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TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006

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University to increase budget by \$22 million

Funds to aid in hiring more faculty, financing field research chances

By LIZ CRAWFORD
Staff Reporter

TCU's Board of Trustees met for its spring meeting Friday and decided on a \$293 million budget for the 2006-2007 academic year, said Brian Gutierrez, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

This year's budget is an 8 percent increase from last year's budget, which was \$271 million, Gutierrez said.

The \$22 million increase can be attributed to a series of initiatives

that will fund programs ranging from Academic Affairs to student life, he said. Rising utility costs were also factored into determining next year's budget, Gutierrez said.

Included in the 2006-2007 budget is \$2.9 million to support academic excellence. Seventeen faculty positions will be filled, and academic programs will be enhanced through the Strategic Initiatives Fund, Gutierrez said.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said programs will be enhanced in a multitude of ways, from hiring extra consultants to work with classes to increasing field research opportunities for students and faculty.

Also included in the budget is \$4.6 million in additional student financial aid, Gutierrez said, and \$2.2 million for the Strategic Initiatives Fund, which will award grants to faculty and staff to advance TCU in relation to Vision in Action. Also, \$3.5 million is set aside for employee compensation, which includes a merit pool and an increase in benefits, Gutierrez said.

"This is an exciting time for the university," Boschini said in a press release. "We have outstanding faculty, staff and students, a vibrant cultural life and an ever-improving physical campus."

Also discussed at the meeting was the increase of freshman applicants for

fall 2006, Boschini said. The university had received 8,538 applications as of March 31, he said — a 6.8 percent increase from last year at this time.

Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said there has been a 29.4 percent increase in applications from minority students.

"I am very encouraged by this development stemming from a lot of hard work on the part of the students, faculty and staff in our recruitment efforts," Boschini said.

Boschini also announced at the meeting that the university has hired Jim Hille, the former chief investment officer for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, as TCU's first

CIO. Hille, who oversaw a \$95 billion benefit trust in his former position, will begin to manage TCU's \$1 billion endowment, Boschini said.

"The current state of the endowment can be traced to three factors," Boschini said. "Incredibly generous supporters of the institution over the years, wise management of the funds by our trustee committee on investments and good stewardship by our past chancellor, (William) Tucker."

Hille was hired to concentrate all of his time and professional expertise on growing the endowment so that TCU will be able to provide more educational benefits for the students, faculty and staff, Boschini said.

Study finds link among weather, disposition

By JEFF ESKEW
Staff Reporter

Professors might want to take note that students may get restless in the classroom now that springtime is in the air.

Researchers at the University of Michigan have found that spending time indoors when the weather outside is pleasant can decrease mood and susceptibility to new information and creative thoughts.

According to the University of Michigan Web site, people experience their best moods when they spend at least 30 minutes a day outdoors in warm, sunny weather. Peak moods occur in Texas when it is 86 degrees, the research found.

Teresa Blackwell, a Spanish instructor, said she has noticed students' bodies may be in their chairs, but their minds are nowhere to be found when weather is nicer.

"The last beautiful day, just at the beginning of class, a student asked if we could meet outside," Blackwell said. "I almost lost the class after that comment. Everyone thought that was a great idea and mentally switched to outside."

Blackwell isn't the only faculty member who has been asked to hold class outside.

Keith Whitworth, a sociology instructor, said when spring rolls around, more students ask if class can meet outside.

He said the desire to be outside could be attributed to a lack of motivation or students simply wanting to be outdoors when the weather is nice.

Whitworth said it is hard to measure productivity level in the classroom, but there is a correlation between attendance and the weather.

"There are more absences when the weather begins to change in the spring," Whitworth said. "I don't see a pattern of change in the fall. It usually starts around Spring Break."

Whitworth went on to say rain hasn't really affected attendance.

"I am amazed when students walk in literally dripping wet

See WEATHER, page 2



Protesters depart the Tarrant County Courthouse en route to the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building during a silent march Sunday in Fort Worth.

SPREADING THE WORD

Local protest draws students, locals together

By DAN MCGRAW
Staff Reporter

Ralph McCloud couldn't believe his eyes as he stood on a stage near the Fort Worth Convention Center and peered out on normally quiet streets.

On Sunday, downtown streets were flooded with a sea of people marching against a pending federal immigration bill, hoping to leave an impression on politicians about the importance of drafting reasonable legislation.

Annabel Alonso, a demonstrator and freshman biology and criminal justice major, said there were peo-

ple of all races protesting against the bill.

"Everyone was there for the same reason — to say that we are all united," Alonso said. "It was an emotional event, but it wasn't just about Hispanics."

"They weren't just Hispanic," Alonso said. "There were blacks, Asians and whites there because it affects everyone who is an immigrant."

McCloud, the secretariat for pastoral and community services of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, said he witnessed the same diversity of

See PROTEST, page 2



Andrew Chavez / Assistant Photo Editor
Maria Ibarra, a freshman movement science major, speaks at a rally in front of the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building on Sunday.

Rallies filling streets across United States

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hundreds of thousands of people demanding U.S. citizenship for illegal immigrants took to the streets in dozens of cities from New York to San Diego on Monday in some of the most widespread demonstrations since the mass protests began around the country last month.

Rallies took place in communities of all sizes, from a gathering of at least 50,000 people in Atlanta to one involving 3,000 people in the farming town of Garden City, Kan., which has fewer than 30,000 residents.

Demonstrators in New York City held signs with slogans such as "We Are America," "Immigrant Values are Family Values," and "Legalize Don't Criminalize." One sign said: "Bush Step Down."

"We love this country. This country gives to us everything," said Florentino Cruz, 32, an illegal worker from Mexico who has been in the United States since 1992. "This country was made by immigrants."

The protesters have been urging lawmakers to help an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants settle legally in the United States. A bill passed by the House would crack down on illegal immigrants and strengthen the nation's border with Mexico. A broader overhaul of immigration law stalled in the Senate last week.

Monday's demonstrations followed a weekend of rallies in 10 states that drew up to 500,000 people in Dallas and tens of thousands elsewhere. Dozens of other rallies, many organized by Spanish-language radio DJ's, have been held nationwide over the past two weeks, including one with more than 500,000 people in Los Angeles.

In the nation's capital, thousands of immigrants, their families and supporters marched Monday from Hispanic neighbor-

See RALLY, page 2

Social Web sites used in admissions

By AMY HALLFORD
News Editor

Alex Castriota, 18, has never been in love and would rather die peacefully than in a random accident. According to his MySpace profile, the Berkeley Preparatory senior who lives in Tampa, Fla., fears the unknown and admits that he has had his fair share of drunken moments.

Castriota, who applied to TCU but has chosen to attend Southern Methodist University in the fall, prefers a girl with blond or brown hair to a redhead and doesn't mind if she indulges in an occasional cocktail. His longest relationship lasted

a month, and he recalls being beat up in the sixth grade.

High school seniors wouldn't consider including this information on a college admissions application, and college graduates certainly wouldn't provide a potential employer with such details.

So why are students providing a magnifying glass through which thousands of strangers can view their personal lives?

Castriota said he uses MySpace and Facebook to communicate with high school friends and said these Web sites will help him keep in touch with people when he leaves for college.

But who, other than friends and acquaintances, are tapping into these resources?

With a swift click of the mouse, admissions officers at universities across the nation can plunge into cyber personality profiles that may contain more explicit material than what appears on admissions applications.

Although TCU admissions officers have utilized Facebook and MySpace to evaluate the status of prospective students, Raymond Brown, dean of admissions, said TCU does not rely heavily on these social networking Web sites.

See MYSFACE, page 4

Egging the campus



Stephen Spillman / Photo Editor
Jolene Pumphrey and her mother Kelly Pumphrey sort through Jolene's easter eggs during the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Sadler Lawn on Sunday.



WEATHER

TODAY: Isolated T-Storms, 82/63
TOMORROW: Partly cloudy, 86/62
THURSDAY: Sunny, 83/62

FUN FACT

A wild turkey shattered a window at the St. Joseph County Library in South Bend, Indiana, when it crashed through, toppling books until a custodian captured the bird. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: No quick fix for the quick fix trend, page 3
NEWS: How much do you say in your profile? page 4
SPORTS: Finally trading big losses for big wins, page 6

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Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

NEWS BRIEFS

Committee names new top leaders for Daily Skiff, Image magazine

The student publications committee assigned the new advertising manager and new chief editors Monday for the TCU Daily Skiff and Image magazine.

Junior advertising/public relations major Krista Humphries, from Buda, will be the advertising manager, and senior news-editorial journalism major Amy Hallford, from Dallas, will be the editor in chief of the Skiff for the fall 2006 semester.

Darren White, a junior news-editorial journalism major from Tyler, will be editor in chief of Image magazine for the 2006-2007 school year.

Hallford, who is one of the Skiff's news editors, said she looks forward to serving as editor in chief.

"I'm just excited to continue the tradition of a newspaper of the highest editorial quality," Hallford said. "(Spring 2006 editor in chief) Courtney Reese left me big shoes to fill, and I will do my best to lead a staff as well as she did."

Darren White, the Skiff's current features editor, said he is looking forward to continuing what the current Image staff has started.

"It will be fun to get into magazines because I've worked in newspapers for the past several semesters," White said. "I think a lot of interesting stories will come in that people will really want to read."

Humphries, an advertising representative for the Skiff, said she is excited about having a leadership role.

"I've also been a reporter, so I know that side of the paper as well," Humphries said. "It's a team effort in the Skiff, and I really want

to make sure that all sides are working together."

— Bre'anna Emmitt

Student media take high honors at Texas college press convention

The Schieffer School of Journalism brought home several awards this weekend from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association 2006 Convention in San Antonio.

Of the top achievements, Image magazine won first place in overall design, the TCU Daily Skiff took home an honorable mention in overall excellence and TCU News Now won two first-place awards for individual stories.

John Miller, faculty adviser for TCU News Now, said he is pleased with the results.

"I was very happy," Miller said. "We won first place in the top two story categories. It doesn't get much better than that."

Robert Bohler, director of student publications, said he is also happy with the awards.

"I think it says a lot about the quality of journalists we have here at TCU," Bohler said. "We showed strength in design, photos and content, and those are the three facets that go into a publication."

Image magazine won the sweepstakes, which means it was awarded the most high-ranking awards, Bohler said. Image won a total of nine awards, all of them either first or second places.

"I was particularly impressed with Image," said Courtney Reese, a senior news-editorial journalism major and editor in chief of the Skiff. "Over the past year, Image has really expanded and stepped it up a notch. I was really proud of them. Their hard work was definitely reflected in the awards."

— Bre'anna Emmitt

WEATHER

From page 1

and ready for class," Whitworth said.

Blackwell also said she noticed students seem more prepared to learn when it is less than pleasant outside.

"On rainy and cloudy days, it seems that students settle down to work more easily," Blackwell said. "We do a lot of talking, discussion, interacting, and I feel like the class bonds and feels more like a unit when it is overcast and dark outside."

Ward Curry, a senior environmental science major, had a scientific theory to explain the effects of weather on his behavior.

"I think that high and low pressure systems and the atmosphere can affect our moods and daily life more than whether it is cloudy or sunny outside," Curry said.

Curry said he functions better on low-pressure days and when it is dark outside.

"Sometimes I feel more invigorated when there are large thunderstorms," Curry said. "It's the energy in the air."

Angie Payne, a junior sociology major, had a more simple explanation on the way weather affects her mood.

"If it is a nice and sunny day it makes me want to be outside," Payne said. "If it is dark and cloudy outside, it makes me feel depressed."

Students may want to take advantage of the nice weather while it lasts.

The researchers found hot weather during the summer lowered mood levels, and the effects of pleasant weather were far less noticeable in other seasons.

PROTEST

From page 1

the group, but that he was also overwhelmed by the determination the marchers showed against the issue.

The march, which from the county courthouse to the federal building, was a silent march planned by the League of United Latin American Citizens in about two weeks, a relatively short time to develop a protest of its magnitude, McCloud said.

For All Saints pastor Esteban Jasso, the march wasn't vengeful, but a call for a positive change.

"It wasn't a protest," Jasso said. "This was getting the message out about an issue in a very peaceful way."

That message was relayed through several speeches that spoke of the reasons against the pending immigration bill.

McCloud spoke about the moral reason why there should be a compassionate and comprehensive immigration bill.

For Jasso, the speeches were a testimony to thoughts of recent immigrants.

"These people have earned the path to citizenship because they are working so hard," Jasso said.

Jasso said he did not see the march draw any negative feedback from spectators.

McCloud said he did see outsiders responding to the march, but they were quickly dissuaded by the overwhelming number of marchers.

Jasso, who lived 28 years in South America, said the march wasn't anti-American, but embraced America's principles outwardly.

"People were waving American flags because they know what it stands for," Jasso said. "They want to be a part of the American dream. They may be Hispanic, but they are Americans."

McCloud said that while the crowd is gone, the work has not stopped.

"This was a call for people to be more involved in their communities," McCloud said. "This is going to be a closely monitored issue."

RALLY

From page 1

hoods past the White House, then converged on the National Mall.

In North Carolina and Dallas, immigrant groups called for an economic boycott to show their financial impact. In Pittsburgh and other cities, protesters gathered outside lawmakers' offices. At the Mississippi Capitol, they sang "We Shall Overcome" in Spanish.

In Atlanta, many in white T-shirts, waving American flags, joined a two-mile march from a largely immigrant neighborhood.

The Rev. James Orange from the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda compared the march to civil rights demonstrations led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and farm-labor organizer Cesar Chavez.

"People of the world, we have come to say this is our moment," Orange said.

In New Jersey — with the Statue of Liberty in the background — several hundred people listened to speeches in Spanish and waved U.S., Colombian and Mexican flags.

Thick crowds gathered in New York's Washington Square Park before marching to City Hall. Many waved flags, both American and of countries of their origin. Korean-Americans beat drums nearby. Another group marched from Chinatown, and a third demonstration took place in Brooklyn.

One of the Korean drummers, Grace Nam, 35, who is an American citizen, said: "We just need to make our voices heard. You want to live in a place where people are treated with dignity."

Peter Lanteri, director of New York's chapter of the Minutemen, a volunteer border watch group, said he thought it was "ridiculous" that illegal immigrants were protesting for their rights.

"Illegal is illegal, and they break our laws to come here," Lanteri said by telephone. "We want the illegal immigration stopped and the borders secured."

—Associated Press writers Matthew Verrinder in Jersey City, N.J., Juan A. Lozano and Alicia A. Caldwell in Houston, Giovanna Dell'Orto in Atlanta, Martha Raffaele in Harrisburg, Pa., Roxana Hegeman in Wichita, Kan., Jacques Billeaud in Phoenix, and Anabelle Garay in Dallas contributed to this report.

Students practice German

By ERIN GLATZEL
Staff Reporter

"Guten Tag" was the phrase of the day here Saturday as more than 100 high school students studying German poured onto the TCU campus.

Dallas/Fort Worth area high school students spent the day with about 40 TCU German minors, who served as hosts, speaking only German and learning all about the culture at "Deutscher Samstag" or "German Saturday," said Jeffrey Todd, associate professor of German.

The event was sponsored by the North Texas chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German; it rotates annually to different universities. This is the first year TCU has hosted the event, said Scott Williams, associate professor of German.

After getting off the bus at 8:30 a.m., the

high school visitors received "passports" and attended numerous seminars. They had a typical German meal on the veranda of the University Recreation Center and participated in a German language competition where the best performers won prizes, Williams said.

Heiko Schlesiger, assistant professor of German studies, said participants were given the opportunity to take part in different German activities, including Easter egg painting and traditional folk songs and dances.

So far, Todd said, he has received positive feedback from all the high school students who attended.

"We are enthusiastic and want to build up the German department any way we can, and hosting events like this is just one way to get the students involved and immersed in the language," Williams said.

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NEXT UP... NOT IRAN

Monday President Bush called rumors of military action in Tehran, Iran "wild speculation".

— Associated Press

THE SKIFF VIEW

Future meal plan needs flexibility

Everybody has a different appetite. Some people eat like birds, others like lions. Some eat two meals a day, others eat five. Some only settle for greens, others want straight meat and potatoes.

But despite all the diversity, surely there is a way TCU can make everyone — if not, mostly everyone — happy.

Right now, that isn't the case. That's exactly why Dining Services, along with the Student Government Association, is making a good move in re-evaluating the way students' meal plans are currently set up: It just doesn't fit enough people's needs. One new proposed plan revolves around an all-you-can-eat strategy, where students pay a set amount for a meal, then eat to their fill without paying additional amounts for individual items.

Obviously there are flaws with such a theory: some students are content with just an apple and yogurt for lunch, making a five dollar charge for an afternoon-based meal a ridiculous purchase. While it may suit the needs of those who eat like lions, it's a huge inconvenience for those who snack like birds.

So why don't we compromise? It wouldn't be too difficult to use both the current pay-as-you-go system in conjunction with an all-you-can-eat one. Use Frog Bytes for snack stops — allow the student to determine a starting balance that declines per bought item, just like the current process. The real change could come at The Main, where students could employ a pay-per-meal card that would allow them to enjoy a full meal without having to shell out \$14.

While everyone's on the topic of food plans, let's take it one step further and allow off-campus dollars into the mix as well. It wouldn't be anything controversial — several in-state schools allot certain amounts of money for students to use at local restaurants. It's likely that places like Potbelly and Fuzzy's would jump at the chance to give more students additional ways to pay for their food.

So why settle for one plan that would only exclude part of the student body? After all, a little compromise could go a long way.

Sports editor Travis Stewart for the editorial board.

NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK



Open your mind to foreign films

Americans are notoriously chauvinistic; we think that our culture is the culture and do not really learn to appreciate what exists outside of our country-bubble.

In fact, we are actively exporting our culture but are hesitant to import other cultures.

COMMENTARY



Stephanie Weaver

When other countries have sought to limit the percentage of U.S. films and music imported, the United States has been quick to object. It's not fair to put that kind of restrictions on capitalism, Hollywood filmmakers cry.

Yet America has created a cultural monopoly.

While other countries such as Italy and Russia have made an entire industry of dubbing, U.S. film imports are extremely limited.

From 1990 to '93, the average country in the world imported 79 percent of its films, the UN Web site reads, but the United States only imported 22 percent of films shown, or 118 films. And most of these, based on my viewing experience, have not made it to the local theater, but would require a trip to New York, Chicago, or perhaps the Angelica.

The United Nations Web site www.unesco.org says that in 1997, only 53 million North Americans watched a European film in the theater, while 388 million Europeans watched 480 American films in the theater that year.

Americans just aren't watching foreign films.

But is this because they do not want to or do not have access to them? Both. If there were foreign films available regularly at my local Cinema 10, I would probably watch them more regularly, but that's not going to happen until I and enough other people create a demand for them.

If I want to watch something foreign, what are my choices in a place like Fort Worth?

Blockbuster contains the occasional foreign film and I've seen subtitled films on the Independent Film Channel and Turner Classic Movies, but they are few and far between.

And if I try to order a film from, say, amazon.fr, I won't be able to play it on my DVD player because it is from Zone 2 (the United States is in Zone 1); I would need a special player that could switch back and forth between zones if I wanted to do this. I have to go out of my way to view a film from another part of the world. How many Americans are willing to do this?

Ironically, the pinnacle of a foreign film's success in the United States is when it's remade into an American film. Then it can be repackaged and sold again, even in its country of origin.

But while I understand that it is easier to watch a film in English than strain yourself reading subtitles, so much is lost in translation.

The Hollywood version of a film rarely captures the essence of a film made in other parts of the world. The setting is changed, the characters are different, and the films are frequently Hollywood-ized, meaning they are tweaked to conform to cookie-cutter forms, often with cheesier acting and happier endings.

Even anime, my friends tell me, is better in the original (with subtitles rather than dubbing) because you can hear the expressions of the voices and it is the way the makers envisioned it.

It's time to wrap up this column and I don't know what to tell you. Go out and watch more films? But where? It's not like there are that many choices. America should import more films and play them where we can see them? Naturally. But what if the theater sits empty?

I think the moral here is that Americans should be open to new ideas and experiences. We should not be so lazy that we avoid watching a subtitled film because it's too tiring to follow the subtitles. And we should not be so greedy that we keep films from being imported on the basis of keeping American money in Hollywood films.

Maybe the next time you see something interesting on the shelf, you shouldn't just pass it by when you realize it's in another language. Give it a chance. If you're going to hate it, hate it on the basis of the film itself, not on its language.

Opinion editor Stephanie Weaver is an English, philosophy and French major from Westwood, Kan.

Quick fix motif reaches absurd level

While watching the "Today" show the other morning, I caught a segment on "life coaches."

While we are clearly in the day and age of convenience and quick fixes, I am not quite sure that line can be extended to the general category of life.



Kathleen Thurber

Sure, if you want to start a business you can follow the easy steps in the "Entrepreneurship for Dummies" book, or if you want to learn how to bake but aren't Martha Stewart you can buy a "just-add-water" box of mix and have a chocolate birthday treat in no time, but the segment simply did not have me convinced that hiring a veteran "life coach" would be the easy solution to all of my problems.

According to Laura Bertman Fortgang, an experienced life coach and author, a life coach is someone who "will help you unlock your potential by showing you ways that you can grow and invest in your ability to achieve." It is also someone who can help you close the gap between your current state and your goals. While I agree this is something we could all benefit from, I just don't see how a stranger is going to "unlock my potential."

On the "Today" show, Fortgang said that we are in need of life coaches in today's societies because we either do not form close relationships early in life with people who can mentor us or we don't stay in one place long enough when we enter the workforce for us to be able to form a relationship with a mentor.

So instead of promoting relationships between people, or encouraging adults to provide an example for their children, we can skip that annoying step of getting along with our parents or socializing with our coworkers and

just reap the benefits of relationships from a life coach. Instead of having a boss, friend or family member help you make goals or keep you accountable to your responsibilities, you can pay someone a lofty fee to point out what you're neglecting in life that is holding you back from ultimate success.

Wait, there's more — not just anyone can hire a life coach and find that bliss and success that have been missing; according to Fortgang, you have to meet certain requirements to be worth a coach's time.

You must be ready, willing and able.

Ready to invest time, to attend sessions and work on given material on your own and to recognize that there is a significant gap between where you are in life and where you want to be.

Willing to do what is asked and to give 100 percent to everything — even if it is something you don't think will necessarily work for you. You must also commit to completely giving up any self-defeating behavior.

One must listen to a coach (rather than a therapist or 12-step program), and be patient — even if no immediate results are seen and you must be supported by family and friends in your life coach venture.

If you can't do all of these things, Fortgang says you must make personal adjustments before a life coach will have anything to do with you.

Don't get me wrong — committing to erasing all self-defeating behavior and having a goal in mind that you are always reaching toward is essential in life. But if we could all sincerely cut out 100 percent of our negative behavior, wouldn't half of our problems be solved already? Do we really need a life coach to tell us that our bad mood or momentary crash from the normal "can-do" attitude is what is keeping us from reaching our goals?

The segment also emphasized that

a life coach is not a counselor or a business consultant. Fortgang says that coaches are not trained to handle emotional problems and would never try and counsel a patient.

Fortgang and I agree that counseling to help one find goals or work through issues is perfectly valid, but this leaves me wondering — if a person wants to visit a counselor, why would they need the additional help of a life coach? She also says if you have business goals you need to visit a consultant specific to this area; she can't solve your business problems, never mind that this is a major part of many people's lives.

"Coaching is holistic," she said on the show. If easing frustration is necessary for you to achieve your goals then she said they will work on that but that a coach is mainly there to help you look at your whole life and understand how to improve it to the point that you don't have trouble closing the gap between where you are and where you want to be.

Like the "just-add-water" cake mix, this easy fix to life's inconsistencies sounds great. But while I might be able to bake a decent cake with the right easy-bake box, I am not yet convinced that a coach for my life will allow me to accomplish my goals through an easy one-two formula. Life's simply not that easy. There's nothing wrong with having to look to a family member or coworker for accountability or mentorship; our society is built around team work and relationships. Why not get into the practice of interaction in your quest for self-betterment? You're supposed to have to work to achieve your goals — if a coach could change that more people would be taking advantage of the trend.

Kathleen Thurber is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from Colorado Springs, Colo.

Education act should be updated

In America, we laud ourselves on the attainability of higher education by every one of our citizens. As a society, we encourage the continuation of education, provide low-interest loans to subsidize the high cost and push social programs designed to enlighten high-risk youths of the advantages of a college degree. You can, however, lose your eligibility for financial aid.

A provision of the Higher Education Act denies financial aid to students with drug convictions. The act has been criticized by several health, legal and education organizations, including the American Public Health Association, the Association for Addiction Professionals, the American Federation of Teachers and the American Bar Association.

This issue again has been brought to the forefront by a recent lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, against Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. The

suit accuses Spellings of violating students' rights under the Due Process Clause by "singling out, for denial of financial aid, the category of individuals with a controlled substance conviction."

The lawsuit also argues that the act violates the Fifth Amendment's double jeopardy clause which prevents multiple punishment for the same offense. As a society, do we want to rehabilitate or merely punish to punish when someone has broken the law?

Education itself, however, promotes rehabilitation. Denying a student money to go to college does nothing to promote the betterment of this person's situation, to further his or her rehabilitation or to encourage the assimilation into society as a productive, taxpaying citizen.

Roadblocks to education are counterproductive to the policy of education for all that we pride ourselves on in America. If you deny someone who has been convicted of a drug offense

from financial aid, there is a higher chance that person will not go back to school.

The policy does nothing to promote rehabilitation or education. It is merely retroactive and focuses on a person's past conviction with no productive plan for a person's future. Drug offenders with aspirations for higher education are people that want to go back to school and be put past convictions — for which they already served their punishments — behind them so that they might prepare for the future. Without financial aid, most students would not be at a university. Denying aid does not help these students and does not help society.

The current policy articulated in the Higher Education Act prevents people from attaining education, something that, as a country, we have always believed to be the best way to empower an individual and create a skilled, productive citizen.

This staff editorial appeared in The Lantern at Ohio State University. It was distributed by U-Wire.

COURTNEY REESE
MIKE DWYER
ADRIENNE LANG
TRAVIS STEWART
STEPHANIE WEAVER

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WATER WORKS



Teylor Arboleda swims the butterfly during a meet against LSU Jan. 21, 2005.

FILE PHOTO / 2005

Swimmer: Training helps build team unity

By Natalie Merrill
Staff Reporter

If for some odd reason you have ever walked by the University Recreation Center at 5 a.m. and wondered who would actually be in the weight room that early, the answer is simple: the TCU swimming and diving team.

Even in the offseason, the team dedicates itself to early morning practices to go along with some afternoon training sessions in order to better itself for the next season, head coach Richard Sybesma said.

"We have to make a commitment to the off-season to start with a stronger team in the season," Sybesma said. "Offseason commitment equals in-season success."

During the offseason, the team begins practice at 5 a.m. in the weight room for 30 minutes. This is followed by training in the pool for another hour and a half. Some days also have afternoon practices with 30 minutes of "land training," for example, running or cycling, followed by skills training in the pool.

The H2O Frogs train two mornings and four afternoons per week during the offseason. Sybesma, who is in his 27th year of coaching at TCU, said that instilling dedication in his swimmers is a challenge at times, but the ultimate goal pushes the team to commitment.

"Motivating is hard, but winning takes care of the motivation," he said. "We just keep talking about our off-season commitment as part of that motivation."

Junior swim team member George Gooch said the team pushes each other to strive to work hard during the early morning practices.

"Everyone gets behind each other," Gooch said. "We are all good support."

Gooch also said that he enjoys the fact that practices are so early because it allows him to get a jump-start on his days.

"I really like it because it adds time to the rest of the day to get the things you need to do accomplished," he said. "At first it's kind of tiring, but you work through it together and get to be a team. It adds to the positive attitude for the team."

Sophomore Keilah Walker said she agrees that early morning practices are beneficial because it gives the team more time to train together, especially when it seems the hardest to stay motivated.

"It's a group effort," Walker said. "It doesn't necessarily get any easier, but you just kind of know that it's something you are going to have to do. You get tired, but that's the point of all the training, so that you can perform better at racing time."

Sybesma said performing better during races is something on which the team will be focusing during its offseason swim sessions.

"We need to be more emotionally focused going into the meets," Sybesma said.

Sybesma said this mental focus was sometimes a challenge for the H2O Frogs in their most recent season, though the team did set six school records at the conference meet, along with two conference champions in 100-yard backstroke (Jonathon Berrettini) and 3-meter diving (Kelly Seely). The women's team placed



Senior diver Kelly Seely competes during a Jan. 2005 match against LSU.

FILE PHOTO / 2005

fourth, while the men's team took sixth in the Mountain West Conference Championships.

"At the conference meet we swam extremely tough," Sybesma said. "We need to do a better job of focusing on the first meet and being more ready to race. This season we had some trouble getting started."

In addition to this mental preparation, Gooch said the H2O Frogs will use their early morning training sessions to work more on their breathing to better adjust to the different altitude levels at which they race in the MWC.

"The other teams have a major natural advantage," Gooch said. "We just need to build up our lungs and work on our breathing control. The other teams have already adapted, but it will take us a little more time."

Gooch said in order to expand their lungs, the swimmers will do exercises in the pool that specifically focus on lung capacity, such as only breathing alternately on certain strokes, as well as breathing through straws while underwater.

"A lot of our improvements in other areas of swimming will come with building our lungs," he said.

When the regular season starts up again, Sybesma said the team will begin practicing more frequently, every weekday morning and afternoon, as well as on Saturdays. Still, the early mornings will continue for the water dwellers, and Sybesma said that is just a part of the sport.

"We are creatures of habit," Sybesma said. "Do we always like it? No. But it's what's necessary to get the job done."

Both Walker and Gooch said the closeness of the team has helped make early mornings seem easier and has also allowed the H2O Frogs to perform well at meets.

"Our team's really good at pulling together when we need to get it done," Walker said.

Gooch also said because of the team's ability to work as one, he expects further success from the Frogs, especially in the upcoming season.

"A lot of great things come from a lot of people coming together like we do," Gooch said.

MYSPACE

From page 1

"We will offer admission to a little more than 5,000 applicants this year to enroll our class of 1,600," Brown said. "It would be an enormous undertaking to try to research even a small fraction of our admitted bunch."

However, Brown said, there have been circumstances that required admissions officers to explore other avenues of obtaining information on a potential student.

"Actually, the few times we've done it is simply to find out a student's plans for college," Brown said. "In our most recent query, we sought intelligence on a student who refused to answer our request for further information. We found he was heading to another school and so we were able to discontinue our futile efforts to recruit him."

Castriota said he believes admissions officers should acquire knowledge on applicants via social networking Web sites.

"It gives them an idea of what someone is like other than what they see on a piece of paper," Castriota said. "If you post a profile for everyone to read, why should that

not include the people reading your application?"

When considering a student for admission, Brown said, admissions staff not only evaluate candidates' academic record, but also their interests and current lifestyle.

"We seek diversity — in thought, life experiences, race and ethnicity, geography, faith traditions, etc. We seek students who are as good in their hearts as they are in their heads," he said. "We seek students who want to make a significant contribution to this society; to be productive, responsible citizens. That's not too much to ask, is it?"

What better way to really get to know an applicant than by surfing his or her personal Web pages?

Emily Aradi, 18, who will be entering TCU in the fall, said she thinks admissions decisions should consider the whole individual, not merely an SAT score or GPA. Although she considers aspects of an individual's profile to be irrelevant in the admissions process, she thinks the opportunity to convey oneself through artistic measures is a convenient feature.

"Unfortunately, a standardized test cannot express the extent to which a person might be compassionate, driven or talented in other aspects," said the Saint Francis High School senior from Sacramento, Calif. "By browsing MySpace, officers might better understand an individual's morals and values. If there is nothing to hide, there should be no fear of this possibility."

Kristin Vaughn, director of college admissions at Fort Worth Country Day School, said she has been advising students and their parents about the risks of laying all the cards on the table.

"I know institutions are utilizing these Web sites to research potential students, so I encourage students to refrain from posting anything on their personal pages that would misrepresent them or someone else," she said. "The bottom line is, clean it up."

Sue Warner, lead counselor for Arlington Heights High School, said she was unaware that universities and employers are using personal Web sites to inquire about applicants.

"We have not been advising our students to clean up their personal pages, but we certainly will now," she said.

Students may need to do more than "clean it up," said Jim Mayne, network security engineer for TCU.

"Search engines, such as Google and Yahoo, constantly collect information to store in their database by crawling through every page on the Internet," Mayne said. "In other words, even though a student deletes their profile on Facebook, a replica of the page could still be out there. Students would have to contact the search engine directly to make sure the information was permanently deleted."

Universities could also feel the effects of Facebook and MySpace.

Prospective students have the ability to sift through college students' profiles on MySpace to get a feel for the campus life at a particular university, which has the potential to negatively alter their perception of a particular institution.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, said, "There may be one or two people that are on one side of the extreme, but all in all, it gives students a good idea of the kind of students we have here at TCU."

IN THE NEWS: MYSPACE & FACEBOOK

Pennsylvania State University police referred about 50 students to the university's office of judicial affairs when they received an unexpected tip: Several students had posted pictures online of their friends storming the field in a group titled, "I Rushed the Field After the OSU Game (And Lived!)"

Campus police at the University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University have disciplined students living on campus who posted pictures of themselves drinking in dormitories.

Two members of Louisiana State University's swim team were dismissed from the squad and stripped of their scholarships after creating a Facebook group called the "Fantastic Four Coaches" and complaining about poor coaching at last year's Southeastern Conference championships.

Three students at the University of Mississippi were punished for creating a Facebook group whose name made it all too clear that they wanted to have sex with a professor at the university. The professor informed campus police officers, who ordered the students to shut down the page.

The student-government president at Fisher College in Boston was expelled in October for using Facebook to rally students to take action against a campus police officer. The student, who accused the officer of "antagonizing students," wrote on the site that "either we get a petition going or we try and set him up."

Several other universities nationwide, including the University of Michigan, Ohio State University and George Washington University, have acknowledged using Facebook as an investigative tool.

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v52/i20/20a03801.htm>

Brown said he is not worried about TCU students' profiles on social networking Web sites.

"When you take a look at postings on colleges as a whole, there's essentially no school that escapes the poison pen of some disgruntled prospective student," Brown said. "In point of fact, we're far more fortunate than most."

As a whole, Mills said, Facebook and MySpace are useful tools for prospective students.

"The more information they have to make up their mind, the more satisfied they will be with their decision," Mills said. "These Web sites are helping prospective students get a broader look at the campus and the students."

In addition to prospective students, current college students seeking employment might consider censoring what information appears on their personal Web sites, said Kim Hickman, associate director of career services.

"We are always warning students about personal Web sites because employers are becoming more aware that students are using them," Hickman said. "It may not be prevalent now, but it will be more so in the future."

Some universities, including the University of New Mexico, have recently blocked access to Facebook and MySpace from all campus computers in an effort to minimize the use of social networking Web sites.

Mills said he hopes to build awareness of the dangers of Facebook and MySpace but said the university does not have plans to restrict access to these Web sites on campus computers.

"We want to share the appropriate use of Facebook and MySpace," Mills said. "Perhaps we will establish a seminar in orientation or Frog Camp."



KAREN T. BORCHERS / KRT

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, a networking tool for college students that has become popular.

ONLINE SECURITY TIPS

MySpace makes it easy to express yourself, connect with friends and make new ones, but please remember that what you post publicly could embarrass you or expose you to danger. Here are some common sense guidelines that you should follow when using MySpace:

Don't forget that your profile and MySpace forums are public spaces: Don't post anything you wouldn't want the world to know (e.g., your phone number, address, IM screens name, or specific whereabouts). Avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find you, such as where you hang out every day after school.

People aren't always who they say they are: Be careful about adding strangers to your friends list. It's fun to connect with new MySpace friends from all over the world, but avoid meeting people in person whom you do not fully know. If you must meet someone, do it in a public place and bring a friend or trusted adult.

Harassment, hate speech and inappropriate content should be reported: If you feel someone's behavior is inappropriate, react. Talk with a trusted adult or report it to MySpace or the authorities.

Don't post anything that would embarrass you later: Think twice before posting a photo or info you wouldn't want your parents or boss to see!

Don't mislead people into thinking that you're older or younger: If you lie about your age, MySpace will delete your profile.

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TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

1917: Babe Ruth beats NY Yanks, pitching 3-hit, 10-3 win for Red Sox
 1947: Jackie Robinson becomes 1st black in modern major-league baseball
 1989: First playoff goal scored by a goalie (Ron Hextall of Philadelphia)

BASEBALL

Frogs build momentum heading into OU game



Junior Dillon Farish pitches against Air Force on April 9 at Lupton Stadium. The Frogs swept the Falcons to improve to 19-14.

By NATALIE MERRILL
 Staff Reporter

The Horned Frogs are on a roll after a successful weekend to open Mountain West Conference play.

TCU (19-15) has won its last five games, outscoring its opponents by a combined total of 59-15. The Frogs will face their next opponent, the Oklahoma Sooners, tonight in Norman.

Head coach Jim Schlossnagle said the team has been consistently improving and needs to carry its progression into the upcoming game.

"We're playing really well right now," Schlossnagle said. "We need to take some of this momentum into the game."

Sophomore pitcher Sam Demel also said he thinks the team is doing what is necessary to win: it is focusing on each game as it comes.

"We're on a five-game winning streak, so I think our strategy is working out pretty well," Demel said.

The Sooners (24-10) are coming off a two-game winning streak, as they went 2-1

in their weekend series against the Texas A&M Aggies.

Junior first baseman Chad Huffman said he plans on making some improvements to his individual game before facing OU Tuesday.

"Baseball's a game of failure," Huffman said, "and it's never perfect, so you constantly have to work on it."

Huffman said to improve his game, he is going to focus on his batting more than anything.

"I need to get in the cages more and make some adjustments," he said. "I've got to be more patient and not take myself out of the bat."

Huffman, who leads the team in batting average (.382) and on-base percentage (.492), had one hit, one RBI and one run in Sunday's game against Air Force. He said that before the game against the Sooners, each Frog needs to focus on improving his individual game to better the team as a whole.

"Everybody has something he needs to work on," Huffman said. "If everyone does that,

we'll be a better team when we bring that together."

The Frogs are on their longest winning streak of the season following the weekend series against the Falcons, in which TCU only allowed seven total runs.

Demel (4-2), who leads the team with an ERA of 2.32, pitched 2.2 innings in Sunday's game, allowing no runs and only two hits. He also threw two strikeouts, the last of which clinched the win for the Frogs in the ninth.

Schlossnagle said he had originally intended for Demel to start in the game against the Sooners, but because he was needed in the Air Force game, he is now unsure who will be starting for the Frogs today.

Schlossnagle said, his team is progressively becoming the team it wants to be, especially after the weekend's results.

"We only had one error in 27 innings," Schlossnagle said. "We raised our batting average 15 or 20 points in the last week, and we're throwing well. We are just becoming a more complete team."

COMMENTARY

Baseball team improves during winning streak

I've been writing sports for a pretty long time now, or at least as much as my age allows. I've done all sorts of teams with infinitely varied types of leaders that enjoy countless degrees of success. Not to sound jaded, but I've pretty much heard it all before.



So when TCU's head baseball coach, Jim Schlossnagle, told me on Feb. 28 that "we have a team full of good players that's not a very good baseball team right now," I have to admit that I was skeptical. You know how many times I've heard that? I recognized that sinking feeling in my stomach, the sensation that is meant to warn sport reporters that they are in danger of going down with the rest of the crew.

That day, the Horned Frogs were fresh off a loss to Dallas Baptist, and the team that was once ranked in the preseason's top 25 was mailing it in with a 6-5 record.

And now, here we are, more than one month later, and this ship is still afloat.

After a brief stint in the below-.500 club, Schlossnagle's team is finally beginning

to resemble the group that many suspected would not only dominate the Mountain West Conference but possibly host a post-season regional. The outfield that spent the first month or so dropping balls all of a sudden looks stalwart, and the lack of timely hitting that typified so many of the team's early games is rapidly becoming a problem of the past — especially after the team scored 59 runs in its last five games.

So where do we point the finger for the team's turnaround? The steady leadership of starting pitchers like sophomores Jake Arrieta and Sam Demel and junior Brad Furnish? The offensive emergence of junior Chad Huffman, who has been a huge boost after his return from injury? Or maybe it was the savage dismantling of Baylor on March 21, when the Frogs dropped 12 runs on the Bears — in only the first inning.

Who knows? At this point, who cares? The team has finally posted a strong winning record (19-14) and is on a five-game winning streak. They're starting up conference play against teams they should beat.

What more could we possibly ask for?

Sports editor Travis Stewart is a junior broadcast journalism major from Sugar Land.

Rookie adjusts to majors, new spot

By JAIME ARON
 Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Ian Kinsler was a dominant hitter and superb fielder in Class A, Double-A and Triple-A.

But he's in the big leagues now and there are adjustments to make. As a rookie with the Texas Rangers, he's trying to hit fastballs that are faster and breaking balls that break a whole lot more. Plus, he's playing a relatively new position — second base, after being a shortstop until last year.

So far, Kinsler is making the majors look as easy as the minors.

He finished a season-opening homestand batting .444, tops among the team's everyday players, with a pair of doubles, a home run, two RBIs and four runs. Although he had an error in 34 chances, he also recovered from a few bobbled grounders — including the first ball hit to him — in time to make strong, accurate throws to first base. He made some nice grabs, too.

"I mean, it's the same game, it just takes a little more concentration," Kinsler said. "I think I'm just kind of riding a little momentum right now. Hopefully I can ride it the rest of the year."

Next up for Kinsler is his first dose of the AL West. The Rangers were in Anaheim on Monday night to begin a nine-game road trip that features a three-game series against each of their division rivals, the Angels, Oakland Athletics and Seattle Mariners.

"With the unbalanced schedule, over a third of our at-bats are against these teams so it's important for him to go out and get a feel for these guys," said shortstop Michael Young, the reigning AL batting champion. "Obviously we don't expect anybody to hit .450, but

the best thing you can do is keep running him out there and letting him have good at-bats."

Kinsler has struck out only twice in 21 plate appearances, while drawing three walks. Between his good eye and good speed in a lineup lacking fleet feet, some fans already are clamoring for him to move from the No. 9 spot in the lineup to leadoff in place of Brad Wilkerson, who is hitting .188, with 14 strikeouts in 32 at-bats.

"I think he's hitting right where he needs to hit right now," manager Buck Showalter said. "He's going through a good period now. He might stumble a little bit. There'll be a time when he's not hitting well and Wilkerson is tearing it up. We've got to keep that in mind."

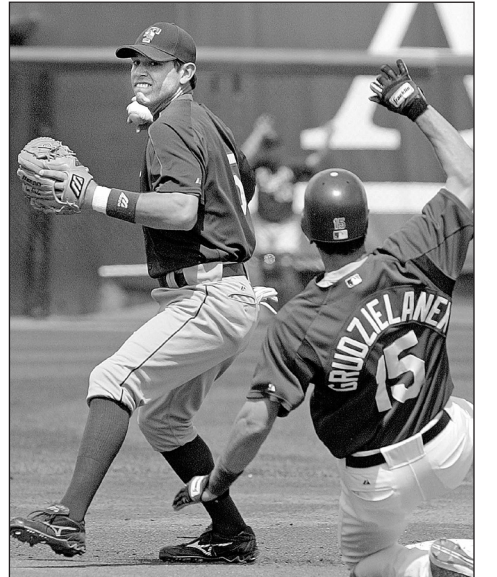
Showalter is merely preaching patience, realizing what a good thing the Rangers have — even if nobody knew it when he was coming out of the University of Missouri three years ago.

Texas drafted Kinsler with the 469th pick, long after Milwaukee spent the second pick on Rickie Weeks and Toronto used the 13th on Aaron Hill. This season, they're the only three middle infielders from that draft class who were opening day starters.

"I've been able to believe that I could play at this level. It was just a matter of time, I guess," Kinsler said. "It definitely happened faster than I thought."

His rise began in 2004, when a .400-plus average in A ball earned him a promotion to Double-A Frisco, about an hour's drive from the team headquarters. That's when the front office could see they had someone special.

After Kinsler switched to second base



L.M. OTERO / Associated Press
 Texas Rangers second baseman Ian Kinsler, left, throws on the double play against Kansas City Royals' Mark Grudzielanek (15) in the first inning during spring training exhibition baseball in Surprise, Ariz., March 30. Kinsler started the season at second base and currently has a .444 batting average.

and had a solid 2005 in Triple-A, the Rangers made room for him in the big leagues by trading All-Star second baseman Alfonso Soriano, a terrible fielder who was headed to a record payday in arbitration.

In the field and at the plate, whether handling hot smashes or heaters like Curt Schilling's on opening day, Kinsler has been up to the challenge.

"I don't think it's about, 'Hey, I've arrived.' It's just about playing hard every day," he said. "It's been a great week. If I can do this the rest of the year — anything close to this the rest of the year — I'm going to be pretty happy with myself."

So will the Rangers.

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