fort Worth, TX 76129 Phone: (817) 257-7428 Fax: (817) 257-7133 E-mail: news@dailyskiff.com

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The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, pro by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schieffer School of Journalism. It operates the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives for student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday the fridar valunt of all and sorinor semerestic excent finals week and holdars.

Circulation: 4,500 Subscriptions: Call 257-6274. Rates are 520 per senester. Location: Moudy Building South, Room 291, 2805 S. Univestity Diver Fort Worth, 1X 76109 On-campus. distribution: Newspapers are available free campus, linit on per person. Additional copies are 5.50 an are available at the Skilf office.

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OPINION

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 · PAGE 3

DAILY SKIFF Editorial Board

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Event's focus on students assuring

In selecting senior honors student Preston Swincher to be the featured speaker at Thursday's Honors Convocation, university officials wisely shifted the focus of the event toward that which is most important — the students.

Similar events often feature speakers who are outsiders or who have some loose connection to the institution they are speaking for. Usually these guests are gifted speakers with a message designed to inspire students and give them a bright outlook on their futures. Their words can be valuable, but it can be difficult to connect with someone you know little to nothing about.

But who better to inspire hope and recall memories of semesters gone by and semesters yet to come than someone who has experienced the same hardships, sleepless nights and the glorious triumphs as the students in attendance? Listening to the words of a peer as opposed to the words of an authority figure or a stranger can have a much greater effect on an audience of students in a university setting.

One of the goals of the university that has come under recent scrutiny is its push to promote and maintain a community of Horned Frogs while embracing individual diversity. Increasing the involvement and decision-making ability of students, the school's most important resource, goes hand in hand with the renewed focus on community and togetherness. While allowing a student to speak at the Honors Convocation for the first time in the history of the university might not sound like a ground-breaking development, it shows that our campus and those who run it are willing to make changes that are beneficial to student involvement.

It's good to see that in the face of recent controversy surrounding themed housing, the university hasn't forgotten about what makes a university in the first place — its students.

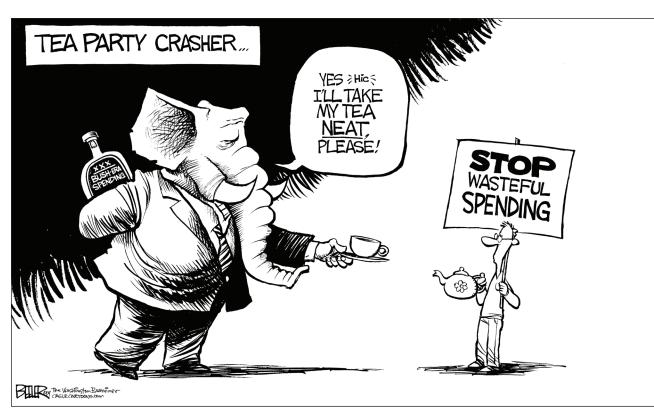
Sports editor Michael Carroll for the editorial board. The Skiff View represents the collective opinion of the editorial board.

College not for everyone



I don't need to remind anyone who goes to the university how much college counselors, the universities themselves and other sources make college seem like a machine in which you insert high school students and four years later, out comes a graduate who is ready to make it in the real world. It isn't.

This brings up the idea that some people should not be going to college. People who are in the bottom of their graduating class in high school probably shouldn't bother with college as it will only mean years of disappointment and debt. In these cases, it's probably better to go to a technical school and learn marketable skills. Besides, while college may help some people be successful, it doesn't necessarily mean you cannot make it without it. Successful people like Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, Bill Gates, founder and CEO of the Microsoft Corporation, Richard Branson, owner of Virgin Group and Virgin Mobile, and many others did not finish or even go to college. Some people say that these are exceptions, but there is no denying that, especially in the U.S., success without a college degree is entirely possible. I'm not saying that no one should go to college. If someone has the grades and the determination to become a doctor or a lawyer, college is a no-brainer.



Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

Ground-up strategy key to piracy issue



It is difficult to believe that among the 21st century conflicts that our generation faces — such as the mad dash for alternative energy — that piracy would still be a problem.

But when a nation such as Somalia exists practically without a government, anything is possible. On Sunday, Navy Seals saved Capt. Richard Phillips from Somali pirates after President Barack Obama authorized lethal force if Phillips looked to be in imminent danger. It was an order that was praised by many and criticized by few. Still, piracy looms not only in the Indian Ocean, but off the coast of Southeast Asia and in the Gulf of Aden, according to Time magazine.

"It is a serious international problem, and it's probably going to get worse," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in the article.

Piracy is a booming business and shows no sign of slowing down. Why? Somali piracy first appeared in the 1980s as a way to stop illegal fishing and dumping near Somalia in the Indian Ocean, according to CNN reports.

After the fall of the Somali government, hijacking vessels seemed to be a source of revenue that in its early days raised tens of thousands of dollars. Over time the ransom grew to millions of dollars. As long as companies and governments keep paying, piracy will remain a lucrative business.

With the aggressive actions of France and the United States, Somali

pirates vow to use lethal force against French and American sailors making open seas even more dangerous.

A collective international effort is needed to limit piracy. It is a problem that will continue to escalate. However, simply killing pirates on sight is not the answer. The international community has had problems with Somalia since former Somali President Ali Mahdi Muhammad overthrew the country's government in 1991 and now with Ethiopia's withdrawal of its troops, which arrived two years ago to help expel Islamist forces in Somalia.

The answer is in rebuilding Somalia's government and teaching the country's youth that the pirates are hurting their country and preventing it from reaching prosperity. This calls for an international effort.

Alex S. Turner is a freshman political science major from Dallas.

Backlash against LLCs shouldn't curb support

Many university graduates who now have jobs are still paying off student loans

and there is no end in sight for them especially in this economy. Some are undoubtedly still struggling to

find a job to begin paying off their loans.

ABC news show "20/20" ran a story a few months ago asking if college is really worth the costs. It featured the stories of students who had obtained college degrees, couldn't find jobs and are drowning in college debt. It raised some serious questions about college.

Is it really worth the cost?

The assumption that people go to college make more than those who don't may be a little misguided. College students are the most likely to be successful regardless of their educational choices because they are more likely to be hard working, smart and ambitious. Many could probably work at McDonald's and still be successful.

However, many people who promote college education believe in the fallacy that a college education will automatically make a graduate rich.

The media, politicians, high school

However, when President Barack Obama says, "We expect all our children to go to college," people have to re-evaluate whether that is really the best choice for their families.

Michael Lauck is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Houston.



If you all can endure one more opinion piece about the Living Learning Communities, let this one be it. I think we can all agree that the overwhelming backlash received was uncalled for, and that it was largely because of misrepresentation in the media. The truth be told, the DiversCity Q LLC welcomed anyone and everyone who was interested, and the majority of participants are allies (heterosexual supporters) looking for a way to show support and get involved. I think the only way to be more inclusive would be to invite Fred Phelps along as well, though I'm sure he'd decline our invitation.

Plus, I'm not sure you could segre-

gate yourself on a college campus even if you wanted to. We're all going to be a part of classrooms that incorporate students from across the campus and beyond. Given that the people already assigned to the LLCs will stay in those room placements for the fall, I feel that the administration has merely pulled the rug out from under the educational programming and faculty participation that goes with the LLCs. I guess the "academic achievement" part of our values got put on the backburner for this decision. I'd like to see those assigned to LLCs next year carry on with their planned programs, even though the title is taken away. If you feel that your subject is important to the dialogue on campus, I urge vou to keep it going.

What I really want to comment on here though, is that other form of backlash the university received after the media frenzy. I believe Chancellor Victor Boschini referred to it kindly as, "individual issues" in the Skiff article on Tuesday. You know those comments claiming that Christian institutions should not condone "immoral" acts? That's what really worries me. If there are people who can come to the university, graduate and become alumni, and STILL believe that the university should not support "those gays," then that is a problem. If people see the university as an institution that would never, ever consider supporting the LG-BTQ community, that is a problem.

I think it's time for the university to come out of the closet and declare its support for its LGBTQ population. If you agree with me, you can join me today, at 11:45 a.m. in front of the Bass Building. We'll be marching in support of inclusiveness and diversity and in celebration of the LGBTQ community on campus. This is by no means a protest, and we're certainly not trying to create some kind of "us versus them" atmosphere on campus. It is purely a celebration of the LG-BTQ population and their supporters on campus. I hope to see you all there united under this thing we call progress.

Shelly Newkirk is a sophomore social work major from Springfield, Mo.

IPUS Do the LLCs conflict with university's mission statement?



If you're talking about being ethical, then doesn't that mean you accept all people and do what's good for all people? TCU said they want to be responsible and as soon as the heat happens they say 'Oh no! We don't want anything to do with this,' and I'm thinking 'Are you going to stand up for what you believe in or not?'

Alyssa Christian

sophomore communication studies major from DeSoto



I don't think so. TCU tries to make you act as a responsible person, that means respecting other people's opinions and not judging them for what they believe.

Travis Slater sophomore engineering major from Floresville



I personally don't like the Living Learning Communities because they seclude people and put them in groups instead of letting them interact with other people.

Kristin Cazalot sophomore sociology major from Allen



I don't understand why they are catering to specific areas. If you're going to be part of a community, I don't think it helps to single people out and section them off. It emphasizes the differences rather than bring them together.

Emy Kapiamba sophomore international economy major from Arlington



I really don't think that it does because the individual Living Learning Communities can be a part of the bigger community and influence it in their own unique way. With reference to the LGBT, I thought that was a really good idea, and when they rescinded it, I thought it was a lost opportunity.

William Sandoval sophomore religion major from Pueblo, Colo.

Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor. To submit a letter, e-mail it to opinion@dailyskiff.com. Letters must include the author's classification, major, hometown and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

Editorial Policy: The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. Signed letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

NEWS



ADAM JADHAV / St. Louis Post-Dispatch via MCT

Children play baseball on a side street in Habana Centro, the worn neighborhood of downtown Havana, on March 30. Cuban families have little access to luxury and entertainment goods, but the country has an obsession with baseball; kids and adults alike play games in streets, empty lots and parks, sometimes with only sticks and rubber balls.

Cuba stuck in time warp of poverty under Castro

By Adam Jadhav St. Louis Post-Dispatch

HAVANA — The old Fords and Chevys that prowl the streets of Cuba's capital city are vestiges of a time before the U.S. stopped

nearly all trade with Cuba. Some of the cars are in immaculate condition; some require daily tune-ups just to start. Most other American products — with the exception of ubiquitous Coca-Cola — can't be lines still form outside food ration found at all.

Stepping into the worn Habana Centro neighborhood feels like walking back into the mid-1900s. Colonial-era buildings abut the streets, crumbling from lack of repair; the buildings are beautiful inside — high ceilings and interior court yards — yet sparsely furnished because many Cuban families simply have few possessions.

Much of Cuba remains in this time warp because of its poor economy.

The government still controls most consumer business, limiting selection in stores. Cubans have only recently been allowed to purchase electronics such as DVD players and rice cookers.

Many Cubans don't have the money for such luxuries anyway.

Life in Havana contains many contradictions. The country generally doesn't have the abject poverty found in other parts of the developing world, but Cubans still have little economic power because the government fixes most salaries at an average of \$20 a month.

And while the United Nations says Cuba's life expectancy equals that of the U.S. and its adult literacy rate is second best in the world, shops, restaurants often can't make everything on their menus due to shortages, and black market clothes are illegally sold from suitcases in random living rooms.

Even as the country brings in money from medical tourism and supplies doctors to Africa, Cubans say they face shortages of supplies and physicians at their own hospitals.

Cuba has modern buses for public transportation, yet farmers still drive horse-drawn wagons along highways outside the city, to bring their goods to town.

"Ideology has been the determining factor in the Cuban economy," said Lisandro Perez, a Cuban-American and Florida International University professor, "and it's an ideology that's allergic to the notion of people getting rich."

Autism recovery at peak of discussion

By Jessica Meyers The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — The twiggy boy who greets strangers at his Cedar Hill home with a handshake and an impish grin bears no resemblance to the toddler who shied away from contact, screamed when he had to walk down the stairs and spent hours staring at the ceiling fan.

Roman Scott's cheerfully innocuous disposition belies the whirlwind he's stirring in autism circles. He's the subject of his mother's book, which claims he overcame the disorder after her intensive two-year training program. "Raindrops on Roman" was released this month in conjunction with Autism Awareness Month.

On one level, Elizabeth Scott's account has stoked existing controversy among autism experts who question whether situations like Roman's are a promising development or a case of false hope. But it also reveals how limited services have forced parents into the unwitting role of therapist, caretaker and healer.

Roman was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified at 18 months and autism at 3 years old. Both fall within the umbrella of autism spectrum disorders, with PDD-NOS considered milder.

Unlike states such as California and Indiana, Texas has no central autism resource center. Parents are left relying on each other to find out what's available.

That's largely what motivated Scott to write the memoir.

"If there is a story of recovery and this is it, then parents need to know about it," she said.

Scott, who has a master's in elementary education, said she had to try something as she watched Roman choke on his food, churn his hands in circles, throw tantrums at the sight of a camera, smack the television every morning or fight the sensation of a toothbrush.



Roman Scott, 7, second from right, plays on the trampoline with Keeland Bedford, 6, far left, India McLeggan, 6, foreground. Randy McLeggan, 7, and Yates Bedford, 8, far right, in Cedar Hill on March 28. His mother, Elizabeth Scott wrote a book "Raindrops on Roman" claiming that Roman overcame autism after her intensive 2.5-year skills program.

cake compared to this."

Frustrated with only two hours a week of ECI therapy, she stopped working and dedicated herself to re-training her son.

into a work space with shoelacing activities and puzzles for fine motor skills, word charts for language development, and a spot for timeout. The "skills and drills" took at least 10 hours a day, from songs at breakfast to spelling in the bathtub at night.

Three months into the regime, Roman started talking. Then the recurring laps around the house stopped. Slowly, he started responding to the reading drills. By 4, he tested out of special education.

Stories of recovery are rare. But they're not inconceivable. The Son-Rise Program and the Autism Treatment Center of America sprang from the apparent recov-

"I needed to work all day to ery of Raun Kaufman, an autistic keep him from retreating into his child who stopped showing sympown world," she said. "I ran the toms after his parents developed a Boston Marathon, and that was comprehensive therapy program for him.

> Researchers warn against following these examples too close-

"What is true for one child She turned her sitting room is not going to be true for most children for autism," said Susan Swedo, chief of pediatrics and the developmental neuropsychiatry branch at the National Institute of Mental Health.

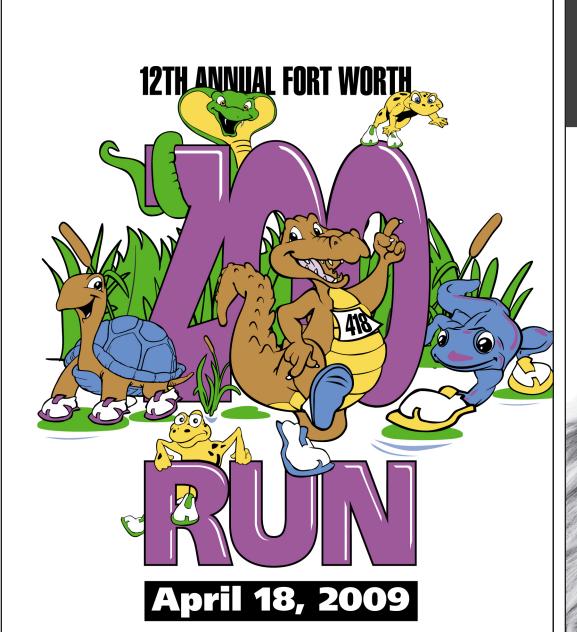
While it's possible that children like Roman stop showing symptoms, it's also conceivable that they received an inaccurate diagnosis, she said. A behavior checklist rather than a medical test determines whether a child has an autism spectrum disorder. So if the child was having a bad day, that can affect the results. She also noted that the previous behaviors could re-develop later in life.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends autism screening as early as 18 months.

Most parents don't have this time or the financial means to focus solely on their children, said Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, the founder of the California-based Center for Autism and Related Disorders.

You're basically teaching a child a new communication system," she said, emphasizing that even several hours a day of structured one-on-one lessons from mom or dad can help a child under the age of 7.

Granpeesheh endorses the notion that some children can recover from the disorder. She worked on the seminal 1987 autism treatment study that spanned two years and showed astounding progress in autistic children after 40 hours a week of behavioral therapy. Almost half of the children tested normally when the study ended. She has continued her own research, and completed a documentary last year that featured four children who, like Roman, no longer show signs of autism.



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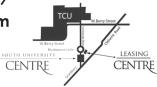
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FEATURES



A faculty member and veteran news reporter with more than 40 years of experience in journalism reflects on the stories that mattered most to him. Tuesday

'Like a flash of light'

Football player answers a different type of call

By Allie Brown Staff Writer

> e was driving south on University Drive when he saw the homeless woman walking beside the road. The sadness of her face drew his attention, and he wheeled his white Chevrolet Tahoe into the parking lot at Panera Bread and rolled down the window.

"Hi, can I get you anything?" Clint Gresham asked the woman.

"A cup of coffee would be nice," she told Gresham, probably unaware that she was talking to the senior long and short snapper on the Horned Frogs football team.

Gresham parked his car, went into Panera and soon returned with coffee and two sandwiches — one for her, one for him. And together, the college student and the homeless woman sat down to eat in a grassy area on University Drive.

Gresham is no stranger to making odd friendships. This 225-pound Horned Frog would say he was like anybody else. He likes the color blue, loves sports, was an avid Sesame Street fan at age 5 and still thinks his backyard would make the other kids cry out of jealousy.

He has a "crafty" father — he built Gresham a dream tree house connected to a zip line that shot him all the way across the yard.

Annmarie Olind, Gresham's girlfriend of two years, said he always had a close relationship with his father.

"His dad is the rock of that family, what he hopes to be and he really looks up to is his dad," she said.

It was his drive to follow in his father's footsteps that led him to the football field.

"His dad played football at Texas, so he wanted to be just like him," Olind said. Gresham was offered a scholarship in high

or "this is crazy," but even as he spits out the words one after another, he explains how he believes his actions are a direct result of what he's been through.

"I want people to see God's love through me," Gresham said. "I go where I feel like he wants me to go, I talk to the people I feel like he wants me to talk to and the more that I do it, the more receptive people are to it."

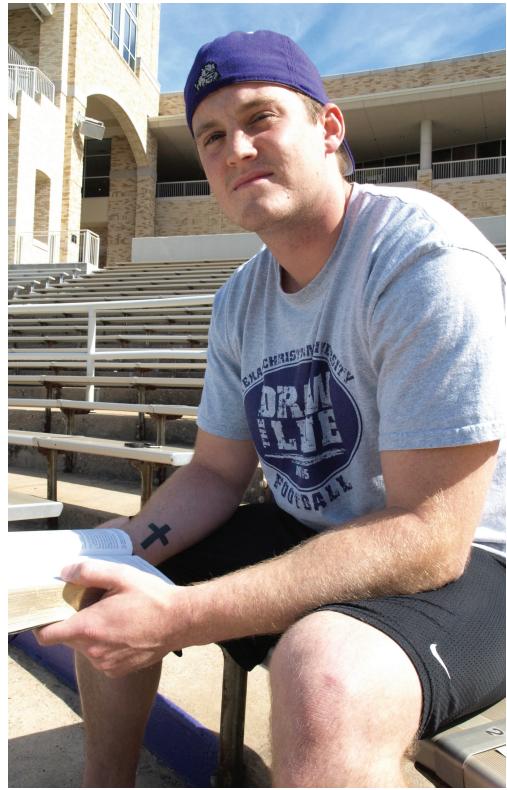
Sitting with a homeless woman wasn't exactly Gresham's first act of kindness that

day. "When I saw her I was actually driving back from a motorcycle rally," Gresham said.

He told about the little boy he was on his way back from seeing, his head deformed from the surgeries, a necessity in an attempt to save his life.

"His name was Kendrick Little," Gresham explained. "I was at Subway getting a sandwich and this lady in front of me had this sign with

"I want people to see God's love through me. I go where I feel like he wants me to go, I talk to the people I feel like he wants me to talk to and the more that I do it, the more receptive people are to it."



school to play at TCU but chose to spend his freshman year playing for the University of Oklahoma before transferring back to play for the Frogs.

And if he hadn't, he might never have met the homeless woman who learned all these things about Gresham over a Sunday picnic beside a busy street.

Gale Moore — carrying her life on her back — sat on her red beaten suitcase and smiled with anticipation as Gresham greeted her with warm drinks and two brown bags full of Panera's turkey sandwiches.

The two sat together to share not just food, but conversation. They talked about where they came from, Moore — from a little bit of everywhere — Virginia to Mineral Wells, Dallas to Fort Worth; and Gresham, a Corpus Christi native. The conversation had no limit and while the Panera lunch crowd came and went, Gresham continued to picnic with Moore. She joked about how his girlfriend would be jealous of the time he spent with her.

Maybe in his younger years he wouldn't have stayed, but since the summer of 2005, he's seen life a little differently.

"I knew that God performed miracles but it felt like such an archaic thing, like Bible stuff that doesn't happen anymore," Gresham said.

Eyes wide and aware of the — as he put it — "bizarre" things he was about to say, he outlined the day that affected him so strongly that it continues to shape his life.

"I was having really bad back pain, to the point where I couldn't walk, and I was getting ready to start football with Oklahoma so I needed to be ready," Gresham said. "My second cousin has a healing ministry so I went. He sat me down and he said, 'Lord, will you just show Clint what the cause is of this pain?' It was like a flash of light suddenly hitting me."

Gresham's miracle didn't end there. When his cousin demanded that the shorter of his legs heal itself, causing off-balanced vertebrae to realign, Gresham could actually feel his body moving.

"I stood up and got really, really dizzy. I threw up, but after that I didn't have any more back pain."

This 6'3" sandy blond-haired football player knows the idea is hard to believe. He still has difficulty telling the story without spontaneous interruptions of "it's really bizarre"

Clint Gresham

senior marketing major and Frog long and short snapper

a picture of a 4-year-old boy. You have to be listening for it, I mean, God's voice. I think his voice is like a whisper in a loud room."

There in the Subway line, Gresham heard that whisper telling him to pray over a terminally ill cancer patient.

A similar whisper that told Gresham to pull his car over and enjoy lunch with an old lady who only had a suitcase to show where she had been.

"I found out she had bad teeth so she couldn't eat all of her sandwich. I wish I would've known that cause I would've brought her soup or something," he said.

Worrying about others may be the only worry Gresham has anymore.

"When I was little, yeah, I was happy," he said. "But I mean a lot of stuff got to me. I had a lot of fear about where I would be in life. But I really don't have any worries anymore."

And Gresham hasn't worried about his future since 2005 when his life changed in a huge way. As he explained, he went from "playing church" before, to living what he calls a truly blessed life every day.

"It wasn't an overnight thing. I mean you have to seek after God and have the desire," Gresham said. "God gave us free will, so we can choose to do it his way or choose to do it alone, but it's a lot harder alone. Trust me, I've done it that way."

Gresham's positive outlook has matured him, Olind said.

"He's just got such a great heart and he wants to share that with others," Olind said.

Gresham shares his optimism and humor in moments like those with new friend Gale Moore.

"Yeah, I never talk about God," Gresham smiles, "until I tackle people."

CHANCE WELCH / Features Editor

Even as he admits the idea sounds far-fetched, senior marketing major and long and short snapper Clint Gresham attributes the recovery of his back pain to a family member's healing ministry.



Gresham adds another notch to his belt as he takes down safety Ian Clark of the University of New Mexico Lobos in a November 2007 game.

NEWS

U.S. students struggle upon return to Mexico

By Oscar Avila Chicago Tribune

ZINAPECUARO, Mexico -Juan Maldonado is suffering the same culture shock as many other children of Mexican immigrants: out of place at school. Haven't mastered the language.

The difference? The U.S.-born Maldonado feels like an outsider in Mexico.

With their job prospects bleak and worried about bad influences on the street, Maldonado's parents sent the 15-year-old back from West Chicago to this central Mexican town last fall. Almost immediately, he was fighting with classmates who mocked his accented Spanish. He could barely read or write in the language, so his homework was impossible.

After two frustrating months, he dropped out. Now he works occasional hours at a factory that makes Christmas ornaments as he plans a return to the only country he has ever really known.

"Every day was the same: feeling stupid," said Maldonado, in an interview in English because he requested it.

Just as American teachers struggle to integrate foreign students into their classrooms, Mexican teachers are finding it a challenge to incorporate students who might share the same last names and heritage but are American in their mentality and experiences.

Zinapecuaro principals and officials with the state Public Education Department in Michoacan say the number of returned American students is increasing as Mexican immigrants in the U.S. get deported or voluntarily return home because of the economic crisis.

The fate of these children also has become a political issue in the U.S., as activists argue that the government should stop deporting parents because their children will suffer by returning to Mexico. That was a main claim by Elvira Arellano, who took sanctuary in a Chicago church for a year with her young son before being deported turn to Michoacan each week.

with him to a town about 30 miles east of Zinapecuaro. Her son now is attending a private school in Michoacan.

In response to the uptick in returning students, education officials are treating these newcomers as at-risk students and have launched new initiatives to ease their transition, including roving bilingual instructors who know English and have studied in the U.S.

This town about three hours northwest of Mexico City has sent many of its brightest youths to Chicago's western suburbs and California. Many would return home for a few months around Christmas, attend school briefly and then go back to the U.S.

In a sun-splashed school courtyard where elementary school pupils assemble in brown uniforms, sixth-grade teacher Noemi Guevara looks on with pride but also worry.

She talks of brothers who returned from Chicago and already seem like they are slipping. The older brother, Jonathan, was forced to repeat a grade. Sure enough, he skipped school this day.

Guevara said teachers have been forced to be flexible by allowing parents to translate their children's completed assignments from English to Spanish and by letting several returned students sit side by side for support in the back of the classroom.

Laura Bibiana Moran, state director with the government Binational Migrant Education Program, said teacher training is critical because many instructors aren't as flexible as Guevara with students who might be used to U.S. schools where they could grow long hair and challenge teachers openly.

"Teachers here see it as a test of wills," Moran said. "These are students who grow up with an American educational culture even though their family's folklore, food and customs might be Mexican."

The state education department estimates that several students re-



Summit wall seen as wealth disparity

By Jacqueline Charles McClatchy Newspapers

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad -The residents of Beetham Gardens, a drab area of rundown government housing and relentless gang warfare, have been cut off from the rest of this sprawling Trinidadian capital.

The government has erected a wall along the neighborhood's frayed edges, blocking the view into a long-troubled community that shares space with the murky waters of industrial waste, overgrown weeds and the constant stench of the nearby landfill.

The 5-foot-tall wall is simply a beautifying touch, say government officials, who have spent months prepping for the arrival this week of 33 leaders including President Barack Obama at the largest and most important gathering of hemispheric leaders.

But to those who live behind the wall, the structure means something else: It's a symbol of years of broken promises, government neglect and the widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

"They can talk prosperity. They can talk about development. But there can be no development in a country if you continue to leave behind any community or any of your people," said Sherma Wilson, 42, a mother of four and community activist who has taken on the plight of this long-suffering east Port of Spain community. "The peace we seek? We can only do that if we develop community by community."

As Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton prepare to engage regional leaders at the three-day summit that begins Friday, the question of deep-rooted social and income inequalities in the region will be a priority for the new administration.

"We know that there has been progress ... in this hemisphere on gross domestic product increase and reduction of poverty, particularly abject poverty," said Jeffrey Davidow, a former U.S. ambassador in Latin America and now a White House special adviser for the summit.

"But the fact remains that Latin



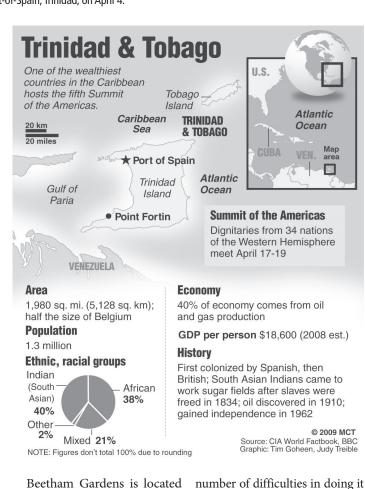
PETER ANDREW Bosch / Miami Herald via MCT Jenel Lynch and her daughter, Jamda, live next to highway where the government is building a wall for the community of Beetham Gardens, a low income community in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on April 4.

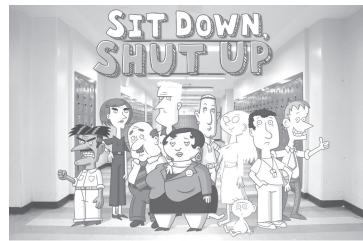
But as standards of living have increased, governments have struggled to meet the social and economic needs of their poorest citizens. From Port-au-Prince to Buenos Aires, where residents recently took a sledgehammer to a 10-foot "Wall of Discord" separating an impoverished neighborhood from a wealthy enclave, poverty persists.

Here in this oil- and natural gasrich country, disagreement over the construction of the wall hasn't sparked its dismantling. Instead, it has fostered debate on not just the failures of the past, but the perils of growth.

When you look at Beetham and understand the kinds of natural resources and wealth this country have, you ask yourself, why do communities like Beetham have to be in this poverty-stricken position?" said Juliet Davy, 43, who moved to Beetham 38 years ago and fears the wall will make residents more vulnerable to crime. "The government has taken the people for granted."

Fueled by rising world oil prices, Trinidad and Tobago's economy





FOX BROADCASTING via MCI

"Sit Down, Shut Up," from Emmy Award winner Mitchell Hurwitz ("Arrested Development"), follows a group of unconventional staff members working at a high school in a small northeastern fishing town. It airs this spring on Fox.

Veteran voice performer to 'Shut Up' on Sunday

By Rick Bentley

McClatchy Newspapers

LOS ANGELES — A quick glance at Tom Kenny's resume reveals more than 200 credits. Yet, most people could not pick him out of a two-man lineup.

That's because Kenny has rarely appeared on screen. He's made his money as one of the top voice talents in the business. Kenny's collection of credits is so extensive, it puts him in select voice-actor company with the likes of Mel Blanc with Warner Bros. or Daws Butler with Hanna-Barbera.

Here are just a few places you have heard his voice: "2 Stupid Dogs," "Rocko's Modern Life," "CatDog," "Dilbert," "The Powerpuff Girls," "Futurama," "Kim Possible" and "Handy Manny."

Of course, his biggest claim to animation fame is as the voice of SpongeBob SquarePants.

You can add the new Fox animated series "Sit Down, Shut Up" to the list. Kenny is the voice of Happy, the custodian at a school populated with quirky teachers, in the new series to debut at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Will Forte, Jason Bateman, Kristin Chenoweth and Henry Winkler also provide voices. The driving force behind the show, Mitchell Hurwitz, is better known for live-action television shows, such as "Arrested Development" and "The Ellen Show." Collectively, the rest of the cast has about as much animation ex-

"Sit Down, Shut Up" When: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Fox

ects without a lot of fanfare.

With great voice power comes great responsibility. Kenny has to be careful to make each character voice as different as physically possible.

"It is a case-by-case basis. Everybody recycles. The voice of SpongeBob started as an ancillary character somewhere else where I only said six words," Kenny says. "There was one time when I was auditioning for two different shows at the exact same time on the same day. I used a similar voice for both shows."

Kenny played the odds that both shows would not go into production. When both did, he had to make some slight modifications.

The production of "Sit Down, Shut Up" differs greatly from other animated projects on which Kenny has worked — the animated characters are drawn against real world backdrops.

This concept gives the show a different look from other animated shows on the Fox Sunday lineup. It didn't affect how Kenny and the rest of the actors recorded their lines.

'There definitely is a difference between prime-time animation and kids animation for cable. Not only in terms of content but in the way it is done," Kenny says.

Late-night TV band adapts to audience

By Dan Deluca The Philadelphia Inquirer

NEW YORK — It's 10 minutes to show time backstage at "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," and Ahmir "?uestlove" Thompson is wondering what the Roots have gotten themselves into.

"There are two sayings: 'The grass is always greener on the other side' and 'Be careful what you wish for," says the drummer and bandleader of the Philadelphia hip-hop-plus ensemble. Since March 2, when Fallon replaced Conan O'Brien at 11:35 p.m. on NBC, the group has been aptly introduced to America as "The Legendary Roots Crew."

The big man with the evenbigger Afro, which is now being puffed out to maximum mushroom-cloud size in a makeup room at 30 Rockefeller Center, pauses. And laughs.

"I cannot wait till we're off and can play a week on the road," he says, smiling. "Those shows will now seem like vacation time. This is way more work than imaginable."

Not that ?uestlove is complaining. In earning an unquestioned reputation as the greatest live band in hip-hop, the Roots — formed in the late '80s by Thompson and rapper Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter when they were at the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts - kept a globespanning, 200-show-a-year, twohour-a-night pace for more than 15 years.

'You know that secret room in (the video game) Mario Brothers, where there's a whole bunch of gold coins to collect? Like 200 gold coins?" he asks. "As far as getting gigs, that's pretty much been our life, from '93 until now."

After a month of shows, the Roots is finding its rhythm as a television house band. And Fallon, the absurdist boy-nextdoor "Saturday Night Live" alum, clearly can't believe his good fortune in snagging the group that he accurately calls — sorry, Max Weinberg 7 and Paul Shaffer's CBS Orchestra — "the best band in late night."

That rhythm starts with a daily two-hour Center City-to-Manhattan bus trip to a Mid- with what we do. It's shameless town recording studio. There, self-promotion, every day," says the group writes original music for what the members call between-segment "sandwiches," and they work up witty snippets to play as guests are introduced. Serena Williams got E.U.'s "Da Butt," Glenn Close heard the Carpenters' "Close to You," and Anna Kournikova was met by Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot."



Tariq Trotter, aka Black Thought, left, talks about his Philly hip-hop group, The Roots, as business manager Richard Nichols works on his laptop during the band's afternoon rehearsal, April 2 in New York.

a bunch of guys sitting around the studio together bouncing song ideas off one another. Those results can be heard onscreen as well as on "How I Got Over," the Roots album due out in July.

"The synergy of a bunch of world-class musicians in a room together, there's definitely something to be said for that," says James Poyser. Clad in a Tshirt with Barack Obama's head attached to Afropop pioneer Fela Kuti's body, the keyboardistsongwriter-producer and sometime Root — "I've called myself 'a stem' for years" — has joined full time for the show.

The broadcast platform is giving the group "a new life, so to speak," Trotter, his Yankees cap cocked to the side, says at the Midtown studio. In addition to him, Thompson, and Poyser, the lineup includes guitarist "Captain" Kirk Douglas, percussionist Frank Knuckles, bassist Owen Biddle, sousaphonist Damon "Tuba Gooding Jr." Bryson, and keyboard player Kamal Gray.

"It's exposing the Roots to a late-night-TV demographic who aren't necessarily familiar Trotter who's also an actor fea tured in the indie flick "Explicit Ills" and has other films in the works. The Roots, it seems, have been playing live every day since Thompson and Trotter and original bassist Christian McBride used to busk for tips two decades ago on Saturday afternoons.

steady gig at 30 Rock "just felt like Nichols says. "People are complex. the right move."

"It's the one good thing everybody says about the show," Fallon says by phone the morning after the April 1 show. The previous night, the Roots had warmed up the crowd off-camera with a tribute to Fela Kuti, then pulled a revamped cover of the Memphis soul song "I'm Afraid the Masquerade Is Over" out of its musical trickbag for a curtain-to-the-couch walk by "ER" actor Noah Wyle. Revising David Porter's lyrics, Black Thought sang: "It's over! Your medical career is over ..."

'People will say, 'The show has this problem, and this is good, but that's bad," Fallon says. "But the constant is, 'Man, the Roots are fantastic! They are just phenomenal!' And they really are. The warm-up alone — they make this entrance that's unlike anything you'll ever see. Damon (Bryson, the sousaphonist) comes across the stage, and people don't know what's going on. It's mind-blowing."

It came as a shock to many fans when it was announced that the band — whose recent albums "Rising Down" (2008) and "Game to a Soulja Boy song to a Guns Theory" (2006) were particularly hard-hitting and politically agitated was taking a job as a late-night house band. Were the Roots getting soft? To the band, it made perfect sense.

ED HILLE / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT

And these are uncertain financial times. Our workload was stable, and the money was cool. But you just never know."

"How I Got Over," the new Roots album, will display an Age of Obama optimism. "There's still a sense of drowning desperation, but now there's a glimmer of hope," says ?uestlove.

The title comes from Clara Ward's gospel hymn, though Nichols says the album's vision is "like a cross between Mahalia Jackson and Melvin Van Peebles. That title could be about Obama. Or it could be about the Roots on Jimmy Fallon." Musically, says ?uestlove, the album recalls earlier, less-dense albums like 1993's "Organix."

Fallon first approached the Roots last April after a show in Los Angeles, at the urging of his friend Neil Brennan. Brennan is a former producer on Comedy Central's "Chappelle's Show," where ?uestlove was the de facto music director for a season and a half.

"I was just blown away at how diverse they are," Fallon says. "They went from a Roots song N' Roses song, and then did, like, 'In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida.' And then back to another Roots song. I was like, what?! ... Then I went back to meet them, because, you know, talent is one thing, but I have to live with these guys. You see them more than your own family. And they couldn't be nicer."

perience in their entire careers as Kenny averages each month.

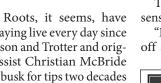
Kenny got questions about just how to deliver a line during recording sessions.

"Mitch would ask me how certain things were done on other shows. I think he was a real sponge, no pun intended," Kenny says during an interview at the Universal Hilton.

obvious that he has been the voice of so many familiar characters. At best, there might be a slight accent from SpongeBob's stomping grounds of Bikini Bottom.

Kenny's history also makes him the go-to actor when additional voices are needed. In one episode, along with being the voice of Happy, he might also be the voice of a doctor, cowboy or a monster. Kenny compares himguy who works on a lot of proj-

Most animated shows have the voice talents arrive individually So it was only natural that or in groups to record their lines. In the case of "Sit Down, Shut Up," all of the actors came together before the recording sessions to read the script. This is how live-action situation comedies work. It gives the actors



"It's a change of pace that shows off a different side of the band,"



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SPORTS

WOMEN'S TENNIS

BFAR IR/



Macall Harkins returns the ball during her singles match against McCall Jones on April 4. Harkins won 6-0, 6-4 and helped TCU defeat BYU 4-3.

Baylor match to end regular season

By Jordan Smith Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team will close out the regular season at home today when they take on No. 5 Baylor.

The Horned Frogs (13-9, 7-1 Mountain West Conference) will bring a six-match winning streak into the match.

"They're one of the best teams in the country," said head coach Jefferson Hammond. "They're loaded from top to bottom. We're going to have to play our very best tennis to beat them. It's possible, we're capable and we just have to come out and really play."

The Horned Frogs, ranked No. 28, have won its last six matches, sweeping three of its last four opponents 7-0.

ence play, the team will play for bragging rights today. Sophomore Maria Babanova said the team is anxious to play after falling to the Bears last season.

We are (excited) about playing them because last year we lost, but we were playing there," she said. "This year we're playing at home and it will be our last for the seniors, so they're really going to go for it, hopefully, for revenge."

Hammond said his team can't afford to overlook a talented Baylor squad.

'This is as good a team as Baylor's had in all their years," Hammond said. "It should be a good match."

Today's match against Baylor will be the last at home this year, which means it will be the last time seniors Macall Harkins and Anna Sydorska Having already finished confer- get to play at Bayard H. Friedman Tournament beginning April 22.

TCU vs. Baylor

When: 5 p.m. Where: Bayard H. Friedman **Tennis Center**

Tennis Center.

Hammond said there would be a brief ceremony before the game for the departing seniors.

"It's a big day for Macall and Anna," Hammond said. "We're really proud of what they've accomplished."

Friday's forecast calls for a chance of rain. If that's the case, Hammond said the game will be played indoors.

The Horned Frogs will have a short break over the remainder of the weekend before traveling to Albuquerque, N.M., for the MWC

TRACK AND FIELD continued from page 10

400, Anderson said. On the men's side, junior Dell Guy and sophomore Matthew Love are two sprinters expected to perform well for the Flyin' Frogs in the same event, he said.

In terms of how the season has progressed so far, Anderson said the teams are finally on the right track after some early season struggles.

"It's been a slow process, but I feel like we are heading in the right direction," Anderson said.

MARIJUANA

continued from page 10

marijuana. Look no further than Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, whose sport suspended him and a major sponsor abandoned him when a photograph surfaced recently showing Phelps using a marijuana bong. Contrast that mammoth controversy to five years ago when Phelps was arrested for drunken driving and was allowed to continue swimming and didn't lose a single endorsement.

Now ask yourself: What's worse - taking a bong hit at a college party or getting snockered and putting yourself and others at risk by climbing behind the wheel of your Hummer?

Why are professional athletes repeatedly suspended and fined for smoking pot, but not so much for abusing alcohol? Why do most pro sports leagues have black-and-white policies and punishments for marijuana use, but a gray area when it comes to DUI or other alcohol-related crimes?

One marijuana advocacy group — Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) — is asking these very questions. The organization was launched in Denver four years ago after two alcohol-overdose deaths on college campuses in Colorado. Mason Tver, co-founder of SAFER, notes that there has never been a documented case of anyone dying of a marijuana overdose.

"Marijuana is much safer than alcohol and we want to highlight the harm and irrationality of laws and penalties that steer people — athletes and sports fans included — toward drinking and away from marijuana use," Tver says.

Full disclosure here: I love a beer or two when tailgating with friends or watching

Anderson said it is important for the team to perform well at this weekend's invitational and take advantage of the familiarity of the home track.

"We'll be running in front of our home fans and schoolmates so it's important to have a good performance," he said.

The stable of other track and field teams competing against the Flyin' Frogs this weekend include Air Force, UT-Arlington, Central Arkansas, Hardin-Simmons and West Texas A&M among others.

The MWC Outdoor Championships are scheduled to begin May 13 in Laramie, Wyo.

the Magic play in a sports bar. Most fans do, in fact, drink responsibly and believe a couple of beers positively enhance their sporting experience. But you're blind if you can't see that alcohol abuse is a much more serious problem in sports than is pot smoking.

Whenever an athlete gets arrested for domestic violence, a fight or any other act of aggression, alcohol is invariably involved. Meanwhile, there has never been

What's worse — taking a bong hit at a college party or getting snockered and putting yourself and others at risk by climbing behind the wheel of your Hummer?

any reputable study that linked marijuana to violent behavior — unless, of course, you count the pot smoker's customary terrorization of a bag of Oreos.

The same goes for fan behavior. The biggest brawl in NBA history was started when a beer was thrown on Ron Artest. And who will ever forget the tragic shooting death of an undercover police officer during a drunken tailgating party at a University of Central Florida football game four years ago? Witnesses at the time said the accidental shooting occurred when one of the officers confronted a rowdy group of tailgaters, some of whom threw beer on him.

Such is the duplicity of sports. You can go 10 drinks over the legal limit and you're fine, but if you go one toke over the line you suddenly become a character risk.



ETC.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 · PAGE 9

Joke of the Day

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

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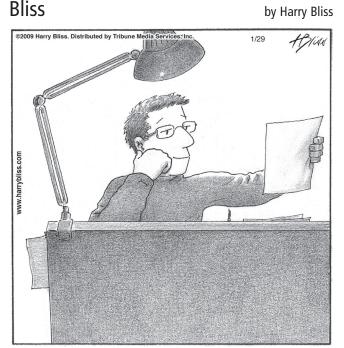
80% of students with jobs at graduation used a Career Center

Q: What did one elevator say to the other? A: I think I'm coming down with something.



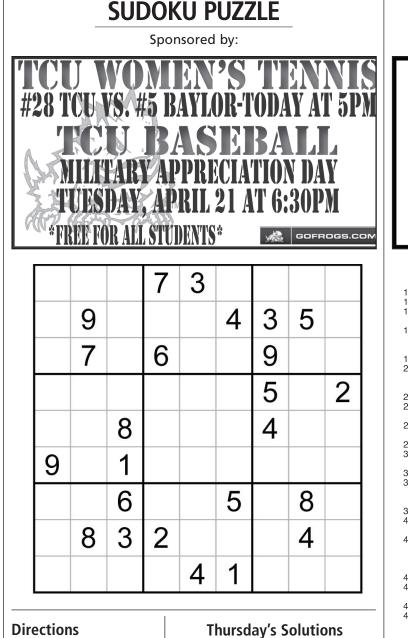
Today in History

On this day in 1790, American statesman, printer, scientist and writer Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at age 84. — History Channel



"Hmmm, this might just be not funny enough for The New Yorker."





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.

6 4 3 1 9 8 7 5 2 98472613 5 2 3

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

TRACK AND FIELD **Coach: Home meet provides opportunity**



SKIFF ARCHIVES Sophomore sprinter Sean Zurko races in the 800-meter run during the TCU Invitational last season. Zurko finished first in the event.

By Maddy Foxx Staff Reporter

The Flyin' Frogs will get to run, jump and throw in their own backyard for a change as the season winds ever closer to next month's Mountain West Conference Outdoor Championships in marks as well as improving upon Wyoming. The TCU Invitational takes place today and Saturday at the Lowdon Track and Field Complex.

Darryl Anderson, the head coach of the men's and women's track and field teams, said his athletes will try to take advantage of the home meet in an effort to garner more NCAA regional qualifying marks.

We're looking forward to gaining some additional qualifying SEE TRACK AND FIELD · PAGE 8

TCU Invitational

When: All day today and Saturday Where: Lowdon Track and Field Complex

the marks we have already made," Anderson said.

Anderson said the team is focusing on a lot of individual races like the 400- and 200-meter dashes as the MWC Outdoor Championships approach.

Junior sprinter Jessica Young and senior sprinter Jessica Clarke are two standouts who will be competing for the women in the



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See how the baseball team is preparing for a two-game stint against A&M Copus Christi.

Tuesday

FANTASY BASEBALL

The baseball season is finally here and with that fantasy baseball season has finally started.

After weeks of drafting, looking at projections and making speculations, you now have the chance to see your hard work pay off on the virtual field.

I was fairly successful in my first week with my teams, but there is always room to bolster your lineup. Be sure to check the waiver wire for some potential steals. Here are a couple that could be available in your leagues:

New York Mets outfielder Daniel Murphy: This 24-year-old is already surpassing expectations. His projections for the season were to hit around .280 and maybe get double-digit home runs and steals. He hasn't swiped his first bag of the year yet, but he already has two home runs and is hitting .294 in this young season. He is available in 74.2 percent of ESPN leagues.

Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Scott Rolen: This guy was one of my favorites when he was in Philadelphia and St. Louis, but mostly because of his glove. Now

Give slumping players time to recuperate he has started the year hot and is

hitting .389 with two home runs and eight runs scored already. People are also starting to take notice as he has been picked up by 15.6 percent of ESPN leagues in the past week, but he is still available in 77.2 percent of leagues.

Now is the perfect time to start making some trades and trying to catch people who are freaking out about star players starting the year slow. Here are some studs who aren't having a great first two weeks and you could probably get at a bargain if you act fast:

Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins: This former MVP is slumping out of the gate, hitting .121, and he doesn't have a steal or a home run yet. He will turn it around as that lineup begins to heat up.

Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia: There will be some people who thought the numbers from his MVP season last year were a fluke and that the Red Sox lineup is not as good as it was last year. Well the lineup isn't as good anymore, but Pedroia is no fluke. He will be just fine and you might be able to steal him for the right price now.

Next week I will update you on some key injuries and suggest possible free agents to replace your hurt starters.

> Billy Wessels is a senior newseditorial journalism major from Waxahachie.



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GARY W. GREEN / Orlando Sentinel via MCT

Florida running back Percy Harvin runs for a touchdown during the first half of a game against South Carolina in Gainesville, Fla., in November 2008. Rumors regarding Harvin's pot use have affected his status in the upcoming NFL draft.

Drug double standard pervasive in athletics

By Mike Bianchi The Orlando Sentinel

Before the NFL Scouting Combine, University of Florida star Percy Harvin should have gotten drunk out of his gourd, puked on his shoes and passed out behind the wheel of his car.

If only he had done that instead of hypothetically smoking a marijuana joint and perhaps laughing uncontrollably at "The Three Stooges Meet Hercules," then maybe Pro Football Weekly would not be calling Harvin the biggest risk in the upcoming NFL draft.

Sadly, this is the confounding, contradictory world we live in — a world where Harvin would be more appealing to NFL teams if he'd been arrested for a policeconfirmed DUI than he is now because of an unproven Internet report that he tested positive for marijuana at the Combine.

The unconfirmed report, printed by NFLDraftBible.com, set the wheels in motion for Harvin to be labeled a monumental character risk by Pro Football Weekly. Meanwhile, the ruling hypocrisy of sports continues to promote and glamorize the use of a much more dangerous and prevalent controlled substance — alcohol — through its lucrative beer sponsorships on TV and beer sales inside stadiums and arenas.

The legality of the two substances notwithstanding,

nobody can deny that alcohol causes much more pain and suffering in sports than marijuana. Case in point: The two recent and fatal sports-related accidents tied to drinking and driving.

Last week, promising young Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart was among three people killed after an alleged drunk driver with a blood-alcohol content three times the legal limit blew through a red light and broadsided the car Adenhart was riding in.

Last month, Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth hit and killed a pedestrian who was crossing a causeway in South Florida. Blood tests revealed Stallworth had a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit and he was charged with DUI manslaughter.

No, I'm not here today to give Harvin a free pass if he smoked pot. If indeed the reports are true he tested positive for marijuana, I'd be wary about drafting him. Not because of the evils of reefer madness, but because any player dumb enough to smoke weed when he knows he's going to be drug-tested probably isn't very committed to his profession.

Still, it's hard to ignore the massive double standard in sports between alcohol and

SEE MARIJUANA · PAGE 8