



NEWS
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TUESDAY



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TCU

DAILY SKIFF

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Accounting department toughens course retake policy

By MICHELLE ANDERSON
Staff Reporter

While the Faculty Senate is investigating a new course retake policy, the accounting department is implementing its own.

Starting in the fall, the accounting department of the Neeley School of Business will implement its new course retake policy, which will not

allow students to retake lower level accounting classes after they have taken upper level accounting courses, said Lynn Cole, assistant dean of undergraduate academics.

The university’s policy allows students to repeat any grade, and there is no limit to how many times a class can be retaken. The last attempt at the course is the only grade

calculated into a student’s GPA and credit is given once for a course that is retaken, said Blaise Ferrandino, Faculty Senate Academic Excellence Committee chair.

Ferrandino said he doesn’t think the accounting department is trumping the TCU’s policy.

“Colleges often have rules specific to their own depart-

ment,” Ferrandino said.

The accounting department is the only one to set rules apart from the university’s policy so far, Cole said.

The change is meant to get a fair representation of grades, said Danny Lanier, assistant professor of accounting.

“People were retaking classes just for the sake of GPA-padding and we want-

ed to prevent that,” Lanier said.

Melissa Stewart, a sophomore accounting major, said she doesn’t think the policy is necessary.

“It’s kind of a useless rule because retaking two lower level classes isn’t going to help your GPA that much,” Stewart said. “I would rather go by the university policy.”

Jared Meadows, a junior finance and accounting major, disagreed.

“My initial reaction is this won’t affect too many people, but I’m for it because it rewards people who did well the first time around,” Meadows said. “It gives those who retake classes an unfair advantage and pads their GPA.”

GIVE ME TWO STEPS



Bob Schieffer and head football coach Gary Patterson put on a show during the Campaign for TCU reception Thursday in a tent near Frog Fountain. Schieffer’s band, Honky Tonk Confidential, entertained crowds as the university’s fundraising event carried on through the evening.

Funding campaign begins public portion in style

By ROB CRABTREE
Staff Reporter

One hundred fifty-five million dollars down, \$95 million to go.

The Campaign for TCU kicked off the public portion of its fundraising effort Thursday night with a presentation in

Ed Landreth Auditorium followed by a reception on the lawn between the Brown-Lupton Student Center and the unfinished Brown-Lupton University Union.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said the goal of the evening was two-fold.

“We wanted to thank our current donors and encourage some new donors to pitch in,” Boschini said.

Don Whelan, vice chancellor for university advancement, said the overall fundraising goal for the campaign is

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 2

Group to camp out for Darfur support

By ANNA HODGES
Staff Reporter

When Danielle Boyd wore a shirt that said “Save Darfur,” someone asked her if “Darfur” was a band.

“Times like those just encourage me to keep doing what I’m doing,” said Boyd, vice president of a student anti-genocide coalition.

Members of the TCU chapter of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur have organized a camp out on Sadler Lawn to confront what they call a “lack of awareness” about the conflict in Darfur, the sophomore education major said.

Students will pitch tents and stay overnight Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. on Sadler Lawn, where they

FOR YOUR INFO

Camp Out for Hope

Who: STAND

When: 5 p.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday

Where: Sadler Lawn

Contact: d.boyd@tcu.edu

will sign petitions and write letters to members of Congress in support of sending aid to the peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Boyd said.

“We wanted to give people the idea of what it feels like to live outside in a refugee camp,” Boyd said. “But we still had to make it fun to get people to come.”

See **DARFUR**, page 2

Center to help fund alcohol-free events

By YUSI CHENG
Staff Reporter

Today is the last day for student organizations to apply for \$200 to finance alcohol-free or alcohol-awareness events in honor of Alcohol Awareness Month, the assistant director of the Alcohol and Drug Education Center said.

Yvonne Giovanis, assistant director of prevention services, said this is the center’s first year doing this. Instead of the Alcohol and Drug Education Center hosting all the events every year, the center wants to see how student organizations will help raise alcohol awareness on campus, she said.

“Many organizations have alcohol-free events,”

Giovanis said. “They just don’t call them that. So we are here to offer them funds for doing that.”

She said the center has received applications from eight organizations, and five other organizations have requested application forms.

She said the criteria for the funds will be based on the goals of the organizations, such as raising alcohol awareness and educating students about alcohol and alcohol related issues, or providing alcohol-free and alternative social opportunities for students.

She said the events the student organizations are hosting don’t have to be

See **AWARENESS**, page 2

Students to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day

By TALIA SAMPSON
Staff Reporter

Beginning Monday, a Jewish student organization on campus will host a series of events in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, also known as Yom Hashoah, which falls on May 2 this year.

The organization, TCU Hillel, will create a Holocaust mini-museum in the Brown-Lupton Student Center that the public can visit Monday through Wednesday, said Belle Marco, TCU Hillel president.

Arnold Barkman, an associate professor of accounting and Hillel’s faculty adviser, said this is the first time the group has

ever attempted to create a mini-museum.

“We have never tried anything of this magnitude before, and by doing so, we hope to show the horrors of what happened in such a way that visitors will leave with an understanding of why such events should never occur again,” Barkman wrote in an e-mail.

Marco, a sophomore physics major who moved to Fort Worth from Israel three years ago, said remembering the Holocaust has special significance to her.

“My grandfather survived the Holocaust in Romania,” Marco said. “He was relatively young when he was in the Holocaust

and escaped and rebuilt his life.”

Marco said she hopes the mini-museum will educate people about more than just the death counts of the Holocaust.

“Six million is just a number on the paper. It’s hard to grasp how big it really was,” Marco said, giving the estimated number of Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Claire Sanders, an instructor of history who specializes in modern Europe, wrote in an e-mail that teaching the Holocaust can be a challenge “in a world where violence has become more or less commonplace.”

FOR YOUR INFO

Holocaust mini-museum

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday

Noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Brown-Lupton Student Center room 207

Admission: Free

Sanders wrote: “Teaching the Holocaust involves not only explaining the enormous number of lives lost, but also explaining the fact that the

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WEATHER

TODAY: Morning storms, 65/46

TOMORROW: Sunny, 72/51

SUNDAY: Sunny, 81/56

PECULIAR FACT

MINNEAPOLIS — A woman bit a pit bull on the nose after trying to pull the dog off her Labrador retriever.

— Associated Press

TODAY’S HEADLINES

NEWS: Faculty duo to perform at cello concert, page 2

OPINION: AIDS awareness important to students, page 3

SPORTS: Equestrian team to face A&M, page 6

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at

NEWS@DAILYSKIFF.COM

CAMPAIGN

From page 1

\$250 million.

“Currently we’ve raised \$155 million,” Whelan said. “We’re not quite halfway through the campaign.”

Whelan said the total fundraising figure was reached after assessing TCU’s potential needs and looking at the university’s fundraising history.

“Knowing what we know now, we feel we have the ability to raise \$250 million,” Whelan said. “Our potential needs are higher than that, so we really had to narrow it down to our core set of priorities.”

Whelan said one priority of the fundraising, which is expected to finish in four to five years, is to provide more scholarship money for students. However, Whelan said he thinks it won’t take that long.

“There’s so much momentum in general at TCU right now,” Whelan said. “So many people want to invest in the university’s future. I think we will exceed the \$250 million mark in three to four years.”

Matt Rose, CEO of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and campaign chairman, said contributions have been higher than the campaign committee anticipated.

“With any fundraising campaign you hope to make 50 percent of your total goal during the leadership phase,” Rose said. “We have surpassed this at the start of our public campaign.”

Rose said he thought locating the reception between the Student Center and University Union was fitting.

“I think it is very symbolic of where TCU is at right now,” Rose said. “We recognize our past, but we are looking forward.”

Boschini said he was pleased with the turnout for the evening. He said he was hoping the event would attract 600 people but more than 900 ended up attending.

“One of the things we realized from this campaign is the love all over our country for TCU,” Boschini said.

STRONG-ARMED



JORDAN HAYGOOD / Features Editor

In a game of tug-of-war team Ares defeated team Zeus in the championships at the Greek Olympics for Greek Week. This is the second year for all Greek organizations to get together for Greek Week.

DARFUR

From page 1

Chris Cooksie, a student organizer of the event, said this is STAND’s biggest event yet. About 75 people from different student groups on campus have agreed to participate, he said.

“Our hope is that these people will take the message back to their organizations and the awareness will spread from there,” said Cooksie, a senior criminal justice major.

Boyd said the lack of knowledge about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur is too common.

“I would say only about 20 percent of people know what Darfur is, where it is or have ever even heard of it,” she said.

Cooksie said he thinks most students don’t want to know about the conflict because it is an uncomfortable subject.

“Our goal is to get people outside

their comfort zones and challenge them to take action,” he said.

To date, more than 400,000 have died and more than 2.5 million have been forced to leave their homes in Darfur, resulting in a major refugee crisis, according to STAND.

The event will have speakers such as state Rep. Lon Burnam, the director of a Holocaust museum, teachers and students, Boyd said.

Those who attend the event will be encouraged to sign a petition and write letters to members of Congress and the president, the group said. Students who set up tents and stay the night will listen to bands expected to play until 2 a.m., Boyd said.

“We just want people to realize that you don’t have to do something big,” said Kasey Waas, a sophomore art history major and an organizer of the event. “People only have to write a letter or sign a petition to make a difference.”

Faculty duo makes debut at cello concert

By BIBEK BHANDARI
Staff Reporter

Mozart, Vivaldi or Bach’s compositions often grace Ed Landreth Hall, but for the first time Saturday, the cello ensemble will perform original compositions by faculty.

“Symphony for Violoncelli” and “Anxieties of the Heart” will echo through the music hall along with the sounds of classical compositions, said Jesus Castro-Balbi, founder and director of the TCU Cello Ensemble.

Castro-Balbi said the ensemble’s concert will premiere compositions of two TCU faculty members. Blaise Ferrandino, former Faculty Senate chair, will conduct “Symphony for Violoncelli,” and Robert Garwell, who teaches the popular “Rock to Bach” class, will debut “Anxieties of the Heart,” the first time in the event’s three-year history that original works will be performed.

“It’s very meaningful that composers of their caliber have written a piece specifically for us and dedicated their work to us,” Castro-Balbi said. “That is a sign of trust into our (ensemble’s) abilities to take care of their creation.”

“Symphony for Violoncelli” is based on contrapuntal techniques, which refer to the relationship between voices, developed through the history of Western music, Castro-Balbi said. “Anxieties of the Heart,” he said, is a passionate and energetic composition that will be supported by a piano performance by Gloria Lin, a music prep instructor at the School of Music.

Castro-Balbi said the event will be a unique experience because the composers have seldom used the combination of cello ensemble

FOR YOUR INFO

TCU Cello Ensemble

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Ed Landreth Auditorium

and piano together.

Ferrandino said “Symphony for Violoncelli” is in three movements — “Prayer,” which explores the nature of prayer, “Scherzo,” which combines motivic pitches and rhythmic patterns, and “Romance,” which is a transition at the end of “Scherzo.”

Castro-Balbi said the compositions are an excellent addition to the ensemble’s repertoire and to music at large. He said students will have a first-hand experience of the creative process that exists in the professional world.

Hyung-joo Kim, a freshman music performance and cello major who will perform in the ensemble, said it will be a great opportunity and a learning experience to premiere the composers’ pieces. He said he likes how “Anxiety of the Heart” starts with a tension, and he enjoys the themes of “Symphony for Violoncelli.”

“We have tried to make music and express the composer’s idea and his work, his music,” Kim said. “We try to find ways to make it sound cohesive so people can understand and feel a part of the music.”

School of Music Director Richard Gipson said the ensemble will be a unique experience for the audience, students and faculty.

“Like any ensemble at School of Music, we like to present music at highest level and the cello ensemble is really doing it,” Gipson said.

AWARENESS

From page 1

held on campus.

“It’s more like an experiment,” Giovanis said. “We want to see if there is an audience for the events students are hosting.”

Chris Sewalish, hall director of Milton Daniel Hall, said the dorm’s council is applying for the fund to host an event with Moncrief Hall involving food and games.

“We believe there are a lot of events and great programming that can happen on cam-

pus, especially in residence halls without alcohol,” Sewalish said.

The hall council wants to show students the alternative activities that don’t involve alcohol, he said.

Giovanis said with the funds some student organizations

could have the opportunity to host bigger events to reach more TCU students, which could further help raise alcohol awareness.

The funds are from the Alcohol and Drug Education Center’s budget, and if it receives a lot of positive responses and

respect from the events, it would continue to support student organizations for at least the next year, Giovanis said.

Hannah Achim, president of TCU STAND, a student anti-genocide group fighting for Darfur recognition, is one of the organizations on campus

applying for this fund. Achim said the group will host a dry event with the help of the fund.

She said alcohol awareness is a part of human awareness, and her group wants to promote global and human awareness.

HOLOCAUST

From page 1

Holocaust was intentional, systematic, industrial, state-sponsored violence and how it was possible for a nation to embark on such a program of violence.”

Sanders wrote that the Holocaust of World War II was not the last instance of genocide, citing examples such as Iraq’s

mass killing of Kurds and the ongoing conflict in Darfur.

“We are all a part of community,” she wrote. “However, we define community, and as a part of community we are responsible for each other.”

Andrew Hollinger, director of media relations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, said the importance of remembering the Holocaust is that there

is an increasing amount of anti-Semitism today.

“Survivors are still among us, but for younger people who may not have any direct connection to the eyewitness generation, it seems like history,” Hollinger said.

Hollinger said the Holocaust is the “most extreme example of anti-Semitism,” which is dangerous to everyone in society.

Elliot Dlin, executive director

for Dallas Holocaust Museum and Center for Education and Tolerance, wrote in an e-mail that the Holocaust was unique because “never before in history had a state/government planned and tried to implement the complete murder of every man, woman and child belonging to a particular group of people and the total expunging of every vestige of their existence from the face of the earth.”

Hollinger said the increasing number of Holocaust deniers is another form of anti-Semitism and is another reason why educating people about the Holocaust is important.

Dlin wrote, “The historical evidence of the Holocaust is overwhelming — even much more extensive than more contemporary events like the genocides in Cambodia or Rwanda.”

Marco also said other than an occasional joke, she has never encountered anti-Semitism at TCU.

“Other students are open and accepting,” Marco said.

Hillel will also host a mid-April Passover dinner and will place flags symbolizing the various groups impacted by the Holocaust on the lawns of Sadler Hall and Reed Hall on May 2.

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HORTON HEARS A WHO: 11:05a 1:45p 4:20p 7:00p 9:40p

LEATHERHEADS: 11:00a 2:00p 5:00p 8:00p 10:55p

NIMS ISLAND: 11:00a 1:50p 4:30p 7:10p 10:05p

SHUTTER: 2:05p 7:20p

STOP-LOSS: 11:15a 2:05p 4:55p 7:50p 10:55p

SUPERHERO MOVIE: 12:10p 2:50p 5:45p 8:20p 10:45p

THE RUINS: 11:20a 1:55p 4:45p 7:40p 10:30p

TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS: 11:25a 2:10p 4:50p 7:30p 10:20p

VANTAGE POINT: 11:10a 4:40p 9:50p

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important.”

— Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

THE SKIFF VIEW

Gossip site not so anonymous

The business of gossip is becoming a sticky mess for Matt Ivester, founder of JuicyCampus.com, now that his site is under legal investigation by the attorneys general of New Jersey and Connecticut. They are alleging that the site commits consumer fraud through misrepresentation to the public and unconscionable business practices.

It seems the ellipses in “Always Anonymous... Always Juicy...” are extremely significant. The first ellipsis cancels out the word “always.” The Web site’s Privacy and Tracking Policy states that a user is always anonymous if and only if his or her computer is set to block cookies and uses an IP-cloaking service.

The second ellipsis implies that JuicyCampus is always juicy because, though Ivester admits he has a right to remove content that is “unlawful, threatening, abusive, tortuous, defamatory, obscene, libelous, or invasive of another’s privacy” at his own discretion, he

seems to have no discretion and thus will not exercise this right — which takes about a second to figure out after viewing the site’s home page.

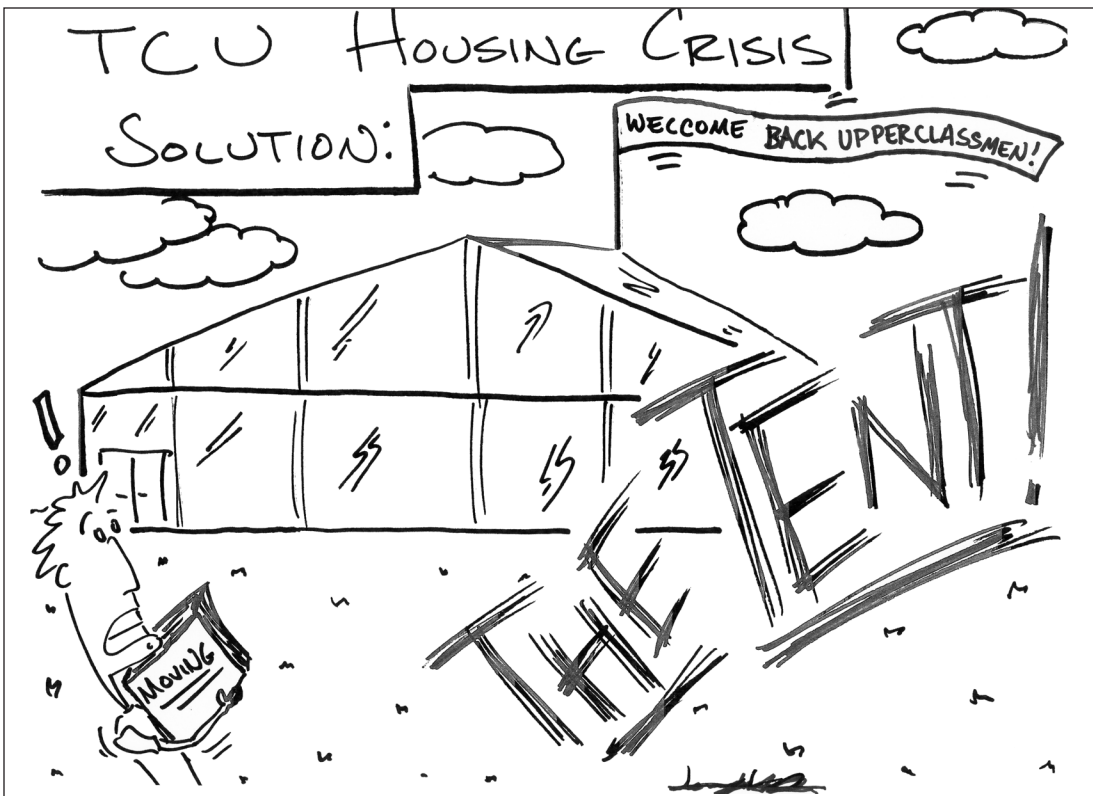
Ivester said that if subpoenaed, he would turn over users’ IP addresses, which Internet service providers could then use to track and identify JuicyCampus users. He said he is confident JuicyCampus has not violated any law and refuses to take responsibility for any of the site’s content, placing full blame on his own consumers, the posters of dirty posts.

But law aside, Ivester should learn that what goes around, comes around. One cannot build a house of gossip, in which people burn each other, and expect to dodge the flames.

And as for the posters of dirty posts, the same goes for them too, especially now that they may not be granted anonymity.

Associate editor Ashleigh Whaley for the editorial board.

BY JEREMY ARNOLD



Jeremy Arnold is a religion major from Sugarland.

For students, the time is now to stop AIDS in its tracks

The invisible monster rears its head to ravage you from the inside out, and you are completely unaware. And, what’s that? You don’t care? This monster has killed millions and it’s only 25 years old.

The first cases of AIDS were documented in newspapers 25 years ago. This monster stems from the human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, and it’s invisible because no one seems to care anymore.

According to The New York Times, the first wave of AIDS patients in the U.S. is reaching late middle-aged people. Many have survived because of the “cocktail” of drugs, some experimental, given to the patients.

These Americans have made it. Many have health problems and permanent damage, the article stated, but they have survived.

There are many people around the world who don’t have any medicine and don’t have the education needed to survive. We do.

As responsible citizens in a global community, we have the responsibility to help those who can’t help themselves.

People in Africa are suffering every day because they don’t have the medication to quell the symptoms of the disease or the knowledge to prevent it. Women are raped and also unknowingly contract HIV, which is then passed on to their children.

It affects millions, which means most likely you know someone who has the disease or has been affected by it.

Most college students don’t know much about the disease, how it affects people or what they can do to help. What they know is pop culture.

In a country where students know about every element of the life of Britney Spears and little about the life of Barack Obama, it’s no surprise that what students know about AIDS is from TV.

I bet most college students know about the musical made into the movie “Rent,” or Trey Parker and Matt Stone’s attempts to

make light of the issue in “Team America World Police” and “South Park.”

Apparently, after a couple of decades, it’s safe to make fun of something, according to the characters in South Park.

Don’t get me wrong. I think “South Park” and “Team America World Police” are hilarious. Parker and Stone are making people laugh and, in the end, making people more comfortable talking about taboo topics such as AIDS.

In fact, the stigmatization of subjects concerning public health is the worst thing society can do, which is one of the major issues concerning the AIDS epidemic.

The stigma surrounding AIDS arrives from several sources, one being homosexuality. In the early documented cases of the disease, it seemed that it affected only homosexual men.

The religious right saw this as God’s condemnation of homosexual acts, but now the disease has spread further than that, and people still associate it with the unmentionable topic of homosexuality.

HIV/AIDS affects mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters.

If you knew and loved someone with the disease, you might be more willing to learn and help people understand it.

However, people don’t realize they probably do know someone who is affected by the disease because no one wants to talk about it.

Even if you can’t bring yourself to ask a friend if he or she has been affected by the disease, either because someone he or she knew or loved was infected or otherwise, there is still something you can do.

There are ways college students can be involved in the effort to aid and educate those infected, especially in Africa.

The Peace Corps has youth education programs in Africa about safe sex and hygiene. You can volunteer for the AIDS Resource Center or the AIDS Food Pantry. There is time to make a difference.

Rachael Embler is a senior international communications and history major from Dallas.

Rep. VP pick crucial to campaign

John McCain announced Wednesday that he has compiled a list of 20 people he is considering for the No. 2 spot on the Republican ticket, though he is not releasing names.

COMMENTARY



Kara Peterson

While the Arizona senator and likely Republican nominee need not worry about choosing a running mate at this point in the campaign, McCain and his handlers must consider several qualifications when narrowing the list.

McCain’s vice presidential running mate should be both fiscally and socially conservative. Many Republicans have been turned off by McCain’s moderate (and sometimes left of center) stance on several issues, including tax cuts and immigration. Choosing a running mate with a consistently conservative voting record is key to winning over Republican conservatives.

His vice presidential candidate should be young. McCain’s age — he will turn 72 on Inauguration Day — can’t be ignored. Although he does appeal to young Republicans, his war-hero persona may not be familiar to many of them — it was simply too long ago.

McCain could benefit by running with a woman. The Democratic nominee will either be Sens. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., or Barack Obama, D-Ill., who are still battling for every vote. If McCain can recruit a female running mate, he may pick up votes from undecided voters who would

like to see a diverse ticket. But he may also become disenfranchised with the Democratic Party’s nomination process.

He needs a running mate who could be president. Again, McCain’s age is a factor here. Should he not be able to fulfill an entire term, his second-in-command should be capable of stepping in and ably leading the nation.

So, who’s it going to be? At this point, it’s up in the air, but there are a few names that have popped up.

Minnesota’s governor, Tim Pawlenty, has received plenty of mentions. He has served as co-chairman of McCain’s campaign, and has been lauded as the most conservative Minnesota governor in 80 years, according to a column in The Washington Post. At 47, Pawlenty fits the bill.

Charlie Crist, governor of Florida, is another name that has come up. He campaigned with McCain in Florida and helped the senator secure the state’s delegates over Rudy Giuliani, who did most of his campaign spending in the Sunshine State. Crist’s campaign for governor was

centered on a conservative family-values platform, and at 51, he is also young enough to be on the bill.

Former Republican rival Mike Huckabee could be on McCain’s list. Huckabee, 52, has a strong reputation as a conservative. He has advocated a border fence, supports the Iraq War, and is socially conservative. As a former Arkansas governor, Huckabee has demonstrated leadership abilities. His extreme views on many social issues and his tenure as a Southern Baptist preacher could work against him, though.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is another contender. Rice, 54, is familiar with the inner workings of the White House and has maintained her foothold in world affairs. Her knowledge of foreign policy and her support of anti-terror measures can assure her support among those concerned with national security. Her involvement in the Iraq War, however, could be her undoing.

Kara Peterson is an advertising/public relations graduate student from Fort Worth.



MCT

HUD secretary’s resignation will help relieve housing stress

The path to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary **COMMENTARY** Alphonso Philadelphia Inquirer Jackson’s downfall led straight through Philadelphia, and out the door.

Now that Jackson is gone, he will soon be forgotten. He won’t be missed.

There were so many allegations leveled against Jackson over the years that it’s hard to choose which one is the most serious.

He’s the subject of a fed-

eral criminal investigation, and charges of cronyism have dogged his entire tenure. But Jackson’s inept, allegedly punitive handling of the PHA matter is what led most immediately to his ouster.

Jackson announced his resignation Monday, in the midst of an escalating feud with the Philadelphia Housing Authority. At least as he quit, Jackson, or someone, had the good sense to allow the temporary renewal of a \$40 million federal program for PHA, sparing possible layoffs.

The events to date look like vindication for PHA Executive Director Carl R. Greene. Give Greene credit for standing up to the HUD dud.

Greene sued HUD, claiming the federal agency was trying to punish PHA for failing to turn over a parcel of land to Jackson’s friend, music industry mogul Kenny Gamble. Greene says after he refused, HUD moved to sanc-

tion PHA for allegedly violating requirements on disability housing. That action culminated in the threatened withholding of the \$40 million from PHA.

Jackson denied his agency was retaliating. But his credibility dwindled when Greene’s lawsuit produced e-mail between two HUD assistants gleefully discussing how to cause Greene pain by withhold-

ing PHA’s federal funding. Not only did Jackson stone-wall Pennsylvania Sens. Arlen Specter and Bob Casey on the subject, he also later said he wasn’t concerned about the damning e-mail exchange.

A spokesman for PHA said Tuesday that Greene won’t drop the lawsuit because PHA is still disputing HUD’s allegations that the city agency did not provide sufficient housing for the disabled.

With the PHA lawsuit and other problems of his own making, Jackson was the

wrong person to lead HUD in the midst of a housing and mortgage meltdown. HUD includes the Federal Housing Administration, which is being called on to provide solutions to the wave of subprime mortgage foreclosures.

President Bush now has an opportunity to replace Jackson with someone who can devote full attention to the nationwide housing crisis, instead of a secretary who spent so much time looking out for cronies.

This editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Wednesday.

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Gene may increase smokers' risk of lung cancer, studies say

By JEREMY MANIER
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — In the latest project to use the findings of human genome research to assess individual health risks, a suite of new studies has found a genetic variant that can increase smokers' risk of getting lung cancer by as much as 80 percent.

One of the research teams, deCODE Genetics of Iceland, already has incorporated the discovery into a package of tests it sells to the public, offering consumers genetic profiles that estimate a person's risk for 26 conditions including prostate cancer, diabetes and even male-pattern baldness.

Authors of the three cancer reports published Wednesday in the journal *Nature* employed a powerful new method to scan thousands of people's genomes looking for links to disease. The results suggest that scientists are beginning to reap the benefits

of the Human Genome Project, which promised a new era of personalized medicine based on an individual's genetic risks.

But experts caution that many of the emerging tests are brand new and have severe limitations.

For example, none of the new findings in the new lung cancer study would change doctors' basic advice regarding cigarettes: If you don't smoke, don't start, and if you do smoke, try to quit.

Kari Stefansson, chief executive officer of the Icelandic company, conceded that its lung cancer test would not aid a typical person's health decisions but argued that "knowledge is never evil in and of itself."

"As a diagnostic test, I think, it is of no value," said Stefansson, who also co-wrote his team's report. "I am actually even a little bit afraid that some may look at it as a green light to smoke, and that's something I would not want

to contribute to." Several experts pointed out that although an 80 percent higher risk may sound significant, all smokers are at high risk of lung cancer. The risk for smokers without the genetic variant is about 14 percent, compared with 23 percent for those with the variant.

The usefulness of such genetic information for ordinary consumers is a subject of intense debate among researchers and genetic counselors.

Genome-wide tests are at such an early stage that the risk assessment a consumer gets today may well be obsolete next year, if not next month.

"There's a serious concern that people will be flooded with information that changes over time, and they'll have little idea

how to use it to improve their health," said David Hunter, a professor of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health, who co-wrote a commentary on the research in *Nature*.

Yet Stefansson said the field is moving so fast that he thinks wide-ranging genetic profiles of individual patients will be common practice within five years.

The road to such tests began in 2001 with the completion of the Human Genome Project, which mapped out all the genes that most people possess.

That blueprint varies slightly from person to person, often in the form of tiny variations called SNPs, or "snips." Scientists have made steady progress

this decade in cataloging millions of points where people's genomes frequently vary.

The lung cancer studies released Wednesday used a type of analysis called genome-wide association, scanning about 300,000 genetic markers for variation and seeing how they match up with people's diseases and habits.

Scores of similar genome-wide analysis studies have been published since early 2007, as improved lab techniques made such work almost routine. In March, groups from America, Britain and the deCODE team published papers showing about a dozen genome regions that affect the risk of prostate cancer.

"The effect of any one of these genetic markers is small, but we're looking at complex diseases where many genes have a role," said Stephen J. Chanock, chief of translational genomics at the National Cancer Institute,

who led one of the recent prostate cancer studies.

Each of the three new lung cancer studies used data from thousands of people, and the deCODE study had the largest sample with about 40,000 participants. All three research groups zeroed in on variation in a portion of chromosome 15 that was previously known to affect cells that respond to nicotine.

The researchers disagreed on whether the genetic variants make people more likely to stay hooked on cigarettes, or if they directly affected the development of cancer. The deCODE group found a direct link with smoking behavior, but the other two teams did not.

"Future studies will tell us whether the effect has more to do with smoking or lung cancer, but my intuition is it's a combination," said Chanock, who co-wrote the *Nature* commentary on the lung cancer studies.

Obama Girl's Rust Belt hometown supports Sen. Clinton

By MARGARET TALEV
McClatchy Newspapers

HAZLETON, Pa. — This bleak former coal town in northeastern Pennsylvania occupies a unique perch in this year's presidential contest.

It's the hometown of "Obama Girl," the New York City model of YouTube fame whose racy videos proclaiming her crush on Barack Obama are definitely not campaign-sanctioned. Her parents still live here, and her unlikely career break has

gotten older, working-class whites talking more than they otherwise might have about the young black politician from Chicago.

This is Clinton country, however. It's close to Scranton, home to Hillary Clinton's father, grandparents and great-grandparents, and it's full of white ethnic working-class voters, who've sustained her campaign so far, especially in the Rust Belt.

Then, too, there's Hazleton's

place on the front line of the illegal immigration debate. When an influx of undocumented workers changed the city's character and took a toll on school, hospital and public safety budgets, Hazleton adopted headline-grabbing measures to punish companies that employ illegal immigrants and fine landlords who house them. Other cities followed, but last year a federal court threw out the law. The ruling's under appeal.

All these forces are coming to a slow boil as Hazleton looks to Pennsylvania's primary April 22 and to the general election in November. If this slice of hard-times country mirrors how Pennsylvania ends up voting, there's hope for Clinton.

On West Broad Street, the scruffy main drag, one passes a billboard for Spanish legal services, a Latina beauty salon and storefronts that reflect the city's German, Polish, Italian and Irish roots.

Just past them, Obama Girl's mom, Roseann Ettinger, is tapping her savings to keep her vintage clothing and jewelry shop, called Remember When, afloat.

The store used to be open daily; now it's open only on Saturdays and by appointment. Foot traffic waned as longtime businesses closed and immigrant-related crime troubled old-timers. Meanwhile, high oil prices took their toll; between the Ettingers' nearby home and the store space, the cost of a month's heat approaches \$3,000.

Photos of their daughter

Amber Lee Ettinger, 26, better known as Obama Girl, plaster the store's walls. In them she's modeling her mom's 1960s and 1970s outfits. People call or drop by

"I like her backup man, and her family's from Scranton. She seems to be an honest person, just like my wife."

Ronald Ruser
Hazleton retiree

to say they saw Amber on TV — and Roseann Ettinger thinks about supporting Obama. But she's apathetic. "Nothing appeals to me about what I've heard yet" from any of the candidates, she said.

Husband Terry Ettinger is a registered Republican, but the veteran is "very disappointed" in his party. He admires John McCain's military background but not his immigration stance. He likes Obama's speeches but worries that there isn't enough substance beneath the rhetoric.

Hearing about Obama's former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, makes Terry Ettinger mad. "It's the black philosophy of the white people holding them back," he said. "That they can just say one side of it and have the congregation cheering — when I don't think it's true!"

Obama Girl rents a place in New Jersey but still considers Hazleton home. Her parents say she plans to vote in Pennsylvania's primary. But her

dad says nobody should confuse her public persona with how she'll vote — which he says is nobody's business.

A couple blocks east, at Jimmy's Quick Lunch, Clinton's the favorite of many regulars.

"I like her backup man," said retired machinist Ronald Duser, referring to former President Bill Clinton. "And her family's from Scranton. She seems to be an honest person, just like my wife."

Of Obama, Duser said: "I'm not crazy about voting for a colored guy, but that's not why I don't support Obama. I'm not prejudiced. I just like Hillary."

A couple tables over, Jean Fetterman, a foster grandparent, said of Clinton: "Oh, I love her. She's a very intelligent person, and she has her husband who went through this."

She scoffs at the idea of voting for Obama: "I don't want to be a Muslim!" She looks dubious when told Obama is Christian. "Then why did he go see what's-his-name over in Iraq, that Lama?"

She isn't clear about whom she means. She may have seen a photo of Obama wearing traditional clothing during a visit to Africa. "I don't care what color he is, I don't care if he's pink," she said. "I don't think he's got the same education Hillary has, and he's so young. He's arrogant, too."

Democrats already outnumber Republicans by close to 2 to 1 here. But McCain's sympathetic approach toward



BARELYPOLITICAL.COM via MCT
Amber Lee Ettinger, a New York model known as Obama Girl, gained fame through a video on YouTube.

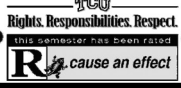

FOR YOUR INFO

To see Obama Girl's latest pro-Obama video, go to:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=axxooGlgOKs&feature=user


immigration may cost him Republican support too, perhaps even from the city's mayor, Lou Barletta, who's using his activist role in the immigration debate to challenge the local Democratic congressman.

Further east on Broad is a small Obama campaign headquarters, opened last month. Some locals drive by just to see if it's real.

"We're in Clinton country; we make no bones about that," said Elaine Curry, a medical librarian who helped set up the office. "But I've always broken from the pack."



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COMMENTARY

New head basketball coach should recruit from Texas talent

By JOSH DAVIS
Staff Writer

Welcome to the basketball program, new head coach Jim Christian! Now that you are settled and don't have a chance to back out, I would just like to check — are you crazy? Just making sure, but you're leaving a team that made the NCAA Tournament this year



Josh Davis

and lost two of its five best players for a team that fell far short of the National Invitation Tournament and lost two of its five best players.

You're leaving a team that averaged 3,500 plus fans a game for a team that would kill to put that many butts in the seats. Bear in mind, Kent State University's total enrollment is about 34,000 and ours is a bit closer to 9,000, but nonetheless.

Coach, if there is such a thing as a "right person" for this job, I think you are it. It was time for

a change, and you're more than qualified after a great six years with the Golden Flashes.

However, a couple of weeks-one hints never hurt anyone at a new job, and I am glad to give them to you.

1) Mess with Texas — I know we're in a football state, but the Baylor roster had seven Texans on it. The University of Texas had nine, Texas A&M had 16 and six them came from the Dallas/ Fort Worth area. All three of those teams qualified for the NCAA Tournament this year. Not only

does putting hometown heroes on the court lead to more fans in the stands, but it turns out these men can play. There is no reason our recruiting should be beaten locally by A&M or Baylor in state. I mean, they are talking these players into living in Waco.

2) Go Greek — Occasionally, the university downplays the presence of "Greeks" on campus to those who are new around here. Let your eyes be the judge. See those Croakies and boat shoes around campus?

Without the Greeks' support, we will continue to have a joke of a student section. I'm not saying you need to recruit from intramural teams, but establishing a better relationship between the program and Greek fans will create a better home-court atmosphere.

3) Get the Word Out — TCU will always be a football school. That's why we're marketing spring football all across campus, despite the fact that several other teams are in season. You can have a well-attended, win-

ning program here. I promise. As long as you don't settle for being overshadowed by that other program and demand a proper share of the advertising dime, there is an audience for you. But don't pull a "Pony Up" and try to get fans to watch a terrible team. You're capable of a 20-win program. Build that here, and Daniel-Meyer may be rocking again. I hope sooner than later.

So, welcome, Christian. Get to work with those tips in mind next week, and I cannot wait to see what you bring in the fall.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Win streak on line; squad Vegas bound

By KYLE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team takes its six-game winning streak on the road as it continues its Mountain West Conference schedule in Las Vegas today.

The No. 24 Horned Frogs will square off against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Lady Rebels at noon today and play another 24 hours later against the San Diego State University Aztecs on Saturday, also in Las Vegas.

TCU is currently undefeated in Mountain West play and is tied for the lead with the University of New Mexico with a 3-0 conference record heading into today's contest.

The Horned Frogs are led by the doubles team of junior Anna Sydorska and Macall Harkins who are 12-2 this season and ranked No. 12 nationally.

UNLV is tied for fourth in the MWC with a 1-1 confer-

ence and SDSU is tied for last place at 0-2.

Last season, the Horned Frogs split their two contests against the Runnin' Rebels, one of only two conference losses for the squad last season.

The loss came in the semifinals of the Mountain West Conference Championships, knocking the Horned Frogs out of the tournament.

UNLV holds the overall series advantage at 3-2.

San Diego State finished its conference season 6-3 last year and lost to TCU 6-1.

After its two weekend matches, TCU will have three more matches, which will all be against conference opponents, before the Mountain West Conference Championships.

The conference championships will be held from April 23 to April 26 in Fort Worth, at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center.



SHALEY SANDERS / Staff Reporter

Sophomore Nina Munch-Soegaard uses her forehand to return against her Fresno State opponent March 3 at home.

BASEBALL

BOTTOMS UP



KATE JONES / Staff Photographer

Senior shortstop Bryan Kervin leads off of first base during the Horned Frogs' win over Texas A&M Corpus-Christi. TCU faces Mountain West Conference foe Air Force in a three-game series starting today. The two teams are positioned last and second-to-last in the conference.

Baseball team faces winless Falcons in series

By BRETT LARSON
Sports Editor

The baseball team will pick up conference play today, starting a three-game series against cellar-dwellers Air Force.

The Horned Frogs have won their last two games, but are in second-to-last place in the Mountain West Conference with a 2-4 record.

The Falcons have had an incredibly rough stretch, failing to win a conference game all of last season, and starting this season 0-5 in the Mountain West.

However, at Air Force has already reached 10 wins this season at 10-16, marking only the second time in the past

five seasons the squad has reached a double-digit win total.

Last year the Horned Frogs took the series 5-0, easily besting the Falcons offensively and defensively.

TCU outscored Air Force 47-11 in the five games, including a 15-run effort in the team's final contest of the series, and their second highest run total of the season.

TCU has a 15-1 all-time record against the Falcons, who have never won at Lupton Stadium.

Redshirt junior pitcher Seth Garrison said every remaining conference game is huge for the Horned Frogs, who are focused on taking on Air

Force, he said.

The squad has been getting tremendous support while playing at home where it is 12-5 this season. Tuesday's game against Baylor featured the ninth largest crowd in Lupton history with 2,346 fans in attendance. The all-time three-game series attendance record was set in the first series of the season against Cal State Fullerton, Head coach Jim Schlossnagle said the team has been hitting better than the final score often indicates.

Wednesday, the Horned Frogs' bats caught fire again, beating Texas State 12-8.

Consistency in pitching and hitting has hurt the

Horned Frogs in their two conference series.

In TCU's four conference losses the team surrendered 26 runs.

Fortunately for the Horned Frogs, the Falcons pitching staff has a conference-worst 7.58 earned run average this season.

FOR YOUR INFO Air Force vs. TCU

When: 6:30 today, Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m.

Where: Lupton Stadium
Stakes: The conference's second-to-last place Horned Frog take on the last-place Falcons.

EQUESTRIAN

Match before National Championship 'practice game,' coach says

By MEGAN MOWERY
Staff Reporter

Win or lose, today's equestrian game against Texas A&M will not affect TCU's position in the Varsity Equestrian National Championships.

TCU, which holds the No. 1 seed for Nationals in Western and the alternate position in Hunt Seat, host the Aggies at Field State Park for its last regular season contest.

A&M, which is ranked No.

2 in Hunt Seat and No. 4 in Western this year, is the defending National Champion in Western and finished sixth place in Hunt Seat last season.

TCU fell to A&M last season and the teams have not met since.

The game won't count toward either teams ranking for Nationals. Head coach Gary Reynolds said it was a practice game for the two teams.

"It will sharpen us up and

FOR YOUR INFO Texas A&M vs. TCU

When: 1 p.m. today
Where: Fieldstone Park, Mansfield
Stakes: The match against the Aggies is the Horned Frog's last contest before the championships.

make us better, no matter what the outcome," Reynolds said.

Senior Kindel Huffman,

who holds the No. 1 seed in Horsemanship after the first 10-0 season ever, said win or lose, the contest should help the Western team for Nationals. She said it should help the team focus on anything that might go wrong and work on it before the team goes to Nationals.

Huffman said there's a good chance TCU could play A&M at Nationals and she thinks the Aggies are the team to beat this year.

Because the game doesn't

count toward Nationals, Huffman said she does not feel pressure.

Junior Chloe Baker, who went 7-1 in Horsemanship this season, said the team has been strengthening its riding skills by riding as many horses as they can to prepare for Nationals. She said competing on different horses is a mental challenge.

"The horse is only going to beat you if you let it," Baker said.

Reynolds said that he is coaching a great team and he has confidence that they will do well at Nationals.

"Going undefeated this year and playing the schedule we played is unbelievable," Reynolds said.

The Horned Frogs team was disappointed that they didn't make the Nationals bracket, Reynolds said. But he said next season he plans on adding to the momentum the Hunt Seat team has gained.



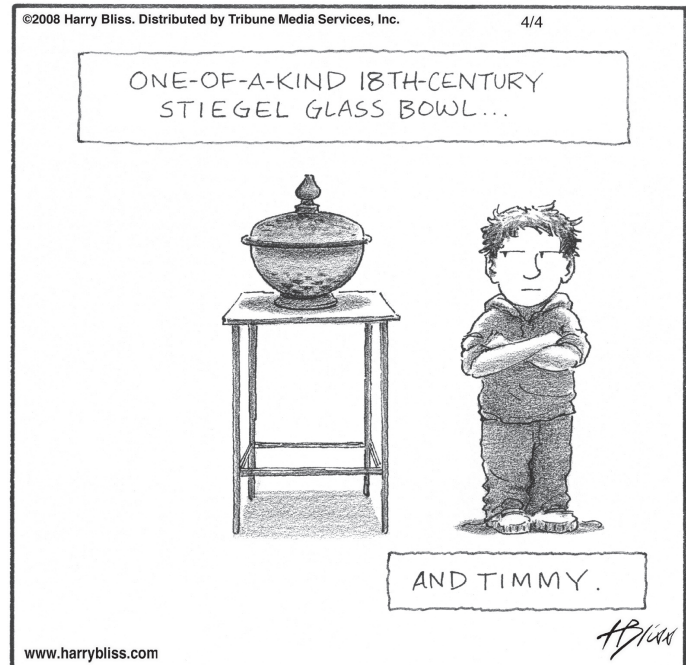
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by Harry Bliss



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Directions

Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Tuesday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Thursday's Solutions

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

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- 1 Design detail
5 Shake a leg!
9 Intense loathing
14 Celestial bear
15 Parsley or sage
16 Actress Delta
17 Getting on
20 Funny Foxx
21 Hall-of-Famer Mel
22 Red shade
25 Disgust
30 Altdorf's canton
31 Bond backer
33 Silvery-gray
34 Went like the wind
36 Way out on the computer
39 Getting on
41 Precedes
43 Dirty look
46 New Jersey cager
47 On the back
49 Common conjunction
50 Close call
53 Sore
55 "de Cologne"
56 "Beetle Bailey" pooch
57 Getting on strings
65 Gets really steamed
66 Put on
67 Khartoum's river
68 Reply to "Who's there?"
69 Reed section member
70 June 6, 1944
- DOWN**
- 1 Catch some rays
2 Debate position
3 Double curve
4 Old Mercury
5 Calls on the carpet
6 Patch up
7 Dot follower
8 "ER" network
9 Newspaper section, for short

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20								21				
22	23	24			25	26			27	28	29	
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50		51	52			53		54				
55					56							
57	58	59			60	61			62	63	64	
65					66				67			
68					69				70			

By Robert A. Doll
Hattiesburg, MS

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 42 Born
44 ___ v. Wade
45 Be mistaken
48 Harmonize
51 Domain
52 Billiard stroke
54 Interminably
56 CSNY song
57 Sapporo sash
- 58 Fate
59 Bad-mouth, slangily
60 Swelled head
61 Bar bill
62 Pot top
63 Cookbook phrase
64 Listen up!

See Tuesday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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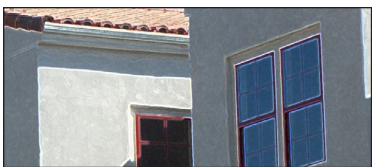
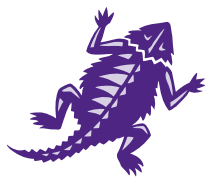
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JORDAN HAYGOOD / Features Editor
Andy Fort, an East Asian religion professor, listens as junior broadcast journalism major Alyssa Dizon talks about the Schieffer Symposium in his 9:30 a.m. Buddhism class. Fort has been encouraging “mental migration,” or seeing an alternate worldview, in his students for 26 years.

Mental Migration

Religion professor challenges status quo in students’ minds, lives

In what he calls one of the high points in his life, Andy Fort got arrested on charges of disturbing the peace in 1972 in front of Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Mass., when he joined the 400 people protesting the Vietnam War.

The base was a strategic location for protest because it was where the military trained and sent bombers to Vietnam. The base had deployed B-52 bombers and tankers to Southeast Asia two weeks prior to the protest.

As one of the 95 people arrested on charges of disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct and blocking the public’s way, Fort said, he didn’t plead innocence because he “went to be guilty.”

Instead, he pleaded no contest and paid about a \$50 fine. He says because the protests were costing the city a lot of money, he felt he had to pay it back.

The protest was mostly a symbol – a symbol that thousands of people considered the war immoral. And though their interfering with the road to the base two hours a day didn’t stop the “Nixonian war machine,” Fort said the protesters made a dent that they couldn’t have without showing up to express their opposition.

“Practically speaking, we interfered with people being able to get on the base to fuel and prepare bombers,” he said.

Seasoned Change

More than three decades later, Fort opposes the war in Iraq with a similar passion that fueled his protests in the ‘70s. His voice crescendos and speeds up and he can barely keep himself from spouting expletives as he curses the Bush administration for its policies in the Middle East.

“It’s just so many people died – it’s like Vietnam in that sense – who didn’t need to die,” he said. “They died because of ignorance of our political leaders.”

But this passionate opposition to the war doesn’t take him out to the streets protesting the way it did when he was a student.

“It’s not the temper of these times,” he said. Fort has become less politicized over the years, and he suspects it has come with age. His activist attitude doesn’t manifest itself physically or tangibly, but the passion for change remains blazing.

He received the lowest student evaluation ratings in years fall 2004, and he speculates his depression over the presidential election had something to do with it.

“I never thought that Kerry was going to be able to beat Bush, and the notion that this country, which I love so much, would not only elect that idiot but would also re-elect him and just continue that disaster in Iraq, shafting the poor people and building up this unbelievable debt – it was something that was so depressing to me,” he said. “I think it showed up in my everyday behavior.”

He says although he isn’t protesting and getting arrested, he holds the same opinions and values. He now manifests them by donating and voting in correlation with his views.

His influence on campus has also taken on a different role over the years. Besides helping pioneer Hunger Week, Fort petitioned the Board of Trustees to divest from corporations that invested in South African countries during the apartheid and the same year Fort was granted tenure.

As chairman of Faculty Senate, he stayed active helping start the plus/minus grading system, and the following year, as chairman of the University Compensation Advisory Committee, he worked to ensure the lower-ranking staff received sufficient health care coverage.

Abandoning Self

Fort, an East Asian religion professor, had been an activist against the Vietnam War before he began studying religion, but he explains his involvement in social justice issues through Buddhist philosophy.

According to the Buddhist worldview, everyone is interrelated. People’s attachment on the concept of self separates them from one another. He explains that when one says, “I am,” people often find importance in the subject – the word “I” – the self. But Buddhist teachings say the significance in the phrase is not the subject, but the verb, “am.” The verb illustrates the belief that humans are interrelated in the fact that they are all human beings. “To be is to be related,” he says, “and you and the world aren’t truly divisible.

“You can’t really be OK if the world around you isn’t. You see that you can’t be liberated or even fully happy while others are suffering.”

Although it is easy for many to lock Fort up in a box labeled “Buddhist,” Fort says Buddhism came to him, not the other way around.

During his academic exploration of world religions, Fort found aspects of Buddhism “simply rang true.”

“It’s not like I believe it or I have faith in it,” he said. “This is just how it looks to me. It couldn’t be more obvious to me.”

Alternate Worldviews

Although Fort is no longer causing a ruckus in the streets protesting the war, getting tear-gassed and arrested, he continues to challenge the status quo, but this time in the minds of his students.

In a classroom on the second floor of Beasley Hall, Fort sits among his students in a circle.

With his long, skinny arms folded and resting on the desk, he beams from behind his glasses as he looks around the room. Some make eye contact, expectantly waiting for his first words. Some shift in their chairs and dart their eyes toward their peers, smiling and shrugging at one another.

Finally, Fort breaks the silence. “Any questions about reality?” Silence.

“Inner peace?” More silence.

The silences at 9:30 a.m. in Beasley’s room 205 are not sounds of boredom, daydreaming or sleep. Silence, in a Fort classroom, is the grunts and moans of the students’ minds wrestling with novel concepts and questions. Silence, in a Fort classroom, is the sound of furrowing brows, widening eyes and nodding heads. Silence, in a Fort classroom, is the sound of what he calls “mental migration,” or understanding an alternate worldview.

It is in this atmosphere that Fort has been inviting his students to his academic “home” for the last 26 years. But this doesn’t mean that students find themselves subscribing to whatever religion Fort teaches as their own beliefs.

Fort simply cracks open their minds and shines light on questions they have never thought about before.

Bryce Harp, a 2004 alumnus with an economics degree, said one of the memories that stands out to him is when, during the first class of his world religion class freshman year, Fort “shook up everyone’s religious foundations and upbringings” by presenting the history and facts about the Bible.

Harp, who was raised as a conservative, fundamentalist Christian, said he had begun to question his beliefs and the reasons behind them by the time he reached college. He said Fort showed him he had a factually logical reason to question the values he grew up to believe in.

“Shaking your foundation is a good way to improve your intellect,” Harp said.

Lasting Impressions

But Harp says his favorite moments with Fort have been in their conversations during office hours, and it is during these hours that Fort causes ripples in his students’ lives, beyond their intellect.

For Harp, the change occurred about a year ago, when he found himself dissatisfied with where his life was going.

He frequently drank at bars and clubs, and at one point, he says, wanted to switch lanes and choose sobriety. So he began meditating, something Fort has been practicing since he was 20, which he says helped him get his life back on track.

“I always thought of Dr. Fort getting into transcendental meditation as a way to keep my head on my shoulders,” he said. “He said the desire for altering substances goes away.”

Harp recently quit teaching music and playing guitar for a band. He now works as a legal assistant at a law firm and is preparing to go to law school.

“Dr. Fort influenced a lot of people in ways that he doesn’t know about,” he said.

For a 2003 alumnus Wesley Longhofer, Fort’s concept of mental migration manifests itself physically. He is in the middle of researching globalization in India, where Fort also spent years researching.

Besides his academic career, Longhofer often remembers Fort’s Buddhist teaching about detachment from the concept of self when he hits low points in life.

“He has his Birkenstocks on, and his hair is too long, and he says, ‘Just detach,’” Longhofer said. “That’s when I know I’m taking life too seriously.”

But times have shifted. He no longer wears the Birkenstocks or has long hair, and the changes he is most actively involved in are not as controversial or conspicuous.

“I had some students who wanted to go into the Peace Corps or wanted to go into teaching or did things they wouldn’t have thought of without meeting me – that’s been hugely satisfying,” he says.

The changes Fort catalyzes in his students are what keep him going. He says he is most religious about being a liberal arts professor, because it’s what he is most deeply committed to.

“Doing this may be the best thing in the world,” he says. “To be able to get to do the thing that you think you’re best at. I like having people understand alternative worldviews so they can be touched and they can’t be narrow-minded.”

“You can’t really be OK if the world around you isn’t. You see that you can’t be liberated or even fully happy while others are suffering.”

Andy Fort
East Asian religion professor