



Will the 2009 Frogs surpass the success of last season's team? Sports, page 8



Latin America is seeking change in foreign relations from Obama. Tomorrow in Opinion



The university will offer special parking spaces for faculty and staff who drive environmentally friendly vehicles. Tomorrow in News

DINING SERVICES

Value menu aimed at attracting students

By Justin White
Staff Reporter

Dining Services is developing a value menu that it hopes will attract more students to on-campus eateries, a Dining Services official said.

The 1873 Café & Sports Grill will be the only location offering the new value menu, said Legia Abato, marketing manager of Dining Services. The value menu pricing

would be significantly lowered to the \$5 range rather than the normal price range of \$7 to \$9, she said.

Dining Services is in the beginning stages of deciding what to include in the menu, Abato said. She said Dining Services is not sure about what will be included on the menu as of yet, but it may include current items and others not yet on the menu, she said.

"It's going to be probably more in line with

what you will find at Whataburger or stuff like that," Abato said.

Craig Allen, director of Residential Services, said student feedback was the main reason to implement a value menu.

Students want quick items they could pick up instead of larger salads or burgers, he said.

Instead of full chicken strip baskets with fries, students would have the option to buy a chicken strip basket with fewer strips and

no fries at a reduced cost.

The regular menu for lunch and dinner should not change, and the new value menu will be available from 9 p.m. to closing time, Allen said.

"Students can come in and only want something for a couple of bucks and hang out to play pool, and don't really want a lot of food," Allen said. "I think it will be good if

SEE VALUE MENU · PAGE 2

HARDCOVER FICTION
BEST SELLERS

- 1 Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
 - 2 The Middle Place by Kelly Corrigan
 - 3 I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell by John Grisham
 - 4 Lone Survivor by Marcus Luttrell with Patrick Robinson
 - 5 God Is Not Great by Christopher Hitchens
 - 6 Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
 - 7 The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
 - 8 The Soloist by Steve Lopez
 - 9 Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama
 - 10 My Horizontal Life by Chelsea Handler
- The New York Times



Thrift store shopping is good for the environment and the pocketbook. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

KOLKATA, India — Hundreds of prisoners in an eastern Indian jail went on a hunger strike after authorities refused to allow inmates to watch one of India's biggest cricket tournaments on cable television, officials said on Monday.

— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

84 64
HIGH LOW
Windy

Tomorrow: Partly Sunny
81 / 67

Saturday: Mostly Cloudy
82 / 68



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

LEAP OF FAIL



Texas A&M-Corpus Christi second baseman Brycen Bell misses a throw that allows senior right fielder Chris Ellington to slide to second base during the fourth inning Wednesday.

JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

See page 8

WOMEN'S NETWORK

Equity bake sale to charge men more

By Maricruz Salinas
Staff Reporter

Women on campus will be able to buy cookies, brownies and other bakery items for 75 cents, while men will have to pay \$1 if they want a bite at a campus bake sale, a member of the TCU Women's Network said.

Megan O'Brien, president of the TCU Women's Network and senior art history major, said the Women's Network and Women's Studies Program will be hosting a bake sale to illustrate the gap between women's and men's wages on Thursday.

Su Harz, member of the Women's Network and junior social work major, said the bake sale will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Mary Couets Burnett Library.

O'Brien said women on average get paid 77 cents to every dollar earned by men. The bake sale will sell cookies, brownies, cake and vegan options, she said.

"We want it to be known how much of a gap there is, especially since people still don't think that's happening," O'Brien said.

SEE EQUITY · PAGE 2

Equity Bake Sale

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: In front of the Mary Couets Burnett Library

PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

University to host the Zac Brown Band

By Lizzy Karoly
Staff Reporter

It won't be Friday and there won't any be cold beer, but the Zac Brown Band will be singing about it.

To celebrate the end of the semester, the Programming Council arranged for the popular country music group to put on a free concert for students today, said Kennedy Stewart, Programming Council

"We had no idea the song 'Chicken Fried' would do so well. We are just enjoying it and taking it one step at a time."

Chris Fryar
drummer, Zac Brown Band

chair and sophomore advertising/public relations major.

Stewart said she saw the band at a convention some of the Programming Council members attended.

"We thought it would be great to bring them to campus and we had leftover money in our budget since we couldn't do tailgates this year, so we used those funds to bring

Zac Brown Band Concert

When: 8:15 p.m.
Where: Campus Commons
Admission is free for students, faculty and staff.

the band to campus," Stewart said.

The band was the Academy of Country Music's Top New Vocal Group of 2009, and the band's video for their No. 1 platinum single "Chicken Fried" was nominated for two fan-voted 2008 Country Music Television Music Awards: Group Video of the Year and USA Weekend Breakthrough Video of the Year, according to a Shore Fire Media news release.

Chris Fryar, the drummer for the Zac Brown Band, said the band is excited to come to campus and they want everyone to come out and have a good time with them.

"We expect to put on a really good show and we hope everyone enjoys it just as much as we enjoy playing," Fryar said. "We have been playing at several colleges the past few weeks, and everywhere we go we have been having really great receptions."

With a platinum single and huge success, Fryar said the fame is a very surreal experience that is difficult to put

SEE ZAC BROWN · PAGE 2

SCHIEFFER SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

RealWorld shuts down after failed attempts to raise money

Madison Morgan
Staff Reporter

The RealWorld advertising agency will officially close its doors at the end of this month after a final attempt was made to raise money to keep the organization open, the director of the program said.

Director Claudia Butts said there was an overwhelming amount of support from the community and the programs' beneficiaries, but none of them were capable of contributing the \$100,000 needed to keep the operation going, Butts said.

"The reality is that the university was faced to make budget cuts in all departments, and unfortunately our program fell into that cut," Butts said.

Mark Mourer, assistant dean for development for the College of Communication, said that because so many of RealWorld's beneficiaries are nonprofit organizations, they were in no financial position to donate money.

"I went to the Funding Information Center in Fort Worth and spoke to other individual organizations that were facing the same problem to try to find answers, but the answer is that this economy is making it very tough for any organization seeking additional funding," Mourer said.

Jennifer Campbell, a senior advertising/public relations major, works for RealWorld and said she is disappointed that

future students won't have an opportunity to work for the agency.

"The RealWorld is responsible for getting me my job and other students won't have that edge that I did when entering the work force," Campbell said. "It's also disappointing because the Schieffer School is predominantly made up of advertising and public relations students ... and the Schieffer School continues to expand The Skiff and NewsNow but could not help keep RealWorld open."

A \$5.6 million project, the construction of a converged newsroom and other updates for the Daily Skiff and NewsNow is expected to be completed before the fall semester. The RealWorld agency is a beneficiary of the Vision in Action Grant; however, the grant expires at the end of this year and the Schieffer School was not capable of funding the program, Mourer said.

"We had a very short timeline to solicit foundations for donations and sometimes that process can take up to a year before you get any response," Mourer said. "We were really up against the gun time-wise."

Mourer said alumni working in the corporate office of Wal-Mart liked the RealWorld program, but couldn't save it.

"We walked a general report by their foundation office but they were fund-

SEE REAL WORLD · PAGE 2

NEWS

REAL WORLD

continued from page 1

ing similar programs and were unable to fund the program," Mourer said.

RealWorld advertising agency is the only student-run agency in the U.S. that works exclusively with nonprofit organizations, Mourer said.

"The mission of this program made it unique and spoke well of the sincerity of the student's community involvement," Mourer said.

The program was successful and its directors hope that the portfolios and experience the students received allow them to gain employment during these hard economic times, Mourer said.

Butts said she loved the students she worked with and their dedicated work ethic.

"I just hope that one day the program can reopen and become a permanent organization on campus," Butts said.

ZAC BROWN

continued from page 1

into words.

"We had no idea the song 'Chicken Fried' would do so well," Fryar said. "We are just enjoying it and taking it one step at a time. We are very proud of the song and happy to be doing what we do."

William LaFuze, a junior finance and entrepreneurial management major, said he will be attending the concert tomorrow night. "I am excited the Zac Brown Band is coming to campus, especially after they debuted their first album 'The Foundation,' Lafuze said. "I have heard they can put on a good performance so that will make it even better."

Emily Chan, director of live events for Programming Council, said there will be root beer kegs for students to enjoy at the concert. She said the concert is free to all students, faculty and staff. The concert will not be open to the public.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Fla. college named No. 1 party school

By Mike Clary
Sun Sentinel

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Beside a tranquil campus lake, with a breeze blowing and final exams drawing nigh, there were few outward signs this week that the University of Miami has been honored as the nation's No. 1 party school. But just wait until nightfall, when icy, 34-ounce cups of Moose Juice rum drinks begin to slake the thirst of book-weary students at Mr. Moe's in Coconut Grove, Fla.

"We have sold well over a million in the last eight years, and I'd have to say UM is a large part of that," said Mr. Moe's manager Kim Koch.

So is UM's reputation for hard partying deserved? "Absolutely," said Casey French, 22, a senior from Orlando, Fla.,

lunching at the Rathskellar with several Sigma Chi fraternity brothers. "It shows we're well-rounded individuals."

In issuing a list Friday of the Top 10 party schools, Playboy magazine editors said they considered five criteria, including campus life, sports, sex and academics. The fifth category was called "bikini," a measure of weather, guy-to-girl ratio and cheerleaders.

On a scale of 100, UM racked up an 89.

The University of Florida in Gainesville ranked fourth, with 76 points. Florida State University in Tallahassee came in 23rd.

Not everyone on campus cheered the news. "This is nothing to be proud of," said Maria del Rio, 20, of Campeche, Mexico. "I think it's something negative." For a private university that

has fought hard over the past 30 years to shed its reputation as Sun-tan U, headlines linking students and alcohol-fueled merriment are unwelcome.

University of Miami officials declined comment on the ranking.

Less than two weeks ago university officials shut down the Ibis Ride, a weekend shuttle service between campus and the Grove. Nicknamed the "drunk bus," the shuttle was halted after recent on-board incidents that included an assault and an intoxicated student who required hospital treatment.

Some fraternities, including Sigma Chi, operate their own weekend shuttle to and from the Grove, a round trip of less than six miles.

Scott Eisenberg, 22, of Coral Springs, Fla., said the Playboy des-

ignation was unlikely to encourage more drinking by students bent on living up to the university's reputation.

Added Mike Lewan, 22, of Alexandria, Va.: "The university is not going to reduce academic standards because of this."

In selecting the University of Miami as the peak site for collegiate get-down, Playboy cited the school's unparalleled "Bikini index score."

"When you combine weather and women, no city in the country is hotter than Miami," the magazine reported.

"So rejoice and relax!" advised an editorial in the Hurricane, the school newspaper. "For Playboy has spoken, we shall continue to live up to our name, on the field, in the classrooms and especially in the bars (safely, of course)."

VALUE MENU

continued from page 1

this low-cost option is there."

Kyle Silberbauer, a junior philosophy major, said the value menu is a good idea for those just looking for a quick and cheap snack. He also said that he doesn't have a problem with the value menu only being available at later hours.

"I think the regular selection is pretty good," Silberbauer said.

Jessica Heroux, a sophomore speech pathology major, said she likes the idea of a late-night value menu because students have few dining options after Market Square closes. Heroux said the success of the value menu will probably depend on Dining Services' decision to make future changes to the meal plan.

"I think it will be good to have more of a variety to choose from on late nights," Heroux said.

EQUITY

continued from page 1

"We're also letting the university population know that feminists aren't scary."

Harz said the bake sale is being held in honor of Equal Pay Day, which was created by the National Committee on Pay Equity in 1996. Its purpose is to bring awareness to the gap between men and women's wages.

According to the National Women's Law Center, while white women make 77 cents to every dollar men make, women of color fare worse. Hispanic women get paid 56 cents to every dollar and black women are paid 67 cents to every dollar.

Karen Steele, director of Women's Studies Program and professor of English and women's studies, said in 1963 women earned 59 cents to every dollar

men earned. President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act that year, making it illegal for employers to pay men and women unequally.

"One would expect the gap to improve faster, but it's going to take 50 years for equal pay at this rate," Steele said. "We're actually worse for what we were in 1963 for Latino women."

It's difficult for women to find out if they're getting paid less than their male counterparts because of the taboo associated with asking how much others make, Steele said. Women should be aware of salary range of the job they're applying for, she said.

Negotiating a better pay wage is the first step toward equal pay, Steele said. Women don't normally negotiate because they're not expected to, she said.

"You can negotiate for your

pay, benefits, membership, even at Dillard's," Steele said. "Everything is negotiable, and women need to realize what they're worth."

Members will also be wearing red to represent how women are currently in the red because of every 77 cents to every dollar earned, Steele said.

O'Brien said the idea of holding a bake sale came from the first version of the Women's Network about two years ago. The network experienced a hiatus before finding a re-emergence this semester, she said.

Money earned from the bake sale will be put into funds for next year's events held by the Women's Network, O'Brien said.

Equal Pay Day is on Tuesday, but the bake sale will occur a week before because of the university's study days, she said.

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

Commentary loses value when censored

Viewers of a commentary show don't tune in to hear canned statements contrived to please certain parties. All value of the show would be lost if the said commentator acted and talked like a puppet and didn't honestly delve into his or her unique opinions.

Apparently, Mark Cohen, director of athletic media relations, disagrees.

Senior broadcast journalism major Brian Smith was asked to go on a talking-heads style show on the MountainWest Sports Network to share his thoughts on the football team. The only mistake Smith made was offering them.

Smith was told this week that he is no longer allowed to use camera equipment owned by the network to appear on the show after he made comments that the media relations department deemed "critical."

Smith, like all other student journalists at the Schieffer School of Journalism, is taught to value his freedom of speech and to stand firm in this right. The fact that he was pulled from the show because he chose to be honest without self-censorship is embarrassing.

Nothing Smith said during the spot was blatantly offensive or inappropriate. Agree or not with his opinion that an incoming quarterback could possibly be better than an existing one, it was hardly out of line.

Student journalists are arguably more well-versed on their teams' dynamics than professional journalists. Not only do they go to school and possibly classes with these players, but they are also on the sidelines during the games and off-season practices. Their attention is more concentrated on their school's teams.

The Mtn. offered a valuable opportunity for college sports fans to hear from student journalists and benefit from their unique expertise and point of view. Frogs' fans no longer have that same opportunity.

The university should evaluate whether this decision is in line with its mission statement and whether the message this sends to its students is the one it intended to convey.

Managing editor Saerom Yoo for the editorial board.

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

Asians shouldn't have to give up identity to vote



NAHEIL QUDAH

When I order a coffee, I always tell the cashier my name is Isabelle. The daunting task of pronouncing and spelling out Naheil several times becomes shockingly unrewarding once the clueless barista offers up a beverage for Michael, Miguel, or "NNNN. Umm. Nile. Whose drink is this?"

I figure I'm not selling anyone short because the transaction lasts all of two minutes and let's be honest — the overworked and underpaid Starbucks guy doesn't really care what my name is.

But being asked by a Texas representative to change my name for the purpose of actual identity is both ridiculous and offensive.

At a Texas House of Representatives Elections Committee hearing on April 7 regarding the possibility of passing legislation requiring voter IDs, Republican state Rep. Betty Brown from Terrell suggested that Asian-Americans should adopt a name that Americans could more easily deal with. This short-sighted comment effectively alienated and showed her complete lack of sensitivity to many of her international constituents.

We should be able to hold our state representatives to high standards of international knowledge. Doesn't Brown realize how difficult it would be for people in

some other nations to pronounce Betty?

One could argue that immigrants should assimilate to American culture as part of a host-guest relationship, but the "when in Rome" concept doesn't apply in a nation that was founded by immigrants and has become a self-proclaimed melting pot.

Also, her suggestion involves two parties: "Asian-Americans" and "Americans." Her separation of the two groups implies that Asian-Americans are not also Americans.

A name is more than a series of letters on a piece of paper. For many of us, it's our first recollection of identity. It's something that many people are proud of and should not have to change in order to have a voice in state affairs. To strip anyone of it would be humiliating and unfair.

Having to repeat one's legal name several times in a social situation makes one feel more than enough out of place, and tacking on the requirement of altering one's identity in order to register for a voter ID would only further separate immigrants from American-born citizens.

Brown's apology acknowledging the "diversity of Texas" and the "enrichment" that Asian-Americans have brought to the state seemed insincere and forced, and was not enough to sway those she had already distanced.

Her initial idea that anyone should have to change his or her identity to facilitate the voting process — something that symbolizes a person's individuality and political voice — makes it clear that she doesn't have a global vision, which should be expected of our representatives.

Naheil Qudah is a senior marketing major from Amman, Jordan.

Looks should not be a requirement for true talent to rise to stardom



ASHLEY TAMBUNGA

If the name Susan Boyle is not already familiar to you, you are not one of more than 30 million viewers that have been touched by the pure voice of this 47-year-old Scottish singer.

Boyle stepped onto the stage of the TV show "Britain's Got Talent" with the audience laughing at her appearance as

she introduced herself and her dream. As the camera panned across the audience, people could be seen snickering as she told the judges that she wanted to be as successful as singer Elaine Paige.

It became apparent that everyone had their doubts as to how she would perform.

But when Boyle began to sing "I Dreamed a Dream" from the musical "Les Miserables," even Simon Cowell, best known for his incredible cynicism on "American Idol," could not stop smiling.

"I honestly think we were all being very cynical, and I think that's the biggest wake-up call ever," said Amanda Holden, one of the judges on "Britain's Got Talent," after the audition.

It is unfair for society to send the message that it cannot accept talent unless it is made-up nice and pretty.

Her appearance, slightly disheveled, is now a big controversy.

In an ABC interview with Boyle conducted by Diane Sawyer, Sawyer brought up the idea of a makeover for Boyle. Sawyer talked about the possibilities "when (she's) blonde and wearing red leather," and I could not get over the fact that this is the impression that Americans leave on people. Are we really obsessed with

whether she becomes a beauty queen overnight?

She sang, and the whole audience got up on its feet. The audience didn't do this because of how gorgeous she looked, but because of how fabulous she sounded. Her voice made millions fall in love with her, and it is unfair for society to send the message that it cannot accept talent unless it is made up nice and pretty.

Watching her sing literally brought me to tears. It was a pleasant surprise, and I think that's why so many Americans are flabbergasted. Keep in mind that the media in America are not so quick to recognize talent like this if it isn't in a blonde-bombshell casing.

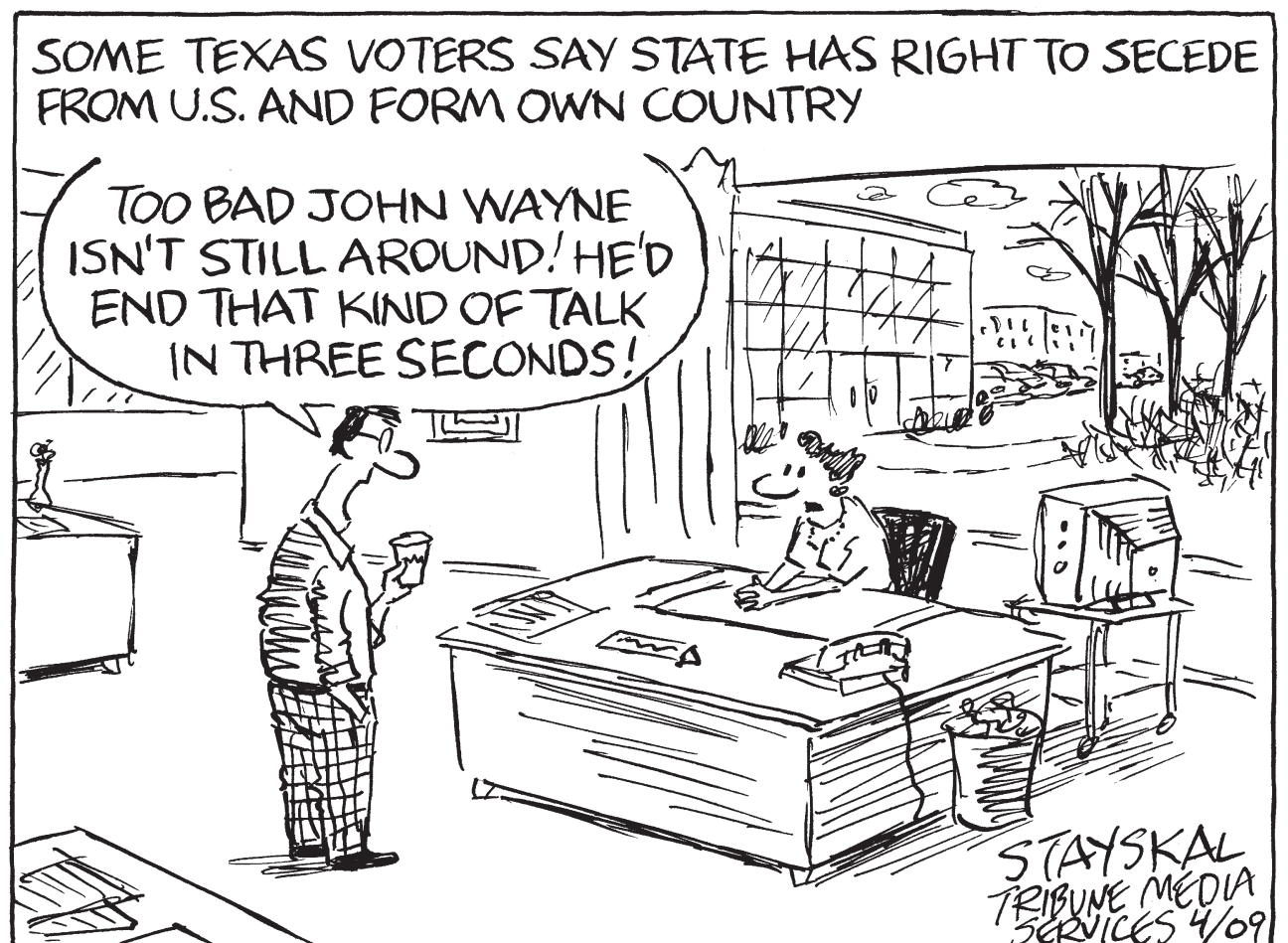
Everything about Boyle is memorable

— her appearance, her humble attitude and awe-inspiring voice. It really says something about our society if we are so willing to judge talent by the packaging in which it arrives.

But perhaps talent like Boyle's serves as that catalyst to bring us back to earth. Making her over would just be another Hollywood dream story, and Boyle is no Hollywood girl.

In the Sawyer interview, Boyle did not confirm or deny whether she would accept a makeover. It's one thing to look one's best, but completely another thing to fit the mold society expects to be filled.

Ashley Tambunga is a junior English major from Fort Worth.



Wayne Stayskal is an editorial cartoonist for the Tampa Tribune.

FASHION

Cheap is in, expensive is out



CLAIRE MARSTON

A pair of dark blue \$180 Citizens of Humanity jeans, a magenta \$75 Ralph Lauren polo, and a pair of blue \$45 Converse low top tennis shoes would cost me \$300 together, right? Wrong! I paid \$50 for the jeans, \$15 for the polo, and \$20 for the tennis shoes for a total of \$85. How did I do it? I bought all these items at a thrift store.

When most people think of thrift stores, they think of nasty old clothes that are out of style. This is a common misconception. The truth is that thrift stores will only take clothes that are gently used and in sturdy condition. Some thrift stores, like Goodwill and the Salvation Army, may not have as many brand names. Yet trendy items can still be found in these stores because past styles often repeatedly become fashionable again.

There are also gently used clothing

Saving money while shopping at thrift stores benefits people's budgets during this economic crisis, gives a guilt-free shopping experience and also helps the environment.

stores, such as Plato's Closet and Buffalo Exchange, that buy, sell, and trade only big name brands. This type of thrift store has the easiest method for consumers to find stylish products without wasting money.

Saving money while shopping at thrift stores benefits people's budgets during this economic crisis, gives a guilt-free shopping experience and also helps the environment.

Thrift stores are thriving right now because there has been an increase of

people selling their used clothes to thrift stores for cash. Consumers can take advantage of the economy and buy name-brand clothing that would not have been available before at thrift stores. So, why shop at stores that sell products at full retail price?

Finding great bargains gives people guilt-free pleasure. It feels great when I can say I found a \$23 BCBG dress that looks fantastic with my figure. With thrift store prices being so cheap, it is easy to be creative and individualistic. A vintage formal dress can be bought at a thrift store without the worry of someone else wearing the same dress at an event. With all the options to accessorize, it is simple to find an old shirt at a thrift store and make it unique with a scarf or headband.

Recycling and reusing old clothing is the best way to keep a wardrobe environmentally friendly while staying on top of

current fashion styles. There are so many clothes that people own and do not wear, yet new clothes are still being bought everyday. So what happens to clothes not being worn or bought? They are taking up money, space, and time because of companies are overproducing clothes. The overproduction of products is contributing to our environmental problems. A great way to protest these large corporations to help stop overproduction is to buy used items.

In this era of dealing with an economic crisis, having people want to experience guilt-free shopping, and being environmentally responsible, there is absolutely no reason for anyone not to shop at thrift stores.

Claire Marston is a freshman fashion merchandising major from Westwood Hills, Kan.



SXC.HU

NEWS

For Iraqi refugees in the U.S., terror is replaced by financial woes

By Steve Lannen
McClatchy Newspapers

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Faced with ongoing war and death threats, millions of Iraqis fled their homeland in recent years. They come not only seeking refuge from the kidnappings and sectarian killings, but also bringing with them the expectation of an America full of jobs and promise — the America that they have been told so much about.

Their arrival here, however, coincides with the massive economic recession, and their hopes for better lives in the United States are severely blunted by economic hardship. They stand among the thousands of Americans who are unemployed.

Some Iraqis have found part-time work or manual labor. But it's a far cry from their work back home as doctors, teachers or entrepreneurs. Plus, their lack of English skills and work experience in the United States forces them to start at the bottom with low-wage jobs. At least one returned to work in Iraq with the U.S. military as an interpreter and now sends money to his family in Lexington. They might be safer, but the Iraqis here have new worries.

They don't know how they will pay rent. And they wonder how they're going to feed their children.

In recent years, more than 95 percent of refugees were employed after four months in Lexington. In this recession, "that's just not realistic now," said Barbara Kleine, Kentucky Refugee Ministries director. "I think the expectation is once they get here, things would be better, and they're not."

Here are stories from a few of Lexington's Iraqi refugees.

Raghad Abdul Majeed

The bullet left in the envelope outside Raghad Abdul Majeed's home was the sign.

Majeed's husband was already dead, carjacked and killed for his money in lawless Baghdad. Now this was a sign that Majeed's family was a target. They were Shias living in Dora, a no-longer-welcoming Sunni

neighborhood.

It was time to go.

Months later, when it became clear she would move to the United States, Majeed attended an orientation meeting for refugees in Syria. It will be easy to find jobs in America, she was told.

Since her arrival last May, however, that has not been the case. Her professional training as an Arabic teacher didn't count for much here because she could not speak English. In the dreadful economy, she applied for jobs that didn't require language skills, but she encountered Americans with college degrees applying for the same work.

She landed a couple of odd jobs. After a week as a hotel maid, she was fired for not working fast enough. Then, her temporary job at the Amazon.com shipping center stopped soon after the holidays were over.

"We had imagined America to be the safest place for our children and that it would be the best place to find a job. (But) the lack of a job is a kind of threat. It's not a safe situation if you don't have a job here," Majeed said.

Socially, Majeed has suffered, too. She left her parents behind in Iraq, and everyone in America is always busy. She and other Iraqi refugees in her apartment complex do their best to help one another — they share meals or advice on how to act with Americans.

"We have not adjusted to this life yet. ... Each of us helps each other," she said.

Majeed recently began working full time at a retirement home, doing laundry and other chores as she cares for the elderly.

"It's not just my problem. It's the problem of all the Iraqi families here," she said. "If someone told me these are the obstacles I would find in America, I wouldn't have come. ... I would return to Iraq."

Subbhi Abbas Ali

Each weekday, 64-year-old Subbhi Abbas Ali rises at 5 a.m., takes two LexTran buses to Goodwill and then rides with his boss to the tack-and-

leather shop.

As horses trot nearby, he sits at one of two machines used to cut and stitch leather.

Ali earns \$9 an hour, toiling on a machine that is not unlike the one he remembers in Baghdad. However, in Iraq, there were 40 machines in the factory — and he was the factory's owner.

Ali's decision to move his family to the United States began when he was kidnapped in Baghdad more than two years ago.

Militia members loyal to the radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr came to Ali's home looking for money, he said. They would get it by asking for ransom. They threw a hood over Ali's face, put him in a car and drove him to the northern town of Husseiniya on Baghdad's outskirts.

For four days, Ali was held blindfolded. He recalls being drugged. Ali thinks the pills caused hallucinations and made him more compliant to his captors. When he was told to call his family, he recalled saying, "Just give them what they need. Give them money. Give them cars. Just give them what they want so they let me go."

They did.

Ali's captors released him with the order to "just leave everything." If he ever opened his business again, they vowed to bomb it.

So now, instead of fashionable women's shoes and red leather purses, Ali makes custom leather bridles and bits for horses. The business trips to Germany and Hong Kong are no more. He makes trips to the grocery store and returns to a two-bedroom apartment, rather than three houses and a farm in the Iraqi countryside.

Ali's family lived for more than a year in Syria, relying on the support of a relative. Then, in July, they landed in Lexington. It took nearly six months for him to find work.

Several days a week, he and his wife, Aaeda Ibrahim, struggle through English lessons. He carries a vocabulary list with him at work to better understand what is asked of him.



PABLO ALCALA / Lexington Herald-Leader Via MCT
Subbhi Abbas Ali, a refugee from Iraq, sits at his apartment in Lexington, Ky., on April 2. Ali, a once-prominent Baghdad business owner, now works a low-wage job at a leather factory and worries about his children and grandchildren back in Iraq and other countries seeking asylum.

Despite the torture and loss he endured, he said it is his "good luck" to live in the United States. His younger son and two daughters live with him; two daughters remain in Iraq, and his oldest son is in Syria.

"I love to study, but now I am an old man," he said. "The thought is for my children."

All he wants is for his oldest son and his family to receive a visa to come live with him. Ali is fearful that his son — even though he is in Syria — could be targeted by the same people who kidnapped him.

"When I work," Ali said, "it's him I think about."

Akkram Kareem

In Baghdad, Akkram Kareem managed a jewelry store. For this, people assumed he had a lot of money.

So he tried to hide his job as best he could.

He altered his route to work. He took public transportation instead of driving his car. He even moved to a different house in the neighborhood when he was sure his secret

was out.

In a country without laws and full of desperate people, he was a marked man.

"We didn't know who was our enemy," Kareem recalled.

In early 2006, armed men came to his home looking for him.

He wasn't there, but his grown nephew was.

There were two gunshots — one hit Kareem's nephew in the leg.

When Kareem came home, he found his injured nephew. He took him to the hospital. While Kareem and his nephew were away, the men returned to the house and roughed up his wife and mother. They demanded that his wife call Kareem's cell phone.

"Give us your money, or we will kill all of your family," they said.

Kareem says he gathered the gold that was in the shop, about a kilogram, and melted it down. It was worth about \$40,000. He arranged for it to be delivered to an outdoor market, as instructed. Leave Iraq or die, were the last instructions.

He fled with his wife, son and daughter to neighboring Syria in

February 2006.

Australia was where he hoped to settle his family, but he was offered a place in the United States.

"Anywhere besides Iraq. I just want to be in a safe place," he replied.

The four of them, plus an infant daughter, arrived in Lexington on July 24.

Here, there is cool weather, electricity and water that runs on cue. Kareem's children can play outside and take a bus to Cassidy Elementary School.

"It's much better than I thought it would be," he said.

But Kareem's forehead furrows when asked about money. For three months, the rent and utilities were paid, but that ended months ago. Local churches have helped pay some of the bills since.

He knows he is expected to get a job to pay for it all, but nothing has panned out.

Iraqis who were in Lexington several months before him still don't have jobs, he said.

"How will I get a job to continue this beautiful life?" he asks.



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FREE TUITION

Weak economy threatens program

By Stephen C. Fehr
Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — The future of a popular program in 18 states that allows parents to prepay college tuition at public schools is shaky because of recent stock market losses and a wave of tuition increases. The Wall Street collapse shrank the value of many investment funds, out of which the prepaid tuition plans disburse tuition and fees. At the same time, states are raising tuition to help balance their budgets in response to declining tax revenue caused by the recession.

"Just about all these programs are going through similar turmoil," said Joseph Hurley, founder of savingforcollege.com, a Web site devoted to financing a college education. "It's the same dynamic: investments are not keeping up with tuition increases. The irony is, it makes demand for these programs even stronger for families but that popularity translates into more financial stress for these programs."

The Obama administration has made college affordability a priority, through its Middle Class Task Force. Vice President Joe Biden went to St. Louis last Friday to draw attention to the problem.

"The challenges of paying for college in America is well understood," he said. "The growth of college tuition is far outpacing that of family income. No matter what else we do to get our economy moving, it all leads back to education."

Prepaid tuition plans vary, but most are set up so parents or grandparents pay today's prices for tuition and fees instead of the higher costs in the year their child goes to a state school. Those discounted costs are paid as a lump sum or over time through monthly payments that are deposited into a state-managed investment fund. When the child is ready to attend a state college, the tuition and fees are paid from the fund.

The states that have offered prepaid tuition plans, according to www.finaid.org, a student financial aid Web site, are: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. None of the states has failed to pay tuition for plan participants in the current school year, but a few states are moving to bail out their programs.

Alabama's prepaid tuition fund has less than half of the money it needs to pay future tuition com-

"The growth of college tuition is far outpacing that of family income. No matter what else we do to get our economy moving, it all leads back to education"

Joe Biden
U.S. vice president

mitments and has suspended new enrollment as lawmakers try to save the program. West Virginia lawmakers are considering pumping \$8 million into the prepaid tuition program to cover investment losses. The program is closed to new enrollees but still has 7,200 participants.

The instability of the programs comes as some states are reporting record participation by parents seeking a hedge against future tuition increases.

Pennsylvania Treasurer Rob McCord, who has ordered a review of the state's prepaid tuition plan after its assets dropped more than 23 percent, says enrollment in the program rose 26 percent last year. Oregon lawmakers and

Ohio education officials, reacting to the demand, are weighing creating new prepaid tuition programs but tying them less to the ups and downs of the stock market.

Another college savings program, available in 33 states, is not linked to future tuition costs. Under these plans, which like the prepaid programs are called 529 plans after the section of the federal tax code that created them, are simple savings plans that allow parents their choice of a variety of tax-advantaged stock and bond funds. Parents draw from their account when the student goes off to school.

Those savings plans also have been hit by the Wall Street meltdown. Between Sept. 30 and Feb. 28, the average loss was 21 percent for the 529 plan portfolios in Morningstar's database, an investment research firm.

The tension over these losses reached a point in Oregon where on April 13, state Treasurer Ben Westlund and Attorney General John Kroger filed a lawsuit against Oppenheimer Funds alleging Oregon parents lost at least \$36.2 million in account value because of Oppenheimer's alleged negligence for investing in a hedge fund.

Attorneys general in Illinois, Maine, Texas and New Mexico have launched separate investigations into Oppenheimer, which has denied wrongdoing and has said it disclosed details about the fund's performance to Oregon officials throughout the financial crisis.

In St. Louis, Biden said he would ask the treasury and education officials to study ways of making 529 accounts "more effective and reliable. Their analysis will examine how people save in the 529s, whether they are taking appropriate approaches to risk, and try to identify options and best practices for helping these funds be there for families when they need them."

Advances in computer power mean robots are catching up

By Robert S. Boyd
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Robots are gaining on us humans.

Thanks to exponential increases in computer power — which is roughly doubling every two years — robots are getting smarter, more capable, more like flesh-and-blood people.

Matching human skills and intelligence, however, is an enormously difficult — perhaps impossible — challenge.

Nevertheless, robots guided by their own computer "brains" now can pick up and peel bananas, land jumbo jets, steer cars through city traffic, search human DNA for cancer genes, play soccer or the violin, find earthquake victims or explore craters on Mars.

At a "Robobusiness" conference in Boston last week, companies demonstrated a robot firefighter, gardener, receptionist, tour guide and security guard.

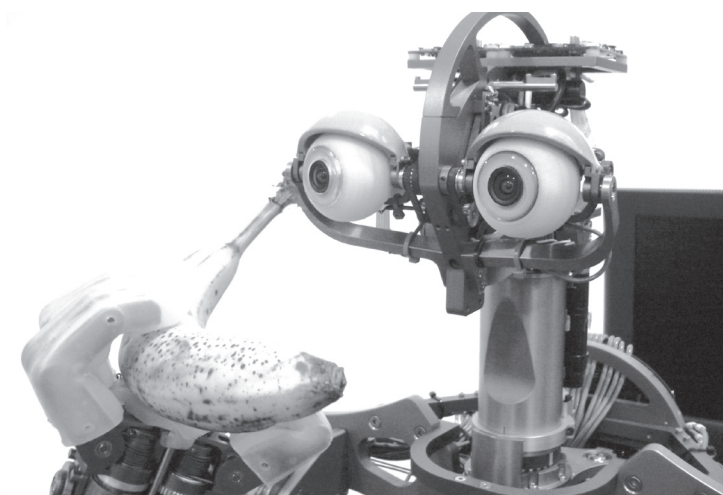
You name it, a high-tech wizard somewhere is trying to make a robot do it.

A Japanese housekeeping robot can move chairs, sweep the floor, load a tray of dirty dishes in a dishwasher and put dirty clothes in a washing machine.

Intel, the worldwide computer-chip maker, headquartered in Santa Clara, Calif., has developed a self-controlled mobile robot called Herb, the Home Exploring Robotic Butler. Herb can recognize faces and carry out generalized commands such as "please clean this mess," according to Justin Rattner, Intel's chief technology officer.

In a talk last year titled "Crossing the Chasm Between Humans and Machines: the Next 40 Years," the widely respected Rattner lent some credibility to the often-ridiculed effort to make machines as smart as people.

"The industry has taken much greater strides than anyone ever



COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY/Massachusetts Institute of Technology Via MCT
Peeling a banana is easy for a human, but a tough challenge for a robot, like this one from MIT's computer science laboratory.

imagined 40 years ago," Rattner said. It's conceivable, he added, that "machines could even overtake humans in their ability to reason in the not-so-distant future."

Programming a robot to perform household chores without breaking dishes or bumping into walls is hard enough, but creating a truly intelligent machine still remains far beyond human ability.

Artificial intelligence researchers have struggled for half a century to imitate the staggering complexity of the brain, even in creatures as lowly as a cockroach or fruit fly. Although computers can process data at lightning speeds, the trillions of ever-changing connections between animal and human brain cells surpass the capacity of even the largest supercomputers.

"One day we will create a human-level artificial intelligence," wrote Rodney Brooks, a robot designer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Mass. "But how and when we will get there — and what will happen after we do — are now the subjects of fierce debate."

"We're in a slow retreat in the face of the steady advance of our mind's children," agreed Paul Saffo, a technology forecaster at Stanford

University in Stanford, Calif. "Eventually, we're going to reach the point where everybody's going to say, 'Of course machines are smarter than we are.'"

"The truly interesting question is what happens after if we have truly intelligent robots," Saffo said. "If we're very lucky, they'll treat us as pets. If not, they'll treat us as food."

Some far-out futurists, such as Ray Kurzweil, an inventor and technology evangelist in Wellesley Hills, a Boston suburb, predict that robots will match human intelligence by 2029, only 20 years from now. Other experts think that Kurzweil is wildly over-optimistic.

According to Kurzweil, robots will prove their cleverness by passing the so-called "Turing test." In the test, devised by British computing pioneer Alan Turing in 1950, a human judge chats casually with a concealed human and a hidden machine. If the judge can't tell which responses come from the human and which from the machine, the machine is said to show human-level intelligence.

"We can expect computers to pass the Turing test, indicating intelligence indistinguishable from that of biological humans, by the end of the 2020s," Kurzweil wrote in his 2005 book, "The Singularity Is Near."



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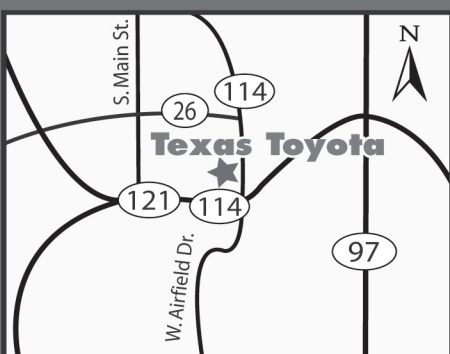
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SPORTS

POINT • COUNTERPOINT

How will the Frogs fare in the 2009 season?

Talented team poised to surpass 2008 season, reach BCS bowl



BILLY WESSELS

It's always football season in Texas.

Once the regular season ends, bowl season begins. Once bowl season ends the spring season begins. Once the spring season ends it's summer and you would think there is no football going on, but the players are constantly working out. Then two-a-days begin and the whole cycle continues.

But sometimes during this never-ending regiment you get this feeling that something special is about to happen. I am getting that feeling right now thinking about this football team.

The stars are aligning at just the right time, the schedule is softer, the starting quarterback is getting more experienced, we have a new, better offense and the defense can still be strong.

There is no Oklahoma, no Texas and no real challenge on the nonconference schedule. We are fortunate to play two teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference, the soft underbelly of the Bowl Championship Series automatic bid conferences. We get Virginia and Clemson, teams that combined for 12 wins last season, one more than the Frogs. Both games are on the road, which is the only thing that could make them a challenge.

We get Utah at home this year, which should be for the conference title, and BYU is not the program they were last season.

Quarterback Andy Dalton threw 11 touchdowns and just two interceptions in-conference last season. I still believe he is constantly improving and will do just fine in the new, more explosive offense.

And the defense may be losing some key components, but this program has always been great at filling holes on the defensive side of the ball and the defense will be in the top 10 again next season.

Just like the rest of the football team. I think a BCS bowl is within this team's grasp this season.

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

Depleted defense, luck will prevent team from improving next season



MICHAEL CARROLL

The Frogs had an incredible season in 2008. An 11-2 record capped off with a thrilling 17-16 victory over Boise State in the Poinsettia Bowl propelled the team to a No. 7 ranking in the national polls. But don't expect to see that kind of success repeated in 2009.

Sure the schedule looks easier on paper and going on the road for two games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents could help boost the team in the polls — provided it wins. But so many things have to go right for a team to have a season like the Frogs did in 2008. A made field goal or two and the team could have finished 12-1 last season. As we saw in the Utah game last year, things frequently go wrong on the football field. And aside from those missed field goals, not many things went wrong for the Frogs last season.

A team's luck can't last forever.

Things will go wrong eventually for this football team. It's uncontrollable. A serious injury, a shocking upset, off-field distractions that make their way on to the field or even a poor coaching decision — something will happen.

While a slipup won't necessarily spell disaster for the Frogs' overall season in 2009, all it will take to derail the team's aspirations of making it to a BCS Bowl is a loss to a team like Wyoming or San Diego State.

Throw in the fact that the team is returning just five of 11 starters from its top-ranked defense in 2008 and it suddenly becomes clear that exceeding last year's performance will be a daunting task, if not impossible.

Double-digit wins are still a distinct possibility thanks to an offense that should continue making strides, but replicating or eclipsing a performance like last season's would be a tall order for any college football team — Frogs included.

Sports editor Michael Carroll is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Coppell.

HOCKEY

Red Wings' Ericsson a valuable piece of proud hockey legacy

By Drew Sharp
Detroit Free Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — There is a blueprint for 18 straight playoff appearances. You could even call it "The Red Wing Way," similar to what the Los Angeles Dodgers referred to their consistent approach in player procurement and development.

"We have a plan that requires evaluating specific skills," general manager Ken Holland said, "with the understanding that the player will have the sufficient time to develop those specific skills. ... And it doesn't hurt being very, very lucky at times."

But isn't luck the residue of preparation?

The Wings' patience with their prospects is why that playoff streak — the longest in professional sports right now — is in no danger of ending anytime soon.

It's not like there's a dearth of talent on the blue line with Nicklas Lidstrom being ... well, Nicklas Lidstrom. And with Brad Stuart and Niklas Kronwall throwing their bodies around the ice with brutish ferocity.

But now here comes rookie Jonathan Ericsson, who has earned high praise for his poise near the net and calm with the puck in his end.

And the Wings found him by accident.

"When they scouted me," Ericsson said, "they were actually there to scout another guy on the team I was playing against."

Ericsson normally played forward for his Swedish junior team, but a rash of injury and illness depleted the lineup so that his coach — who just happened to be Ericsson's father — asked him to play the blue line for that game.

Ericsson was the last player drafted in 2002 — the 291st selection. He was 17. He's only now getting an opportunity at 25 because the Wings don't

believe in rushing their young players.

But, perhaps more important, they don't need to rush them.

"Some might get frustrated when they have to wait that long to get an opportunity," Ericsson said. "But it was never a problem for me because (the Wings) made it very clear that this was how they did things. You're going to have to get experience so that when you get that chance, you're less likely to get nervous."

Even Columbus coach Ken Hitchcock acknowledged Ericsson's cool under playoff fire.

"He reminds me a lot of (Vladimir Malakhov) a lot," Hitchcock said. "I said to (Steve Yzerman) that he has all of the body language of Vladie with just his mobility and ability to be calm with the puck and his ability to get up the ice."

Ericsson might be the roughest of all the diamonds mined through the Wings' superior European scouting.

Holland can humbly shrug off the organization's developmental success as much as he wants, but it's not an accident that their playoff consistency has become as much of an inevitability as death, taxes and criticism of Lions' drafting strategy.

"They've been to the playoffs something like 12 or 13 straight years so they obviously know what they're doing," said Blue Jackets goalie Steve Mason when discussing the Wings' maturity following their 4-1 Game 3 victory.

He was quickly corrected.

"Really?" the 20-year-old responded, his eyebrows rising along with the obvious appreciation for the accomplishment. "It's been that long? I guess I was crawling around in diapers the last time they didn't make the playoffs."

He might be 30 the next time they miss the playoffs.

BASEBALL

continued from page 8

again in the sixth when freshman pitcher Walker Kelly walked in a run.

Eventually the teams settled down and the Islanders fought back, scoring four runs in the sixth and another in the seventh.

The Islanders never took the lead, though, and a double by catcher Bryan Holaday in the eighth took the game to its final score of 10-7.

Head coach Jim Schlossnagle called the pace of the game "nightmarish," but said he was just

grateful his team won.

"We won the game," Schlossnagle said. "Sometimes the way you have a really good season is you play really poorly and still win. The other team had more hits, we had more errors, and we still win. It doesn't happen very often."

The team sent six pitchers to the mound, but Schlossnagle said that decision was made to keep his rotation fresh as they will travel to California this weekend for a rematch against SDSU.

The Horned Frogs will return to Fort Worth for the start of seven straight home games beginning April 29 against Houston Baptist.



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MR. SMITH

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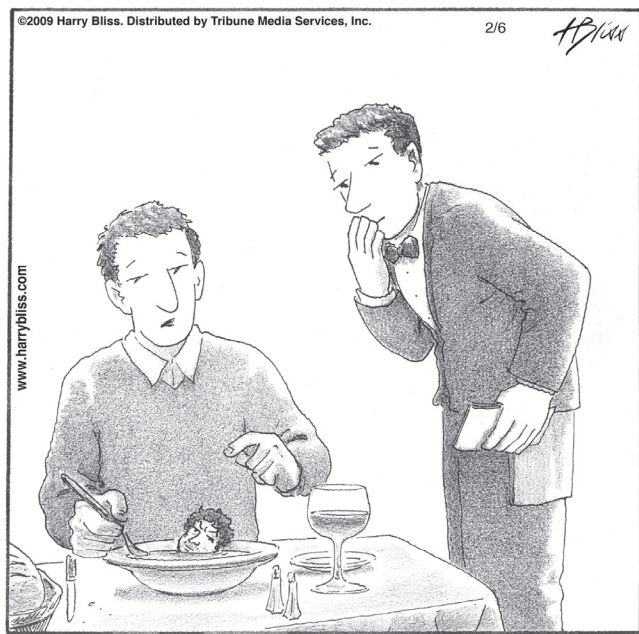
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— History Channel

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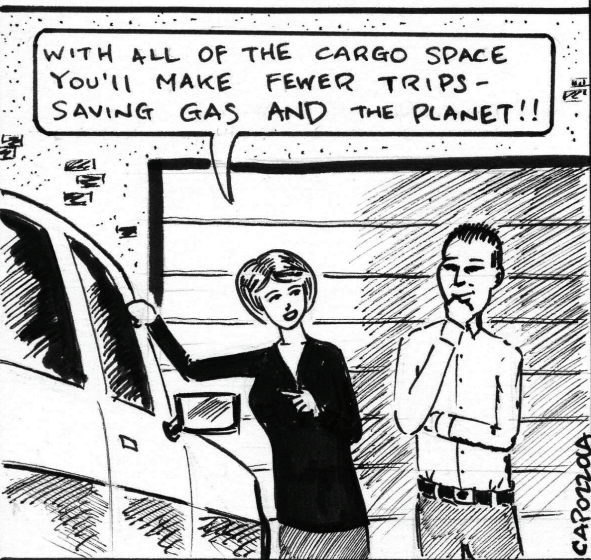
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See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Wednesday's Solutions

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9	4	8	5	3	6	2	1	7
6	1	9	8	4	5	3	7	2
8	2	5	3	6	7	1	9	4
4	3	7	1	9	2	6	5	8
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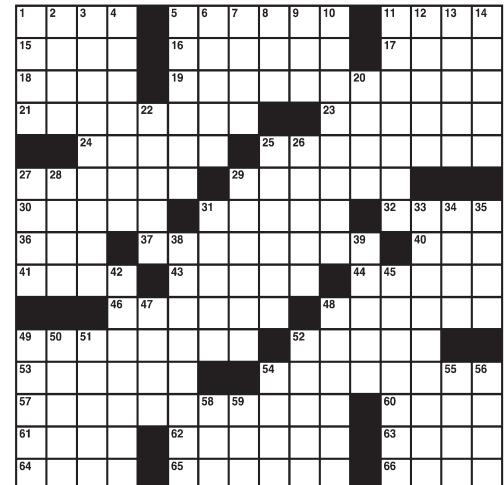
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19 "Parting words
21 Huge
23 Prankster's cry
24 Nick name?
25 It's too close to call
27 Self-seeker
29 One leaving a wake
30 To go neighbor
31 Playground retort
32 Cleanup hitters' stats
36 Cause of inflation?
37 "That outfit looks fabulous!"

DOWN
40 SASE, e.g.
41 NLRB part. Abbr.
42 "... la vista, baby!"
44 "Cool!"
46 Nutrition author
48 "Don't delay!"
49 Darling
52 "The Da Vinci Code" albino
53 100-member group
54 Safeco Field contest, to the Mariners
57 "Like unlikely chances
60 Hebrew for "skyward"
61 Yours, in Tours
62 Buck
63 Pro ...
64 Hamlet, for one
65 Takes the wheel
66 Barbara who played Jeannie

By Dan Naddor 4/23/09



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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SPORTS

BASEBALL • TCU 10, A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI 7

A WIN'S A WIN



JASON FOCHTMAN / Multimedia Editor

Shortstop Taylor Featherston avoids a tag at home plate by Justin Greiner during the fourth inning Wednesday. Featherston's run put the Frogs up 8 to 2.

Horned Frogs survive error-filled contest

By Jordan Smith
Staff Reporter

An ugly game turned into a close one Wednesday afternoon as the No. 16 Horned Frogs dispatched Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 10-7 despite early defensive woes for both teams.

The Horned Frogs started strong as starting pitcher Steven Maxwell struck out three in the first and Chris Ellington gave the team an early 2-0 lead

with a single in the bottom of the inning.

The Islanders evened the score in the second when a base hit by Ernie Olivarez brought one man home and a throwing error by Taylor Featherston brought in another.

Featherston's mistake was just the first of what turned into a stretch of horrendous defensive play by both teams. Before long the game turned into a re-enactment of the training mon-

tage in the film "Major League." Twice in the second the Frogs failed to convert double plays.

The Islanders' fielding was also lacking. An easy fly ball to left-center was dropped by an A&M-CC outfielder Jeramie Marek which advanced junior Matt Curry to second. At one point in the second inning, freshman centerfielder Aaron Schultz was walked and proceeded to steal second base while Islander catcher Justin

Greiner stared at third. The ball never left his mitt.

The teams combined for six errors in the first three innings.

In the end, the Horned Frogs were just a little bit better at keeping those errors from turning into runs for the other team. By the end of the fourth inning, they led 8-2.

The Islanders would score

SEE BASEBALL • PAGE 6

ANALYSIS • 2009 FROG FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Secondary poised to lead defense

By Michael Carroll
Sports Editor

On a defense full of question marks and new faces, the only group that even comes close to resembling how it looked last season will be the Frogs' secondary.

Thanks to the team's unique 4-2-5 alignment, five defensive backs frequently populate the field for the team. Three of five from last season's starters in the secondary will return for the Frogs in 2009.

In 2008, the Frogs' passing defense finished eleventh in the country, allowing just 170.69 passing yards per game. If you take out the 35-10 loss to the University of Oklahoma — when the Sooners passed for 411 yards — the team would have had the second best pass defense in the country. The team finished first in passing defense in the Mountain West Conference when it allowed just 138.2 yards per game and held opponents to a 46.5 percent completion percentage.

Two standout defensive backs, seniors Rafael Priest and Nick Sanders, will return for their fourth straight season as the team's starting cornerback duo.

Priest had 11 pass deflections and one interception last season. Sanders deflected 14 passes and had two picks in 2008. Both were All-MWC selections and should be defensive cornerstones for the Frogs once again in 2009. Fans should be thankful they don't have to worry about who will replace the two cornerbacks until next season.

Other cornerbacks on the roster include juniors Jason Teague and Alex Ibiloye and sophomore Greg



Hunter

Johnson



Priest

Sanders

McCoy, the team's fastest player.

The safety position will be without departed starters Steven Coleman and Stephen Hodge, but the unit's third starter, junior Tejay Johnson, will be returning — albeit at a different position.

Johnson is expected to be re-located from weak safety to free safety. He was sixth on the team in tackles last season with 47.

Sophomore Sir Demarco Bledsoe is expected to start at strong safety while senior Corderra Hunter will likely take the reigns at weak safety.

Players providing support at the safety position include sophomore Johnny Fobbs, junior Colin Jones, sophomore Teckerrein Cuba and senior quarterback/safety Marcus Jackson.

Returning starters: CB Rafael Priest, CB Nick Sanders, S Tejay Johnson

New starters: S Sir Demarco Bledsoe, S Corderra Hunter

Starters lost: S Steven Coleman, S Stephen Hodge

Other returning players: CB Jason Teague, CB Greg McCoy, S Johnny Fobbs, S Marcus Jackson

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