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One student works to bring a "10,000 hour" concert to campus.  
**TOMORROW**



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TCU

# DAILY SKIFF

WEDNESDAY

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## SGA approves budget granting members scholarships

By MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE  
Staff Reporter

SGA approved the 2007-2008 budget giving House of Student Representatives members scholarships and reducing funding to the Activities Funding Board.

Previously, the House of Student Representatives' Finance Committee rejected the budget because not

enough funding was allocated to organizational funding. The House approved the proposed budget Tuesday after a debate over several issues ranging from scholarships to whether members out of dress code could vote. The budget passed with a 22-9 vote with three abstentions. For the vote to pass, a two-thirds majority was needed.

The bill was contested by Mark Tschirhart, a sophomore prehealth major and House parliamentarian, who said the Finance Committee did not have enough time to debate. During the Finance Committee meetings, no debate over the budget took place.

Kirk Kindy, a freshman political science major and

member of the House, said two Finance Committee meetings took place but the turnout was not enough for debate to take place.

Jace Thompson, student body president, said in his opening statement to the House Assembly that he believed the budget would keep the student body's interests in mind and would

be a good budget for the next year.

In the proposed budget, the funding for Activities Funding Board for 2007-2008 has been lowered to \$30,000 a semester from \$38,000 a semester in 2006-2007.

Thompson said the AFB was created in 2005 to allow individual organizations to

apply for funding.

Larry Markley, adviser to the SGA Executive Board, disagreed with the amount of funding allotted to Activities Funding Board because he said it was never intended to provide student organizations with so much money.

See **BUDGET**, page 2

## Greek Week to honor students

By DIA WALL  
Staff Reporter

Plans have been made and dates have been finalized for the inaugural Greek Week at TCU.

Greek Week is set for April 23 through April 26 and will include events ranging from speakers to Greek Olympics to a step show and a day at a TCU baseball game.

Matt DiLeo, Interfraternity Council president and event coordinator, said there will be more than one event each day, and many of them will be open to the public.

Each Greek council will be participating in the week to conduct a joint program to benefit a joint philanthropy, DiLeo said. This has not been done in recent TCU history.

Clay Stauffer, former Sigma Alpha Epsilon president, will be speaking April 23 about diversity, and the opening ceremonies will be take place on the lawn across from the University Recreation Center.

On April 24, there will be a banquet to honor all Greek students who earned a 4.0 GPA in the spring or fall semesters of 2006, and, DiLeo said, and coordinators are working to have a Greek day at the 6:30 p.m. baseball game against Texas Tech University.

Mike Green, an NCAA-approved speaker, will visit April 25 to discuss alcohol awareness, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council will have a step show organized by its president, Jason Wallace.

"The step show would give people a chance to see a different aspect of Greek life, especially a diverse look at African-American Greek life at TCU," Wallace said.

The Greek Olympics will take place April 26 and will feature 30 organizations from all four Greek councils on the lawn across from the Rec Center. A concert featuring the bands Honeybrowne and Taylor & Young will cap off the week.

The Greek community is selling T-shirts and tickets to the concert outside the library beginning April 23. The T-shirt and the concert ticket can be purchased for \$10 each or bought together for \$15, and the step show

See **GREEK**, page 2

## BURGERS WITH BOSCHINI



Chancellor Victor Boschini spent part of Tuesday evening grilling burgers with the residents of Clark Hall. Sophomore religion major Luke Devlin (far left) and junior finance major Kurtis Freeman man the grill while Boschini talks with other students.

## Students to be rewarded for community work with concert

By ASHLEIGH WHALEY  
Staff Reporter

A group of students hopes to raise \$50,000 in four months to bring a major band to campus, and the ticket price is 10 hours.

The 10,000 Hours Show is a free concert for 1,000 or more student volunteers who devote 10 or more hours of community service any where in Fort Worth throughout the school year. Previous live performers at 10K concerts include Cake, Ben Folds and Guster. Jet, Jack's Mannequin and Rob-

ert Randolph & The Family Band are scheduled for 10Ks this month.

Josh Noble, junior biology major, is executive director for business for 10K at TCU. Noble plans to raise money through local businesses during the next four months to have "everything planned and ready" for students to sign up to volunteer next fall, he said.

Mike Brooks and Jacek Pruski were seniors at the University of Iowa in 2002 when, strumming their guitars, they

developed the 10K idea, said Brooks, who has since become national director for 10K. After participating in a United Way Alternative Spring Break trip, which Noble attended this year, Brooks and Pruski were encouraged to combine their passions for music and volunteering, Brooks said.

In 2006, more than 60,000 volunteers saw Cake perform at the University of Iowa, and Noble hopes the "numbers will skyrocket" at TCU as well.

United Way of America partnered with 10K to provide

local support in more than 1,300 counties nationwide, Brooks said.

The 10K concert rewards students by recognizing "the meaningful connection" and personal benefits attained through community activism, Brooks said.

Noble plans to invite high school students to participate in what he said could become an indirect mentor program.

"The hardest part is spreading the word near enough, far enough and early enough to get the support you need from

volunteers and local businesses," Brooks said.

In March, Noble partnered with a local United Way center, built a management team of student leaders and campus advisers and submitted a Management Team Agreement, which he said should be approved next week.

"We are only at the beginning stages," Noble said, but his team plans to formally announce intentions for a 10K at the beginning of next semester. He said the 10K

See **HOURS**, page 2

## Speakers to discuss sex-trade industry, human trafficking issues

By KATHLEEN THURBER  
Staff Reporter

Red light. The bright signal halts traffic until it is replaced by the green glow that restarts the flow of everyday movement — but, as one American couple will share tonight, not all red light efforts are that simple.

Christa and Mark Crawford, who now live and work in Thailand, will touch on the complexities of the sex-trade industry in their presentation, "Red Light Rescue," though, as they have found, the solu-

tion for bringing women out of the industry is not always clear-cut.

Carrie Currier, an assistant professor of political science, said prostitution usually thrives in economically underdeveloped countries and that, especially if it's legalized, the state economy and tourism industry depend on it, making it hard to stop.

"It's such a complex issue," Currier said. "Some women are economically driven, some are kidnapped, some are sold."

She said a lot of women come to the sex-trade industry through

human trafficking, which, according to the United Nations Web site includes the transfer or receipt of people obtained through force, abduction or fraud for purposes ranging from sexual exploitation to forced labor to slavery.

According to the U.S. Department of State's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year and about 80 percent of those are women or girls, who, the data shows, are primarily trafficked into commercial exploitation.

The Rev. Katie Low, associate campus minister who works with the Wesley Foundation, said other women are sold into the sex-trade industry, sometimes by their parents and still others enter because it's the only way to make money and support their families.

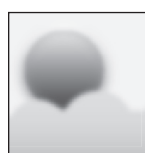
In a Christianity Today article in January, Mark Crawford said the idea of filial piety still pervades parts of Asian culture and if these women have to support their elders, there often aren't other industries where they can make enough money to do that.

### FOR YOUR INFO

- "RED LIGHT RESCUE"
- Today, 7 p.m.
  - Student Center Ballroom
- DINNER AND CONVERSATION**
- Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
  - Wesley Building, 2750 W. Lowden
  - Free dinner included

He said families who depend on their daughters for support take between 50 percent and 100 percent of their incomes.

For one woman who will be See **RED LIGHT**, page 2



### WEATHER

**TODAY:** Partly Cloudy, 77/56  
**THURSDAY:** Partly Cloudy, 83/65  
**FRIDAY:** Scattered T-Storms, 79/49

### PECULIAR FACT

ROME— An Italian film showing Jesus Christ drinking Coca-Cola sparked such strong protest from the soft-drink giant that it blocked the film's Easter weekend premier. — Reuters

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

**NEWS:** McCain tries to repair campaign, page 6  
**OPINION:** Breakfast important meal of day, page 3  
**SPORTS:** MLS ushers in new era with Beckham, page 8

### CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at [NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU](mailto:NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU)



## GREEK

From page 1

will cost \$3 for Greek students and \$5 for non-Greek students.

All money and donations from the week will benefit McDonogh High School in New Orleans.

DiLeo said the goal is to raise money and accrue school supplies to donate to the school.

"This has potential to become an annual event, and, hopefully, it will be a quality week that will bring people together and teach them a few things," said James Parker, assistant dean of Campus Life.

The three themes of Greek Week will be philanthropy, education and fellowship. DiLeo has been involved in the planning process from the beginning and has high hopes for the event.

"We are doing this in hopes that we can get everyone involved so that it can be bigger and better and continue to grow each year," DiLeo said.

## RED LIGHT

From page 1

visiting campus with the Crawfords today, her virginity was sold at the age of 13 for about \$800, according to an interview in Christianity Today.

Shortly after this, the woman, who goes by Moon, went to work at a noodle stand in Thailand. However, she said, the job was a ploy to bring her into a brothel, where if she didn't comply with customers, she was beaten or restrained. She said she was raped about 100 times while she was there.

Low said Moon has not specified what she will speak about during the presentation but she will either talk about her experiences in the sex-trade industry or the ministry work she is doing now to bring others out of it.

"Moon is a good connection point because she can make relationships with women in brothels

and other places," Low said. "She's a good point person for them."

Christa Crawford, who has a law degree from Harvard, now tries to help women like Moon by teaching them vocational skills such as cooking and customer service.

Low said efforts such as these are important because breaking down the sex-trade industry is a long process.

"It's not throwing money at them. It's not a quick fix," she said. "Because it's not like you can go in and tell a prostitute, 'You're wrong, you're a sinner,' because a lot of these women don't have a choice."

According to UNICEF's Web site, Moon was one of 20,000 to 30,000 children in Thailand who are part of the commercial sex industry — a multibillion-dollar industry worldwide.

Christa Crawford will present general information about the sex-trade industry with a focus on Northern Thailand as part of tonight's "Red Light Rescue" presentation.

Low said while the Crawfords have responded to the situation in Thailand through their faith, the presentation will have a general focus and will cover everything from the economic and political factors to geography, ethnic and women's studies.

"It's a convergence of a variety of factors," Low said.

Amy Lewis, a sophomore history major who serves on the leadership team at the Wesley Foundation, said the team agreed with Low to bring the presentation to campus because it's a topic most students have not heard about.

"It's new information about what's going on in the global community around us," Lewis said.

The Crawfords and Moon will also be at the Wesley Foundation's building for dinner and conversation Thursday, where Low said there will be more of a focus on the spiritual response to the sex-trade industry.

## HOURS

From page 1

concert will likely be scheduled for April 2008.

Noble said he is considered a "champion," who according to the 10K Web site "gets others involved in creating a powerful vision and then makes sure that vision gets done."

James Parker, assistant dean of campus life, supports Noble's efforts. He is becoming a responsible citizen, Parker said, which is part of TCU's mission statement.

"I think the program will be successful because of Josh's passion to bring it to campus," Parker said. "His passion and desire will go along way."

If every student in the Greek system participates, there will be enough volunteer hours to host a 10K, Noble said.

His team must raise at least \$50,000 from local contributors for a 10K to be successful.

Most of the \$50,000 will go toward the concert, he said, because "we're not talking about a little band here."

## BUDGET

From page 1

Thompson said in an e-mail he did not believe that providing an organization with more than \$60,000 was a prudent idea because of the record-keeping problems AFB faced in the past.

When an organization receives funding, it is obligated to turn in receipts of what was purchased with the provided funds. However, not all organizations returned their receipts to the AFB, said Nate Arnold, student body treasurer.

An additional \$10,000 for co-programming was added, allowing student organizations to work with SGA on the marketing of their events.

# Kerry, Gingrich warm up with global debate

By WILLIAM NEIKIRK  
*Chicago Tribune*

WASHINGTON — A senator accused of flip-flopping and a former House speaker accused of inappropriately flapping his mouth debated global warming Tuesday in the historic Senate Caucus Room.

It was packed with people and with anticipation that one or the other might commit some new verbal faux pas. But on this score, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich disappointed. If anything, the longer they talked, the more they seemed to warm up to each other.

The eagerly anticipated Kerry-Gingrich debate had its moments,

but not likely enough to put it in the history books rivaling the Lincoln-Douglas debates, though it did serve to highlight the difficulties of dealing with the problem of climate change.

Nonetheless, Kerry referred to the discussion sponsored by New York University as the "environmental version of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. I want you to know we flipped a coin and I picked Lincoln."

The only thing contentious about the two-hour debate was the way that each man would deal with global warming. Kerry called for capping carbon dioxide emissions and allowing countries to trade clean energy credits while Gingrich,

a Republican, said generous tax credits would enable businesses to solve the problem.

He said the Kerry plan would lead to a bigger government solution, with more litigation, and in the end would not work as well as new tax incentives to encourage companies to build clean-coal plants, invest in renewable fuels, and encourage conservation.

Gingrich, who may seek the GOP presidential nomination, no doubt angered some conservative members of Congress who believe that global warming is a giant hoax. "The evidence is sufficient that we should move towards the most effective possible steps to

reduce carbon loading of the atmosphere," he said. "And to do it urgently."


By the length and loudness of the applause, the crowd clearly favored Kerry's point of view that tough standards need to be established to reduce carbon emissions. But that reaction did not appear to phase Gingrich, who maintained a smile and a consistent position.


"We're not arguing over whether it (a plan to fight global warming) should be urgent," Gingrich said. "We're arguing over whether bureaucracy and litigation is a better way to be urgent or whether science and technology translated by entre-

preneurs into products is a better way to be urgent."

Markets can move faster to address the problem than governments, the former speaker said. And, he said, no solution would work that does not focus on economic growth and participation by countries in Africa and Asia.

The senator said that scientists, along with a recent United Nations study, have convinced him that global warming is such an immediate threat that the nation and the world have no time to waste. By contrast, he said that Gingrich's market-based plan would move too slowly to counter warming of the planet.


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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"Let your tongue speak what your heart thinks."  
— Davy Crockett

THE SKIFF VIEW

**Faculty Senate needs to resolve tenure plan**

As the chairman-elect of the Faculty Senate said, denying a professor tenure is the capital punishment of the academic world.

That's why it's so important for the Faculty Senate to continually improve the procedures surrounding tenure and promotion grievances.

The senate has tried for about the past six years to do so, but its efforts have fallen by the wayside as the committee's goals change from year to year.

This session, however, the Tenure, Promotion and Grievance Committee of the Faculty Senate is ensuring the issue will endure, regardless of membership changes, by proposing a task force to carry the issue into upcoming sessions.

It's crucial that the Faculty Senate continues to revise the policy because tenure is such an important facet of

the academic community.

Tenure allows professors to speak freely and continually contribute new ideas to the university without fear of being censored or punished for their thoughts. It encourages diversity among the faculty and provides a stable base of capable academics.

Obviously, tenure denial is necessary to maintain the university's high standards for tenured faculty. At the same time, however, the process should be as fair as possible given the gravity of a tenure denial.

And no organization on campus is better fit to deal with the issue than the Faculty Senate. They're certainly proceeding with due diligence — as they should.

Hopefully, this time, the issue will outlast the academic year enough for tangible improvements to be made.

*News editor Andrew Chavez for the editorial board.*

BY BRENDAN KIEFER



DON IMUS' COMMENTS

**Comments belittling black women inexcusable**

I'm sure many of you have heard Don Imus and the comment he made referring to the Rutgers women as

COMMENTARY



Dia Wall

"nappy-headed hoes." Imus went further to call them "jiggaboos" and compare them to the teams in Spike

Lee's film "Do the Right Thing." This shows his ignorance concerning black culture because the film he was attempting to cite is "School Daze."

As a black woman, I take extreme personal offense to the comments he made and am tired of people defending his statements.

A comment posted on MSNBC stated that black men disrespect black women all the time and that he is only being criticized because he's white.

Just because someone is doing something wrong, that doesn't make it acceptable. Bigotry and racism are never OK, and it would be impossible to argue that Imus would have said the same comment in reference to a predominantly white team.

There are a multitude of strong, intelligent and respectful black men who do not degrade black women. Referring to a small number of rappers who are in poor taste does not validate that argument.

"Bigotry and racism are never OK, and it would be impossible to argue that Imus would have said the same comment in reference to a predominantly white team."

I understand many people feel that reverse discrimination is a problem in America, and I cannot disagree on certain occasions, but this is not one of those situations.

Black women have led a long and tumultuous history in America, and a precedent still remains after nearly 150 years. Although women such as Oprah, Tyra Banks and Beyonce all wear smooth, silky and beautiful locks of every style and shade, will they always be characterized as nappy-headed hos by people like Imus?

Of the many black women I encounter every day, very few of them are "nappy-headed" as Imus so eloquently put, and if so, it is because they choose to be. Black hair care may be different, but that does not give anyone the right to use a large part of that culture as a way to be derogatory and belittling.

For people who are oblivious to black culture,

the natural look is coming back. People of all colors and creeds don dreadlocks, twists and afros as a representation of themselves — whoever they choose to be.

People like Imus, Mel Gibson, Isaiah Washington and Michael Richards show that all people have not evolved in their thinking and prejudices. Racist stereotypes are still deeply threaded in the fabric of this country. I love being a beautiful black woman.

A pitiful, half-hearted apology is not going to change the nature of what he showed himself to be in that one 45-second embarrassment. What is most frightening? The fact that people are still ignorant enough to say such things, that NBC merely suspended him for two weeks or that people are defending such a crass and inappropriate remark and individual?

*Dia Wall is a junior broadcast journalism major from Irving.*

**Single action not reflective of career points**

Being originally from the New York/New Jersey area, I have come to understand and expect the antics of

COMMENTARY



Tim Bella

shock-jock Don Imus on WCBS 880 in New York. Depending on what part of the country you are from, my understanding of Imus

might not necessarily be a good thing.

With that being said, Imus' recent statements about the Rutgers women's basketball team being "nappy-headed hos" are unacceptable on every level. While I am in no way, shape or form defending what he said to the Rutgers team, I will defend him on the principle that an individual should be judged by the media for the body of his or her work, not one single act — no matter how ignorant

or ill-advised it may have been.

The response to the three-word phrase resembled that of a firing line during an execution as one media outlet had its chance at Imus. CBS Radio and MSNBC television programming leveled a two-week suspension to "Imus in the Morning," leaving the hall-of-fame talkie feeling ashamed and embarrassed during each of his apologies.

This is where the story should end, right? Well, the way people significant to the story are handling the situation is only worsening the Imus-caused problem.

Take the Rev. Al Sharpton for example. He wants to send Imus to the unemployment line and is doing everything in his power to make sure he doesn't get another on-air job. Mind you, this coming from Sharpton, a man who sponsored a program calling for the rehabilitation of drug offenders convicted of felonies. The program's title? Second Chance.

For Sharpton, a man of dignity, intellect and class, to treat Imus as if he were worse than a felon convicted of "pushing" heroine is deplorable.

Of course, people such as Sharpton have joined with other media outlets in putting the now-infamous clip on repeat. I'm not saying they shouldn't have done so, but the incident needs to be put into perspective with recent societal events. Two in particular, involving Mel Gibson and Isaiah Washington of

"Grey's Anatomy," dealt with instances of similar, isolated instances of speech toward Jews and homosexuals.

Like Imus, those two men were the topic of media discussion for days, and where are they now? Well, Gibson is still making movies and "Grey's" executives have said Washington is in no danger of losing his spot on the hit show. If this is any indication, then skeptics questioning Imus' future need to realize that no matter how ugly this looks that this too will pass.

People need second chances. I know this because I, like a lot of other people worldwide, have received my fair share of second chances. I haven't met anyone who's perfect (although Lindsay Lohan had me going for a while).

I enjoy Imus because he attracts people of political and social significance regularly and ignites meaningful discussion. He has enriched people's lives and brought social awareness on issues that demand our attention. Having Imus' comments overshadow Rutgers' magical run in the NCAA women's basketball tournament was unfortunate, but it should not send one of the greatest talkies of all time into permanent hibernation.

One stupid mistake should not define a person, but instead, should better them for the future. For this, he deserves a second chance.

*Tim Bella is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Kingwood.*



Radio personality Don Imus was suspended for two weeks by MSNBC for making crude comments on air about the Rutgers women's basketball team.

**Breakfast most important meal of day, improve health by eating**

The alarm clock jars you awake with the twang of country music. Then, you stumble into the bathroom like a drunken zombie with anger

COMMENTARY



David Hall

management problems. After spending an inordinate amount of time in the shower's warm embrace, you brush your teeth and get dressed just in time to run to your first class.

Sound familiar? Seems like an accurate summary of everyone's morning, right? But something's missing, and no, it's not the quasi-

religious practice of checking your Facebook first thing in the morning.

It's breakfast. In the mile-a-minute, jump out of bed, "I'm going study for my differential calculus exam on the way to class" world of college, Tony the Tiger's favorite meal is often seen more as a luxury than a necessity.

However, Mom's advice that breakfast is the most important meal of the day wasn't just a lie to sucker you into eating the last of the stale Raisin Bran that nobody wanted. There is research to back her assessment up.

A study by Harvard researchers found that people who eat breakfast every

morning were half as likely to have blood sugar problems, thus putting them at a lower risk for diabetes and high cholesterol. One can only wonder what might have been had Wilford Brimley been privy to this information earlier in his life.

That's not all, though. The study found that those who eat breakfast every morning were a third less likely to be obese. Yes, this does seem contrary to the belief that shoveling food down one's porkchop is automatically worse for their weight than not eating. However, the study cited that eating first thing in the morning helps stabilize blood sugar, which

in turn regulates appetites.

With regard to which foods are best at breakfast, the researchers suggested whole-grain cereals. They found that people who ate whole-grain cereal were 15 percent less likely to experience blood sugar difficulties than other breakfast lovers.

So, now we have scientific proof that the first meal of the day really is good for us. This begs the question: What constitutes a good breakfast? According to AskDrSears.com, nearly all well-balanced breakfasts include a fruit and carbohydrate portion. Eggs, yogurt and milk are also great ways to get the most from your morning meal.

Sadly, the collegiate "power combo" (candy bar/energy drink) didn't make the cut.

Eating breakfast can also boost your mental performance. Medical News Today cited research showing that eating breakfast stimulates the processes involved in the retrieval of memories and helps in managing complex and challenging information. Breakfast will help improve your grades without any extra studying. It's like cheating, but without the guilt and shame.

The benefits of breakfast are irrefutable. We've all been sitting in class working on an exam when our empty stomachs start to quake like San Francisco in 1906.

Then, all of a sudden, seemingly routine mental processes become the equivalent of astrophysics. A multiple choice question about the capital of Canada might as well be an analytical essay on Einstein's theory of relativity. Think about it; you've been there. I know I have.

Grabbing breakfast every morning will make you healthier and a better student. Yet, many students skip it altogether in favor of a few more minutes in bed or an extended shower. Is it really worth it to skip breakfast? It's up to you.

*David Hall is a freshman news-editorial journalism major from Kingwood. His column appears Wednesdays.*

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# DINING DUO



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor  
Harry (left) and Larry Webb are identical twin brothers who work for Dining Services. Harry began working at TCU in January 2004, and Larry joined him three years later.

## Two identical twins cause confusion for campus patrons

By MICHELLE NICOU  
Staff Reporter

Two identical twin brothers who work for Dining Services are causing a web of confusion.

Harry Webb, 51, has served as the supervisor for the grocery store section of Frog Bytes since January 2004. His duties include restocking the shelves and working the cash register. His brother, Larry Webb, 51, joined him three months later in a similar position at Pond St. Grill.

The brothers said they always try to work at the same places.

"We like to work together as a family and as a team, being that we're twins," Larry Webb said.

Both men said they enjoy their jobs at TCU because their people-friendly personalities are well-appreciated.

"We enjoy people and try to

keep everybody in an upbeat mood," Harry Webb said.

Hai Yen Nguyen, a junior accounting and electronic business major and former dining services employee, said the twins are fun to talk to during free time.

"If I have time, I will stop to talk to them," Nguyen said. "They are friendly, they are nice and they work hard."

Although Larry Webb works from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pond St. Grill and Harry Webb works from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Frog Bytes, Harry Webb said his identity is often mistaken.

"A lot of (students) don't (know we are twins) because they come over here and think I'm Larry and say, 'What are you doing over here? I just saw you over there,'" Harry Webb said.

Larry Webb said he thinks most students put together the pieces after one double-take.

"There are quite a few that do know (about us)," Larry Webb said. "At first, a lot of people come to Pond St. and then come over here (and see Harry) and go, 'I didn't know you had a twin,' but they eventually find out."

Sophomore business major Matt Chatman said he was surprised to find out another Webb was walking the campus.

"I didn't know that," Chatman said. "That's cool."

Telling the two apart is simple in Harry Webb's mind, though it causes the occasional misidentification.

"I'm cuter than him," Harry Webb said jokingly.

Coworkers say the Webb brothers make their time at work enjoyable.

"(Harry) is always so happy and has a smile on his face," said Don Lamb, a supervisor at Frog Bytes.

Trey Green, a fellow stocker at Pond St., said while the brothers are both pleasant to be around, they tend to act differently in a work environment.

"Larry is more laid-back than Harry, and Harry is more serious than Larry," Green said.

Away from work, Larry Webb said he values the time he spends with his family.

"We enjoy hanging out, mostly barbecuing and stuff like that over the weekends," Larry Webb said. "We live very close to each other, so our families can interact over the weekend."

There is one characteristic other than his goatee and glasses that distinguishes the two brothers.

"I like to play chess, and I don't think he likes chess at all," Harry Webb said. "He's more of a dominos guy."

## Death of football player, soldier still plaguing war proponents

By MARGARET TALEV  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats later this month will revisit the combat death of pro football player Pat Tillman and the rescue of Jessica Lynch in a hearing intended to hold the Bush administration accountable for misinformation about military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Both high-profile stories tapped Americans' sense of patriotism early in the war — Tillman's death as an Army Ranger in Afghanistan in 2004 and the rescue of Pfc. Lynch of West Virginia in Iraq in 2003 — but the initial accounts from the Department of Defense differed substantially from what later facts proved to be the truth.

Tillman, who left the Arizona Cardinals to sign up for the Army after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorism attacks, was killed by friendly fire, not enemy fire. And the circumstances of Lynch's capture and rescue were quite different from the heroic cast hyped for her by the military at the outset.

Lynch is expected to testify April 24 before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, whose chairman is Rep. Henry Wax-

man, D-Calif. So are Tillman's family members, who have criticized the administration's handling of information surrounding his death. Defense Department officials also will be asked to appear.

The committee said in a statement that the hearing will examine "the sources and motivations for the accounts and whether the appropriate administration officials have been held accountable."

Robert Duval, a political science professor at West Virginia University, said he considers the Tillman and Lynch debacles symptomatic of "the sort of public relations accidents that happen in the fog of war." At the same time, Duval said, "the administration has been guilty of trying to promote its case on the war through the media, and they have overstepped their bounds on numerous occasions."

"Part of me wants to describe it as a political fishing expedition," Duval said of Waxman's hearing. "But if there is prima facie evidence that the administration had used the Tillman and Jessica Lynch stories to manipulate opinion for the war, then he should pursue it."

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## Texas Christian University

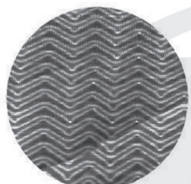
Chemistry Department  
is pleased to present



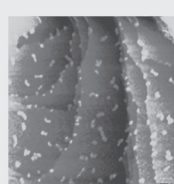
Ruth Evelyn Sanders Lecturer  
Dr. Cynthia M. Friend

"Building Strong Academic Programs through Gender Equity:  
Balancing Life and Work."

Dr. Cynthia M. Friend is a professor and chair of the chemistry and chemical biology department at Harvard University.



Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
7:30 p.m.  
Sid W. Richardson Building  
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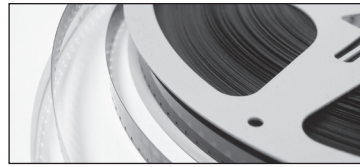
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# JAZZ AND JOE

## Moonstone owner fulfills husband's dream of running cafe

By JENNY ROBERTSON  
Staff Writer

The night before he left for Iraq, Capt. Bradley Thompson grabbed a napkin and started brainstorming about opening a coffee cafe near TCU.

"He wanted it to have a nice ambience with 'Frenchy' music," said his wife, Rachel Ruiz.

Thompson decided to name the cafe Moonstone because of its sacred meaning in many cultures where the gem is considered magical and brings good fortune.

Upon his return from the war, Thompson got right to work. He became a ROTC instructor and recruiter for TCU, but, in the meantime, he personally renovated an old attorney's office across the street from the TCU Bookstore, developed the logo and advertisements and created a Web site.

Tragically, Thompson died in an accident at home a week before the grand opening when he tripped and fell unconscious.

"He was finally happy," Ruiz said. "This was his dream that

was meant to be our future — we would grow old together running the cafe."

Despite the pain, and against the advice of others, Ruiz chose to follow through with Moonstone.

"Floors still had to be installed, and there was painting and electric work left to do," Ruiz recalled. "Brad even left a big hole in the ceiling. But there was no way in hell I was going to just walk away — this is what his heart wanted."

Now, four months later, Moonstone is where the French Club meets every Monday, where 30 people pack into the side room for an occasional poetry reading and where a one-man band is scheduled to play every Friday. Where once there was a hole in the ceiling, now there is a blue "sky," with plans for clouds to be added soon.

Ruiz runs the cafe and maintains a full-time job. Her younger sister, Kelli, "takes care of things" during the day.

Moonstone sells Boba (or

Bubble) tea, which is an Asian beverage made with flavored tea and tapioca pearls. The drink can be ordered over ice or as a smoothie and is served with a big fat straw that is wide enough for the pearls to be consumed with every sip.

Boba tea isn't the only product that makes Moonstone different. Patrons can purchase Italian soda and Segafredo coffee — only Del Frisco's and Texas de Brazil also carry this Italian import — along with yummy homemade pastries.

Works from local artists hang on the walls and are available for purchase. Students in TCU's art department are welcome to bring their own works for consignment.

The only painting that will never be for sale is the first one that can be seen upon entering Moonstone.

"Napoleon belongs to Brad," Ruiz said. "He found it while we were shopping one day and asked that it be his next present."

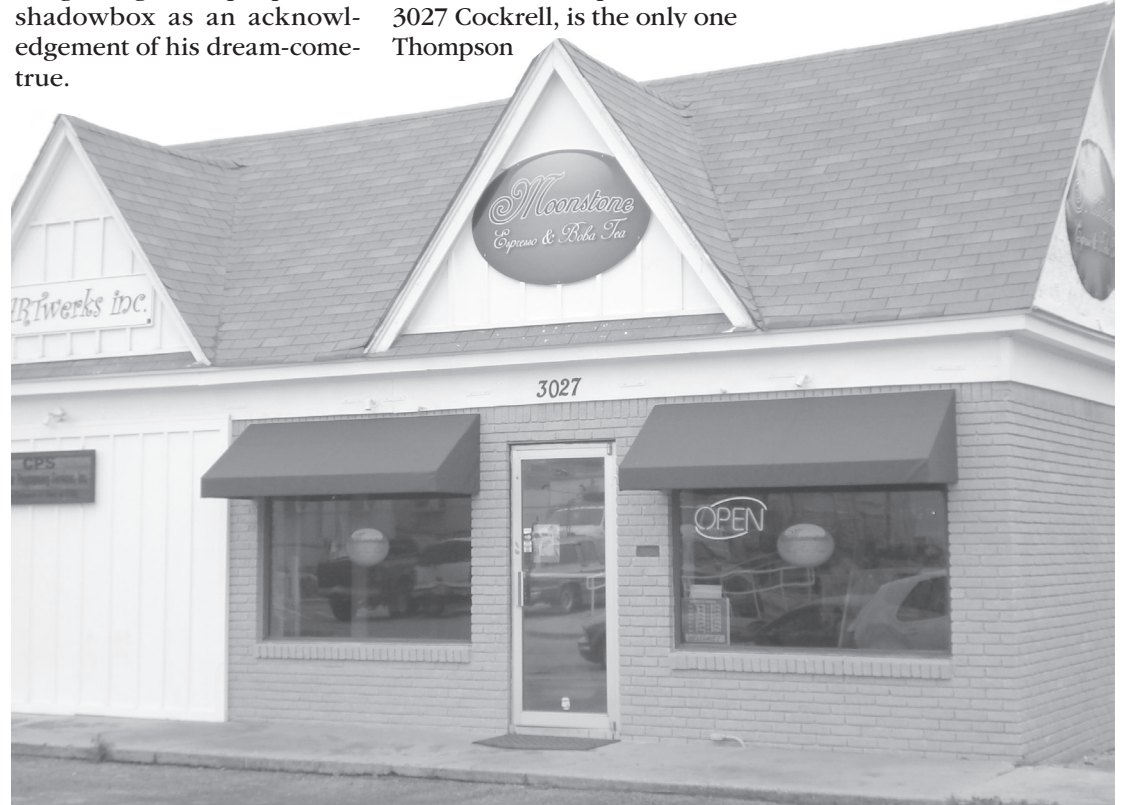
After Thompson died,

Ruiz found the painting and bought it. It honors his military background as a strategist and Bronze Star recipient. Soon, Thompson's picture will hang alongside a plaque and shadowbox as an acknowledgement of his dream-come-true.

Ruiz has her own dreams for Moonstone. She has already bought furniture for an outdoor patio and is working toward having multiple locations. But the shop, located at 3027 Cockrell, is the only one Thompson

built with his own hands.

"It feels good to come here," Ruiz says. "I know he's happy that I'm able to do this for him. This is all for him."



AMBER PARCHER / Features Editor

The Moonstone Cafe was created by Bradley Thompson and Rachel Ruiz. Thompson was a ROTC instructor and recruiter for TCU and began planning the cafe before leaving to fight in the war in Iraq.

## Jazz music, melodies come alive at 6th Street Live on Sundays

By MICHAEL BEST  
Staff Reporter

As you walk into the dimly lit room, the band is just warming up. To your surprise, no bouncer comes to ask you for the last of your precious cash in exchange for a paper wristband. Your eyes begin to adjust, and you head to the bar and grab a Lone Star. You scan the eclectic crowd for your friends but they haven't arrived yet, so you slink to the back of the bar and sink into the sofa. The aroma of

spiced beef tips outweighs the scent of smoke as you close your eyes and let the smooth melody of a stand-up bass solo wash away all your almost-Monday blues. This is only the beginning.

For the next four hours, a steady rotation of time-tested jazz musicians will enthrall you, tickling your eardrums as they frantically flail upon their instruments like they owe them money. It's 10 p.m. on Sunday, and you're at 6th Street Live.

Originally hosted by the

Black Dog Tavern, jazz night moved permanently to 6th Street Live because of the Tavern's recent closure, said bartender Lee. He said that the jazz show is always free, and although the bar is primarily for those 21 and up, minors are allowed if they obey drinking laws.

The jazz show is a 6th Street regular every Sunday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The house band consists of a vibraphone (a mellow xylophone) player, drummer, stand-up bassist, guitar-

ist and singer, who work for modest wages plus tips.

Each week new talents, including some of TCU's own, step in for members of the house band to play a song or two, creating an environment where each show will be different from the last.

Musicians are encouraged to try their hand, with the only requirement being that they can keep up — a task that could prove nearly impossible for your average band member.

Drummer David Karnes, 32, graduated from the Berklee College of Music in 1996. He said he thinks about 90 percent of people haven't taken the time to stop and appreciate jazz.

"Jazz can be just as aggressive as what the young people listen to," Karnes said. "Not a lot of people are open enough to check it out. Once you do, it's like a language, bro; if you speak it, you're going to love it forever, but if you don't, you just don't understand it. It's just bleeps and bleeps."

Joey Carter, director of TCU's second jazz band, plays vibraphone for the band. He said even though listening to jazz on records is cool, it's impossible to get the same excitement that comes from watching a live show.

Carter said he uses the jazz shows as a teaching tool.

"I think it's an important thing for (music) students to get outside of the campus life and try to play a little bit," Carter said, "Really, they learn more here than they will at school."

Bassist Drew Phelps, 50, travels from Denton every Sunday night to play at 6th Street Live. He said he's been playing the stand-up bass for 32 years, and he started playing tuba and electric bass in middle school. Phelps and the other band members attest that their passion for music is what keeps them going.

Lorea Aranzasti, a 23-year-old from Spain, is currently working on a master degree in violin performance from TCU. She said she happened across the jazz show by chance, and has come nearly every week since finding out about it. Aranzasti steps in a few times a week to sing some

### FOR YOUR INFO

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of her favorites such as the Portuguese bossa nova tune "The Girl from Ipanema."

Music fans of nearly any genre will appreciate the great variety the band exercises, with set lists ranging from modern experimental jazz, bebop, smooth, slow ballads, Latin jazz and golden oldies. The house band finishes each set by playing a crowd favorite: an extended version of "What a Wonderful World," originally sung by Louie Armstrong.

Guitarist Paul Metzger, 42, got his first guitar for Christmas at age 14. He said he feels encouraged by the variety of people who show up each week and hopes to see a younger crowd develop.

Oklin Bloodworth, 80, said he's been singing for as long as he can remember. Starting out as a country singer from Marshall, Bloodworth moved to Fort Worth in 1941 where he began to sing jazz, blues and country.

"I love all the music. The more you love, the fuller your life," Bloodworth said. "You've got more additives. Anything good, add it on; anything bad, let it be."

Bloodworth said he has jammed with James Moody, Jimmy Smith and Freddie Hubbard simply by being in the right place at the right time. He said his passion for music gets him out of bed in the morning.

"I just want to keep on singing until the whistle blows," Bloodworth said. "I'll feel good going. If I fall off the stage, beautiful, at least I'll die satisfied."



AMBER PARCHER / Features Editor

6th Street Live, located at 6th and Foch., entices people of all ages with music and atmosphere. One of the venue's staples is the jazz show every Sunday night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.



## Coach comments on Imus' slurs

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER  
Staff Reporter

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Rutgers University women's basketball team leader Essence Carson said the team is "highly angered" and "deeply saddened" by radio host Don Imus' slurs, but the players have agreed to meet privately with him.

Imus, who has been suspended for two weeks in the uproar, "has stolen a moment of grace from us," Carson said in televised remarks to reporters Tuesday.

Imus has offered to meet with the team, and Carson said, "We have agreed to have a meeting with Mr. Don Imus."

Players stopped short of saying whether

they thought Imus should be fired for calling the team "nappy-headed hos."

Carson said Imus didn't just attack a team of athletes.

"The door has been left open to attacking the leaders of tomorrow," she said. "It kind of scars us," said star player Matee Ajavon, of the scandal.

But she said she was "kind of happy" that the outcry sparked a national discussion about racism.

"Racism is something serious that we really need to get across to our nation," Ajavon said.

Team member Heather Zurich also denounced Imus, saying he spoke out of ignorance.

"He knows not one of us," she said.

Rutgers women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer called comments made by radio host Don Imus "racist and sexist remarks that are deplorable, despicable and unconscionable."

"These young ladies are the best this nation has to offer, and we are so very fortunate to have them at Rutgers University," Stringer said of her players. "They are young ladies of class, distinction.

They are articulate, they are gifted. They are God's representatives in every sense of the word.

"It's not about them (players) as black or nappy headed. It's about us as a people," Stringer said.

"When there is not equality for all, or when there has been denied equality for one, there has been denied equality for all."



CHRIS PEDOTA / MCT CAMPUS

Rutgers women's basketball head coach Vivian Stringer listens as her players address derogatory remarks made by radio talk show host Don Imus during a press conference at Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway, N.J., on Tuesday.

## McCain tries to repair shaky campaign

By JILL ZUCKMAN  
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — Draping himself in the imagery of the military, John McCain will attempt to revive his badly stumbling campaign Wednesday in a speech to cadets at the Virginia Military Institute, adopting a risky strategy of associating himself even more closely with an Iraq war that is deeply unpopular with Americans.

McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona, is hoping to make a persuasive case for containing terrorism by keeping American troops in Iraq.

He's also hoping that with the first of several high-profile speeches he can right a campaign that has been buffeted by poor fundraising, shaky management and a candidate who has committed serious verbal gaffes of late.

Most embarrassing was his recent declaration that the Baghdad bazaar he was touring last week was safe, though he was wearing Kevlar body armor at the time. The Vietnam War hero was also accompanied by helmet-clad soldiers bearing machine guns and a hovering helicopter to ward away snipers while he bought three rugs from a merchant.

"When the media start ridiculing you and saying, 'What is this guy talking about?' — his trip to Iraq last week was a disaster," said Ed Rollins, a veteran GOP strategist. "You start getting compared to Michael Dukakis in a helmet. That's not a good place to be for a warrior."

It's not just the media that are ridiculing McCain. He is also drawing fire from Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., another presidential candidate.

"The idea that the situ-

ation in Iraq is improving because it takes a security detail of 100 soldiers, three Black Hawk helicopters and a couple of Apache gunships to walk through a market in the middle of Baghdad is simply not credible and not reflective of the facts on the ground," Obama said in an interview that was to air Tuesday night as part of a virtual town hall meeting sponsored by MoveOn.org., the liberal advocacy group that opposes the war.

Once widely considered the frontrunner for the Republican nomination for president by his supporters, the GOP establishment and the media, McCain is trying to regain his footing much the way past nomination winners have been forced to do as their candidacies wobbled precariously.

Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bob Dole all struggled to clinch the Republican nomination in 1980, 1988 and 1996.

"I think every frontrunner I've ever seen stumbles somewhere along the way," said William Mayer, a political science professor at Northeastern University in Boston.

Advisers to McCain say they don't believe the situation is as grim as the senator sometimes looks on television when he's talking about the war.

Polls in the crucial early states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina show him roughly even or ahead of his opponents, notably former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. He draws large crowds at town hall meetings, responding to questions on a

wide range of subjects.

He's already begun to revamp his fundraising operation, with advisers pushing major fundraisers to bring in additional dollars from their friends and associates, known as bundling. (At the same time, he is expected to disclose Saturday a disappointing amount of cash on hand due to a large payroll for high-priced staffers and consultants.)

Beginning Wednesday, he will deliver three broad policy speeches, starting with the war in Iraq, moving on to a discussion of taxes, trade and government spending, and then capping it with a speech on energy.

"That will pump up his image as more comprehensive than as a Johnny-one-note on Iraq, which is all he's talked about lately," said Charles Black Jr., an adviser to the campaign. "He has to present a theme or message of where he wants to take the country in comprehensive fashion."

Still, he is confronting the unpopular issue of Iraq head on in his first address in Lexington, Va.

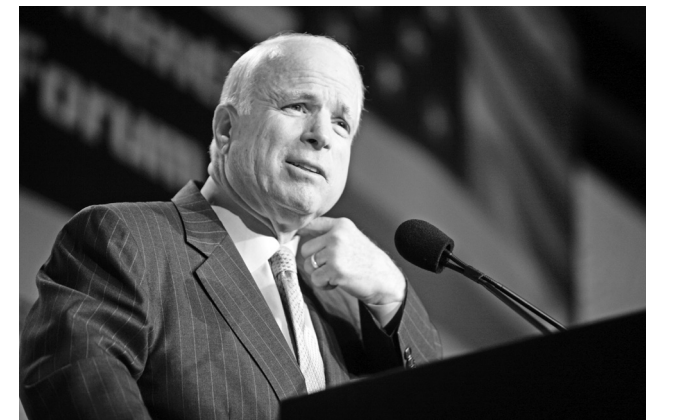
In his speech, McCain is expected to argue that the

nation faces a critical choice, whether to take a hard road by staying in Iraq and containing terrorism, or take an easy path by abandoning the war-torn country and watching it erupt in chaos.

He's expected to talk about what's gone wrong with the war, and what's gone right, aides said. And he plans to sharply criticize Democrats for advocating that the military withdraw from Iraq but refusing to back that up by cutting off funds for the war.

"We must be steadfast in our efforts and cannot surrender the battle before we have given this new strategy, a strategy for which I have long advocated, a chance to work," McCain said in an e-mail to supporters Tuesday. He's already earned plaudits from a few conservative commentators and bloggers for his refusal to abandon President Bush and to stick with the new policy of pumping up troop levels in Baghdad.

"I think that what McCain is doing now may be the most courageous thing he's done in either of his presidential races," Fox News' Brit Hume said Sunday.



CHUCK KENNEDY / MCT Campus

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks before a presidential candidate forum hosted by the International Association of Fire Fighters in Washington, D.C., on March 14.

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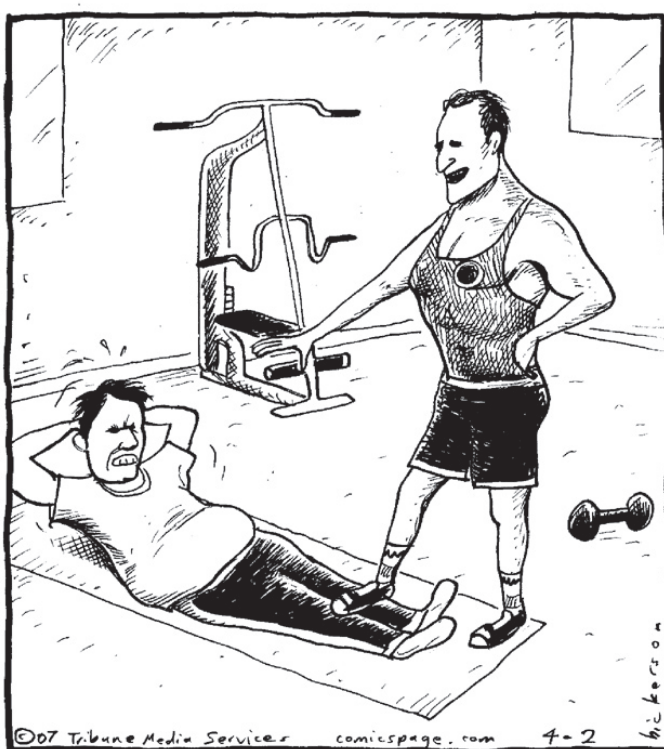
**WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE**

Q: What country makes you shiver?

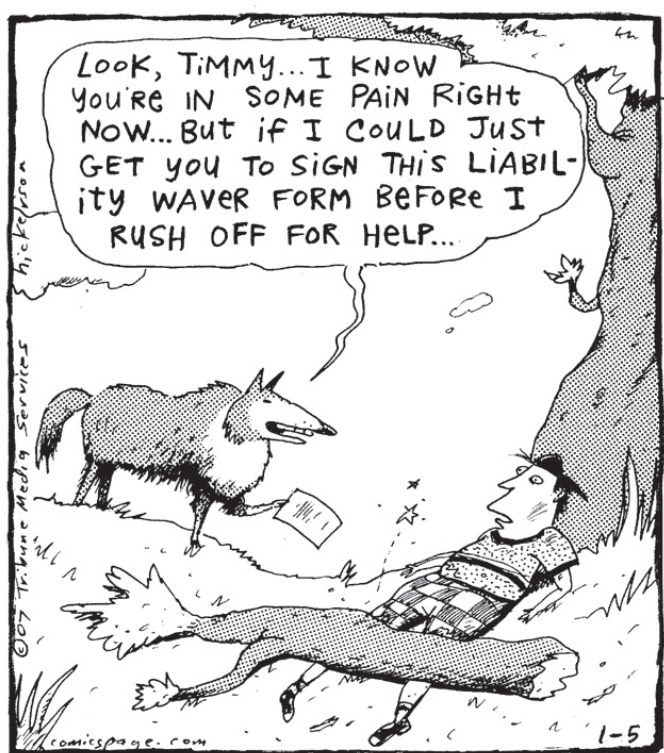
A: Chile.

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by Buddy Hickerson



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

**Directions**

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

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

**Tuesday's Solutions**

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

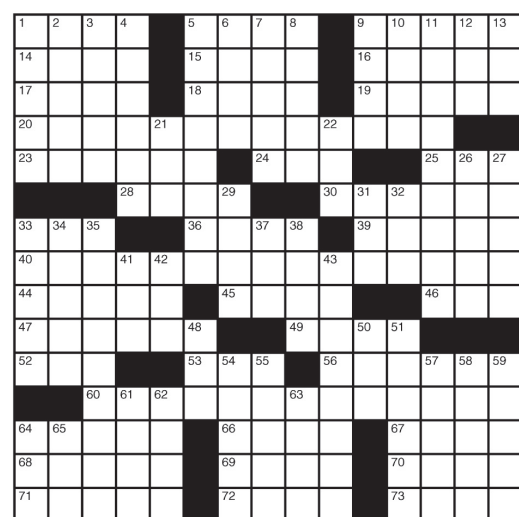
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**ACROSS**  
1 Comic Carey  
5 Word in a threat  
9 Puzo subject  
14 Sofer of soaps  
15 Perfume container  
16 Dress style  
17 Economist Greenspan  
18 Japanese novelist Shusaku  
19 Hornet homes  
20 Like cocktails, or some boxers  
23 Magnitude  
24 Aviv-Jaffa  
25 One NCO  
28 Praise  
30 Subject  
33 Ninny  
36 Jason's ship  
39 Doubly  
40 Snags, or some NFL linemen  
44 Old photo tint  
45 Inside help  
46 WBA stats  
47 Corrects a text  
49 Frankfurter's one  
52 Neighbor of Leb.  
53 Silvery-gray  
56 Glossy fabric  
60 Naive, or day-old?



By Philip J. Anderson  
Portland, OR

4/11/07

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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4/11/07

**DOWN**  
1 Hang in loose folds  
2 Take it easy!  
3 Make a law  
4 Rotary engine  
5 Ultimate

6 Lisa of "The View"  
7 Nasser's vice president  
8 Flea to wed  
9 "Death in Venice" author  
10 Actor Baldwin  
11 Breaded fillet  
12 Bank pay.  
13 Loser to DDE  
21 Actress Ballin  
22 Einstein's birthplace  
26 Lizard with sticky feet  
27 Lock of hair  
29 Plumbing woe  
31 NATO word  
32 Tango team thrills  
33 Very, in music  
34 Bouquet bottoms  
35 Gridiron finale  
37 Plains antelope  
38 Make eyes at  
41 Hour div.  
42 Naughty  
43 Foot woes  
48 Quentin

50 Dundee denial  
51 Attack from the air  
54 Religious assembly  
55 Model Klum  
57 Moved slowly  
58 Like some seals  
59 Striped antelope  
61 Hersher of baseball  
62 Depend (on)  
63 Splashed liquid  
64 Tiny hill dweller  
65 Sandra of "Gidget"

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

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**ON THE ROAD AGAIN...**

See how the Horned Frogs baseball team is keeping up with its current road trip.  
**TOMORROW**

## Stormy, rainy weather postpones sport events

By **MARCUS MURPHREE**  
*Sports Editor*

The spring semester is coming to a close, and, with it, for the most part, comes the end of college sports' seasons.

**BASEBALL**

After having the final game of a three-game series with the Air Force Falcons canceled, the Horned Frogs (23-9, 7-1) still hold on to a one-game lead in the Mountain West Conference above the BYU Cougars. The team is still in middle of a road trip, which will end against the UNLV Rebels on Sunday. Senior right fielder Austin Adams is tied for the team lead in home runs with six and has 32 RBI following the close of the Air Force series.

**TRACK & FIELD**

The Flyin' Frogs' performance in the Texas Relays was cut short because of inclement weather last weekend. Junior thrower Joe Brown had an NCAA Regional qualifying mark in javelin during the meet with a throw of 62.26 meters. The next meet will be April 14 when half the team will travel to the Mount Sac Relays in Walnut, Calif., and the remaining members will go to Denton for the North Texas Invitational.

**MEN'S TENNIS**

Tuesday's match against the Rice Owls in Houston was canceled because of rainy weather. The squad is making strides this season in doubles play led by the No. 23 ranked duo of senior

Cosmin Cotet and sophomore Krieger Brink. Three matches against conference opponents are scheduled for this coming weekend on home courts. The Horned Frogs are 2-1 in conference in a tie for second place.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

Following a 4-3 loss to the BYU Cougars, the tennis team is 4-1 in conference play. The team will take to the skies this weekend for three matches in Albuquerque, N.M., against Mountain West opponents.

**MENS'S GOLF**

The final round of the U.S. Collegiate Championships is taking place today in Alpharetta, Ga. After the first day of competition the team was in 13th place out of 15 spots. During the second round of play, the No. 28 Horned Frogs moved up and down through the standings and were as high as eighth place. By the day's end, the team was back in 13th place two spots behind BYU. Wednesday's results are available through a live update on [golfstat.com](http://golfstat.com).

**WOMEN'S GOLF**

Last weekend at the BYU Dixie Classic, the Horned Frogs sealed a second place finish in the tourney. The team was six strokes behind conference rival BYU. The Dixie Classic was the final tournament the team played in before it heads off to the Mountain West Conference Championships in St. George Utah during the weekend of April 19 to 21.

## MLS ushers in new era with Beckham

By **MICHELLE KAUFMAN**  
*McClatchy Newspapers*

Major League Soccer enters its 12th season this weekend — yes, it has been that long — and there is no indication things are slowing down. Quite the contrary.

Of course, the news that trumps all other is the signing of former English captain/global megastar David Beckham, who joins the L.A. Galaxy in July, and brings with him pop-star wife Victoria ("Posh Spice") and a trail of paparazzi. The league crammed most of the Galaxy's road games at the end of the season so Beckham can spread the MLS gospel from coast to coast.

League commissioner Don Garber said the Beckham news "has taken on a life of its own," garnering more attention than he'd anticipated.

But there is more to MLS 2007 than Becks and Posh.

Mexican forward Cuauhtemoc Blanco, who played in the 1998 and 2002 World Cups, signed with the Chicago Fire last week. Former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna returned from England to the New York Red Bulls. The Colorado Rapids are playing in a new soccer-specific stadium, and expansion Toronto FC has 14,000 season-ticket holders for its 20,000-seat stadium.

There are talks of adding two or three teams by 2010, which would bring the total to 15 or 16. Garber said in recent weeks he would love to bring a team back to South Florida — specifically, Miami — but it would require "the right facility, the right owner," and probably would be more of a long-range plan.

"We are keeping our eye on the Orange Bowl situation, and keeping our toe in the water down there," Garber said on a conference call last week. "We've had talks with the mayor (Manny Diaz). If the right scenario comes to fruition, we'd be interested. It's a great market, managed the right way in the right facility."

Other cities in line to get teams are St. Louis, San Diego, Cleveland, Atlanta, Milwaukee and San Jose, Calif., and there is interest in the Pacific Northwest, too.

"We have lots of things that are happening that are making the league more popular," Garber said. "Overall attention and fan following and commercial opportunities continue to grow, but it's growing at a slow steady pace — and that's our goal. I have no doubt that Major League Soccer will be a dominant league in this country."

For now, though, most of the buzz will center on Beckham, who is as much sex symbol and fashion icon as he is soccer player. He can bend a soccer ball like no other, and his mere presence raises the league's credibility. But Galaxy general manager Alexi Lalas, once a minor pop star in his own right, is concerned there is too much pressure on Beckham.

"I don't think it's ever going to be possible for David Beckham to live up to the expectations that have been put out there," Lalas told The Associated Press. "He is, if anything, a role player — a very important role player — but he finds a way to fit into the team."

All those things might be true, but the bottom line is, Becks sells tickets.

The Galaxy has sold twice as many tickets as it had at this time last year, and his traveling road show also will draw unprecedented crowds and media coverage. And these accomplishments that can only be good news for a league trying to elbow its way into the American mainstream sports consciousness.



LIONEL HAHN / MCT CAMPUS  
David Beckham, playing for England against Paraguay in the 2006 World Cup, leaves Real Madrid and Spain's La Liga Primera Division to join the MLS this season as a midfielder for the L.A. Galaxy.

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