



## NEWS

Paper course evaluations may be on the way out.  
**TOMORROW**



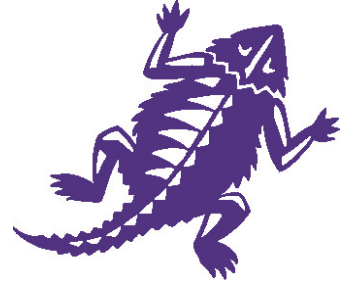
## FEATURES

Healthy soda may no longer be an oxymoron.  
**TOMORROW**



## SPORTS

See how some of the Horned Frogs are set to be picked in the upcoming NFL Draft.  
**PAGE 10**



TCU

# DAILY SKIFF

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## Scammers try to cash in with donations from alumni

By BAILEY SHIFFLER  
Staff Reporter

Charitable alumni beware: scammers posing as TCU students are reportedly targeting alumni to make some fast cash.

Tracy Syler-Jones, vice chancellor for marketing and communication, said she has received about five phone calls from concerned alumni indicating that indi-

viduals had contacted them, saying they were TCU students selling magazine subscriptions to raise money for a trip to London.

One of these calls came from Groves, near the Port Arthur area from an alumnus who said they were a victim of the magazine scam.

Tressie Nichols, speaking for her grandmother, Tressie

Shiflet, said a young man came to her door at about 5 p.m. April 3. He said his name was Kenny Davenport and that he was a senior at TCU living on Whitaker Avenue, a street just a few blocks away from their house.

Nichols said the young man told her grandmother he was raising money for a trip to London where he

would be performing "Monty Python" at the Globe Theater. He told Shiflet the play would be aired on PBS on April 11.

He then said he only needed \$96 more for his trip, and, if she wrote him a check for that amount, she would receive a rebate check for \$43 in three days because she was a TCU alumnus.

Nichols said her grandmother chose to send the magazines to Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

Three days later, when the rebate check did not arrive, Nichols said she and her grandmother decided to look in the phone book for a Davenport listed on Whitaker. When they did not find a listing, they decided to call TCU.

Nichols said a TCU staff

### FOR YOUR INFO

For tips on how to avoid magazine scams, visit [ftc.com](http://ftc.com).

member told her there was no such trip to London and that the university would never send students door-to-door to raise money.

See **SCAM**, page 2

## VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE



LEFT: Police officers stand outside of Virginia Tech's Norris Hall where 32 people were killed and more were injured Monday. RIGHT: Virginia Tech freshman Kevin Murphy stands in front of Norris Hall. He said he spent most of the day in the dorm but wanted to come down and see the scene for himself. "Stuff like this isn't supposed to happen around here," he said.



JASON ARTHURS / MCT

## TCU News Now program faces uncertain future

By JENIGHI POWELL  
Staff Reporter

TCU News Now students met with Chancellor Victor Boschini on Monday to discuss the future of the three-year-old student-led news station threatened by next semester's low enrollment.

News Now volunteers Christina Durano and Hilary Whittier have begun a movement to try to improve student participation and funding for the news station that will have to be scaled down from its current weekly show because of low student enrollment for the upcoming fall semester. The station has only four students enrolled in the News Now class, Broadcast Newscast Production, said John Miller, who teaches the News Now class.

Durano, a freshman broadcast journalism major, and sophomore broadcast journalism major Whittier met with the chancellor Monday in an informal meeting to discuss with him what the program means to broadcast students.

The chancellor said he supports News Now and also wants to see the broadcast program expand.

"Broadcast students need an outlet just like other journalism students," Whittier said. "We work really hard in the station, and we're just trying to make the program grow."

Providing that outlet is where the problem is, Miller said.

The Spring 2007 News Now class has only nine people and four volunteers, a decrease from the 15-member staff of its first year, Miller said. News Now reporters share seven cameras along with various other equipment.

"In the long-run, in order to be a competitive television station, we need a set, studio, control room and more equipment, which we don't have," Miller said. "Most schools that teach broadcast have these facilities."

But the major issue that attracted Durano and Whittier is the low student enrollment, which they said is because of the many prerequisites to the News Now class.

"If students get involved earlier, we won't have so many seniors leave each year and have to rebuild the program every year," Durano said.

The News Now class is not a required course for broadcast majors but requires four prerequisite journalism classes. Media Writing I and II, Reporting as well as Broadcast Reporting are prerequisite classes that put most students who enroll in the class as seniors who have to prepare resume tapes for prospective employers.

Whittier said many students don't know they can work at the station as volunteers such as Durano and herself. However, volunteers do not receive course credit. Durano and Whittier want to see the News Now class become a required course for broadcast majors.

The meeting with the chancellor was just one of several meetings Whittier and Durano have set up in order to encourage change in prerequisite classes and increasing the budget. Durano and Whittier are also planning to have tables set up in the Student Center to inform students of News Now programs.

"We just want to make a difference on campus and have an impact on the journalism school," Durano said.

## College shootings worst in nation's history

By BRUCE HENDERSON  
and APRIL BETHEA  
McClatchy Newspapers

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The deadliest shooting massacre in American history savaged Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on Monday, as an unidentified gunman killed at least 32 people and wounded at least 15 more as of press time then killed himself.

His motive and identity unknown as of early evening.

The shootings stunned the sprawling campus in southwest Virginia and shocked the country.

"Today the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said. "The university is shocked and indeed horrified."

The shooter started at a coed dormitory, opening fire around 7:15 a.m. and killing a man and woman in a room there. Two hours later, he appeared in an engineering classroom building across campus, where he killed 30 more people and then himself, police said.

"It was about four or five shots pretty close together," said Justice Goracke, 21, of Lovettsville, a junior who was near the classroom building at the time.

"When I heard it, it kind of sounded like bullets, but there

was construction going on nearby," Goracke said. "Then, about 20 seconds later, I heard another six shots. Then I knew: This wasn't right."

Students and onlookers across the campus were dazed, asking which of their friends had been shot, and why they were left uninformed and exposed to danger for hours.

"Everybody's in complete shock," said freshman Rachel Wirth, 18, of Charlotte, N.C. "Everybody's wondering if they know anybody who was killed or wounded."

Graduate student Darryl Price, 23, also of Charlotte, described seeing 20 ambulances lined up as he tried to leave the area. "At that point, you fully realize the scale of what just happened."

President Bush was said to be horrified when he heard the news.

"Schools should be places of safety and sanctuary and learning," he said Monday afternoon at the White House. "When that sanctuary is violated, the impact is felt in every American classroom and every American community."

University officials and police faced persistent

See **VA TECH** page 2

## Campus security analyzed following college shooting

By SONYA CISNEROS  
Staff Reporter

In the wake of a mass slaying at Virginia Tech on Monday morning, administrators said TCU crisis management policies were re-evaluated and will remain the same.

TCU is constantly looking for the best emergency strategic plan in the country by re-evaluating policies annually, said Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"We have a pretty good setup here," Mills said.

Mills said campus security won't change because the incident seems to be isolated to Virginia Tech.

The incident is "really unbelievable," Mills said.

Aside from TCU Police officers receiving annual crisis management training, the university has an emergency response team in place, Mills said.

The response team is made up of high-level administrators and can be deployed within 15 minutes, Mills said.

In the event of an emergency, the response team will meet in a preidentified location to assess informa-

tion and begin campus recovery, said Tracy Syler-Jones, assistant vice chancellor for marketing and communication.

Alerting the campus community is the first priority of the response team, Syler-Jones said.

The TCU community is most often alerted to important information through mass e-mail and changes to the TCU home page, Syler-Jones said.

The campus community was alerted of the slaying at Virginia Tech through an e-mail sent by Mills on Monday afternoon.

A "dark page" is in place to immediately upload vital facts and replace the TCU home page if a crisis should occur, Syler-Jones said.

An incident such as the Virginia Tech shooting can be "unsettling on a variety of different levels," Syler-Jones said.

It's important for TCU to report as factually as possible and keep the campus community updated, she said.

Should a shooting occur on campus it's important to be aware of your surroundings, said TCU Police Lt. Ramiro Abad.

"Every situation is going to be different," Abad said.

In a similar instance, Fort

See **VA RESPONSE**, page 2

### MORE COVERAGE

For more stories about the Virginia Tech shootings, go to pages 4 and 5.



### WEATHER

**TODAY:** Scattered T-Storms, 65/52  
**WEDNESDAY:** Mostly sunny, 72/50  
**THURSDAY:** Partly cloudy, 76/57

### PECULIAR FACT

SAN FRANCISCO — A 1999 metallic gray Volkswagen Golf believed to once belong to the pope went up for sale on eBay, but the auction ended Saturday without a winner. — Associated Press

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

**NEWS:** More coverage of Virginia Tech shooting, page 4  
**OPINION:** Pet owners beware of food labels, page 3  
**SPORTS:** Baseball team ready for Oklahoma, page 10

### CONTACT US

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

**VA TECH**

From page 1

questioning from the news media about how they handled the first reports of gunfire and their delay in alerting students and locking down the campus.

Campus police received the first 911 emergency call from the West Ambler Johnston Hall — reporting multiple gunshot victims — about 7:15 a.m., according to Steger. Police were still there investigating more than two hours later when they received reports of the shootings at the Norris Hall classroom building, which houses the engineering school.

Police didn't secure the campus immediately after the first incident because they thought the first shootings were domestic in nature and that the gunman had left the building and might be fleeing the state. They sent their first e-mail warning to students at 9:26 a.m., but it didn't reach many of them until after the second eruption of gunfire.

"We acted on the best information we had at the time," said a grim-faced Wendell Flinchum, the Virginia Tech police chief.

Steger added that students had been just arriving on campus and that made it difficult to lock them in place.

"We can only make decisions based on the information you had. ... You don't have hours to reflect on it," he said.

The killings reignited the debate over access to guns.

"Mass shootings have come to define our nation," said Josh Sugarmann, the executive director of the Violence Policy Center, a Washington-based group that advocates gun control.

"These tragedies are the inevitable result of the ease with which the firepower necessary to slaughter dozens of innocents can be obtained. We allow virtually anyone the means to turn almost any venue into a battlefield."

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino suggested that enforcing existing laws was adequate. "The president

believes that there is a right for people to bear arms, but that all laws must be followed," she said.

Best known for its engineering school and its football program, Virginia Tech has nearly 26,000 full-time students on a 2,600-acre campus in the Blue Ridge Mountains about 160 miles west of Richmond.

The school is ranked 34th among national public universities by U.S. News & World Report. Its engineering school is ranked 17th, and its civil engineering program 11th.

Steger, the college president, said classes had been canceled through Tuesday. Counseling centers were being opened to help students deal with the shock. A convocation was planned for Tuesday.

"I cannot begin to convey my own personal sense of loss over this senselessness of such an incomprehensible and heinous act," Steger said.

The worst U.S. civilian shooting before Monday happened in 1991, when George Hennard killed 23 people,



JASON ARTHURS / MCT

Police officers patrol the front steps of Virginia Tech's Burruss Hall, the building located next to Norris Hall, where 32 people were killed and more were injured Monday.

wounded more than 20, then killed himself in Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen.

The worst previous college shooting was in 1966, when Charles Whitman killed 16 people with a rifle from the

clock tower at the University of Texas in Austin before police shot and killed him.

The worst lower-school shooting occurred almost exactly eight years ago, when two teenagers killed

13 people, then themselves, at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., on April 20, 1999.

*Jenny Song in Blacksburg and Steven Thomma in Washington contributed to this report.*

**SCAM**

From page 1

Nichols said they then decided to call the Groves Police Department and the Better Business Bureau to report the scam.

Nichols said the man had apparently been in the neighborhood using an assortment of names and fundraising schemes.

"When I called the Better Business Bureau and started telling them what happened, they asked me what name he was using today," Nichols said.

She said he went to her cousin's house saying he was a student at Texas A&M raising money for soldiers in Iraq.

In an article in The Port Arthur News, Jeff Wilmore, interim city marshal said any legitimate door-to-door salesman in Groves will have permits issued through the city and will have gone through background checks.

Wilmore said residents should ask salesmen for their credentials before listening to their sales pitch in order to be safe from schemers.

Syler-Jones said that after receiving reports she sent an e-mail to donors alerting them of the scams and put information about the scams on the TCU Web site.

She said this is not a widespread problem but they did think it was important for the university to alert donors. She said she was hopeful that making the information public would bring a halt to this sort of activity in relation to TCU.

"This is certainly not widespread but we do want to be proactive," Syler-Jones said.

**VA RESPONSE**

From page 1

Worth police and the SWAT team would respond with TCU Police personnel, Abad said.

TCU has "a good, strong connection with the Fort

Worth police," Mills said.

The official student handbook states that weapons, including firearms, aren't allowed on campus.

If a student possesses a license to carry a firearm, they must keep their firearms at the TCU Police station, Abad said.

Many students are sport or target shooters and keep their firearms at the station to be checked out as needed, Abad said.

Students must leave campus after checking out their firearm and return it upon their return, Abad said.

**MAKE TRACKS.**

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**fort worth zoo**  
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**GET REAL...**

**76%** of TCU students reported that they did not use marijuana within the past year.

**MOST TCU STUDENTS CHOOSE NOT TO USE MARIJUANA**

For More Information Contact TCU Alcohol & Drug Education Center  
Campus Rec Basement 257-7100  
\* CORE Survey administered Spring 2005

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"The very ink with which history is written is merely fluid prejudice."  
— Mark Twain

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

# Online evaluations burden

Starting April 18, sections of course evaluations will be given online as part of a pilot test to determine how response rates will be affected by technology.

Catherine Wehlburg, executive director of the Office of Assessment and Quality Evaluation, said the evaluations will be sent through e-mail with a link to the evaluation. She said text boxes below each multiple choice question will encourage more detailed responses.

While the results of the pilot test could be surprising, students may be less likely to take the initiative to fill out online evaluations in the future.

Online evaluations mean students have to diligently check e-mail, respond to evaluation instructions and take the time to leave constructive criticism. Many students will not accept the responsibility of completing evaluations during free time. It's much easier to send the e-mail to the trash folder and spend that 15 minutes finishing a term paper. But, with this technology-driven gen-

eration, it's a step in the right direction. Wehlburg also said online evaluations may help to eliminate issues with handwriting legibility. And students who are absent from class on evaluation day will still have the opportunity to evaluate their courses, Wehlburg said.

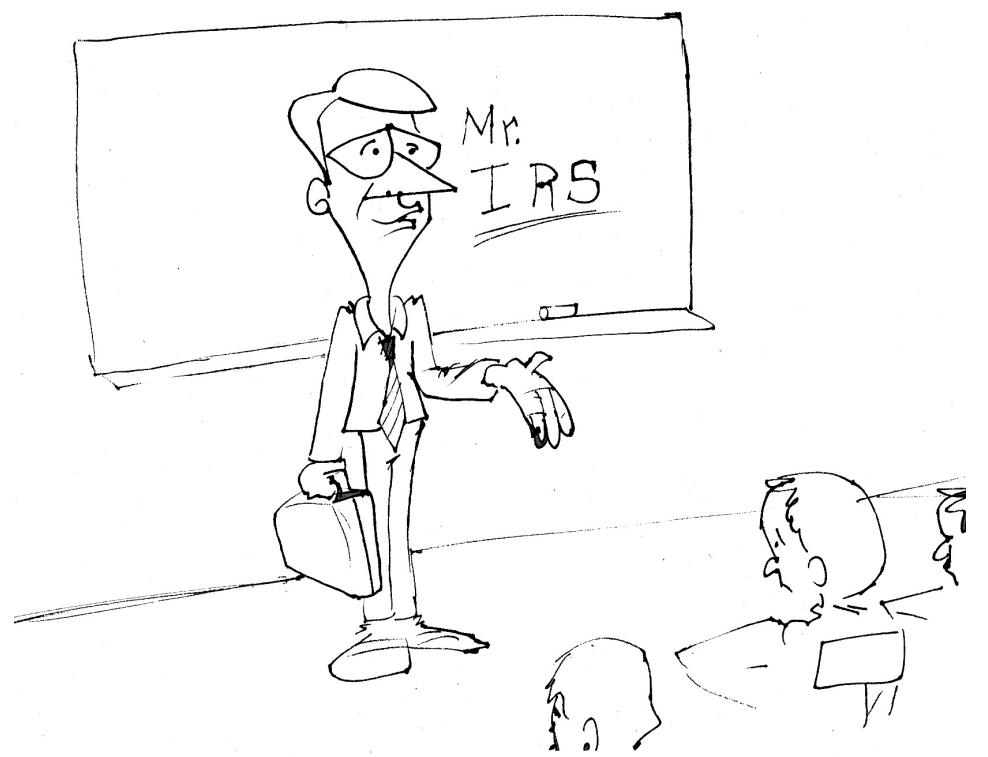
Online course evaluations are the perfect alternative to the pencil and paper method. However, an alternative might not be for the best. While hand-written evaluations present some issues, online evaluations may be worse.

If TCU wants to evolve with technology, it should find an incentive to encourage students to do the same, such as offering the online evaluations in computer labs during class time or bombarding inboxes with repeated evaluation requests until it is complete. Still, incentives could create more issues than the old school evaluation method.

One can hope students will take responsibility to ensure their voices are heard. Online evaluations are a good idea, but they require an extra effort by students.

*Opinion editor Lindsey Bever for the editorial board.*

**BY BRENDAN KIEFER**



Please turn in your completed tax forms.

# MLB needs to attract more diverse players

Sunday was the 60th anniversary of one of the most groundbreaking moments in sports history.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers as the first black player to play major league baseball.

While his emergence to stardom at the big-league level began to expand the game to people who had never played before, his affect on the game of baseball appears to be fading away.

That is a real shame, especially with everything he did for black athletes both during his baseball career and as a civil rights activist after retiring.

In the last few years of his life, Robinson continued to campaign for integration in baseball, and he especially yearned for a

black manager. Unfortunately, Robinson lost his battle with diabetes in 1972 and wouldn't be able to see Frank Robinson, no relation to Jackie, become the first black manager in 1974.

In 1975, three years after Robinson's death, 27.5 percent of major league baseball players were black. But, as of opening day this season, only 8.4 percent of the rosters were black, according to ESPN.

It is not just at the major league level where the lack of black baseball players is apparent.

I have played baseball since I could walk. I played Little League from the age of 5 all the way through high school, and I can only recall a couple of teams I played on that had black teammates.

I have also coached a YMCA baseball team the last two summers and haven't had a single black player on my roster either season.

The MLB has created a \$10 mil-

lion Urban Youth Baseball Academy in Compton, but there is so much more they can do to add to the program. Mainly, expand the program to other cities.

Black athletes, no matter how old, need to know that there are other professional sports options besides football and basketball.

Sure, sports like basketball, football and even soccer have the aspect of immediate gratification working for them without a minor league system, but there are still great opportunities for success in America's pastime.

Young athletes can join the NFL as early as two years out of high school, and athletes can join the NBA as early as one year after graduating high school.

Players who get drafted by the MLB usually spend at least three years playing in the minor leagues before even getting their cup of coffee at the show.

Another way MLB can help recruit young black athletes is through better marketing. Bas-

ketball stars are shown hanging out with the most popular musical artists and are all over the television doing commercials for shoes and other apparel, while baseball players will occasionally do a commercial for United Way and maybe for Dick's Sporting Goods — nothing jaw-dropping.

MLB needs to change its marketing approach and try to attract more young, black ball players.

One possible source for popular advertising could come from the rapper Nelly, who was once scouted by both the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Atlanta Braves.

So now, 60 years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball, people should remember his greatness, everything he did for black athletes and how baseball should be searching for the next great black star.

*Photo editor Billy Wessels is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Waxahachie.*



*MCTCAMPUS*  
The first black major league baseball player, Jackie Robinson, of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and his son in 1948.

# Corny countdown critiques create condemning conduct

VH1 is a television network notorious for making notoriously bad shows, complete with ridiculous, punned titles.

One genre of its faux-reality shows is countdowns — the network sets up critics to countdown everything from Oscar-

worthy fashion statements to "awesomely bad songs." I don't consider myself an excellent or even concerned judge of fashion, so my point of annoyance is at the music.

In the countdown of the "50 Most Awesomely Bad Songs ... Ever," different songs are ranked and their videos are aired along with critical commentary. From whom does the commentary come? Not music executives or artists but burned out B-list celebrities, magazine editors, second rate comedians and fashion stylists.

This pool of critics doesn't have anything of consequence to say about these songs. All of the commentary picks on the smallest bit of negativity.

And other viewers feel the same way.

On the VH1 Web site, there are two message boards talking about the

selection of the songs as well as the critics.

The consensus of the two boards is that it can continue the countdown if it is done in a manner that is based more on statistics than berating songs with useless opinion.

Many of these songs take us back to a different time in our lives.

Songs on the countdown are chart-toppers and popular songs — not ones viewers have never heard of.

Anyone can identify with at least one, and can perhaps remember the days when "The Thong Song" was the most scandalous thing we'd ever heard.

To give an example of the show's absurd critiques, Michael Jackson's comeback "You Rock My World" was No. 25 because the critics claimed it doesn't make sense for Jackson to sing about a woman when he likes young men. Not only is the statement scandalous, the relation of the artist and the song's subject have nothing to do with the music.

Expert testimony has become an important part of our lives. After all, nearly everyone has seen at least five minutes of a VH1 countdown and contemplated for a moment the validity of these judges. Even on other media networks,

like CNN, we are constantly presented with so-called experts who explain situations that we cannot figure out on our own. Instead, it would be more beneficial to spend time learning how to understand the situation yourself than waste time listening to someone with unknown credentials.

And this constant critique and analysis of other people's behaviors has an obvious influence on our society. Why else are we always criticizing each other's clothes and musical tastes? Because that's what entertainment media teaches us to do. Networks like VH1 make it cool to watch celebrities act like caged monkeys and make it OK for us to sit and laugh at them like animals, too.

We transfer this same attitude to people around us. Watching celebrities get bashed on television is a reflection on ourselves; we have nothing better to do than sit around and make important other people's trivial lives. Unfortunately, that seems to be today's definition of good entertainment. We should rather take notice of the better things around us and just relax and enjoy the music.

*Anahita Kalianivala is a freshman English and psychology major from Fort Worth. Her column appears Tuesdays.*

# Pet owners should read pet food labels carefully

On March 16, a nationwide recall of pet food was carried out after reports of several pets dying and others coping with kidney failure.

Contamination was the conclusion with the belief that the polluted ingredient wheat gluten, which is dough washed clean of starch, was to blame.

Pet-owners were thoroughly shocked at the deterioration of many of their pets' health, and the situation is not being handled the way that it should be.

Stores nationwide are trying to keep the contaminated food off the shelves, though it is an immense chore. Many companies are trying to deal with this crisis quickly, but because of all the parties involved and how much food is believed to be contaminated, it is difficult to make complete lists of which brands of pet food are actually tainted overall. Also, it doesn't make it any easier that the companies do the recalling instead of the FDA itself; because of this, companies are recalling pet food individually and at their own time, rather than the FDA having one large recall at once.

Many stores have stocked their shelves and have continued to sell infected pet food, according to JournalStar.com,

which is an outrage. It is hard and tedious work to figure out and keep track of pet food, but if the stores and companies don't work together to keep tabs on this crisis, then they could see more lawsuits than support and patience from frightened and angry pet-owners. Setting better and stricter FDA standards, as well as rules and guidelines for inspections, would help tremendously in the future for these pet food manufacturing companies.

It is also very possible that the human food supply could also become contaminated since there is the possibility that infected wheat gluten could sneak into processing plants used by food meant for humans, according to a CBS News article from April 12. One comfort is that even if the human food supply was contaminated, it isn't believed to pose a harmful or serious health threat. The possible dangers can't be ignored, however, nor can we automatically assume confidently that contamination can't spread to the human food supply. Pet-owners for now have to be careful and cautious.

"Read labels very carefully," said Dr. Linda Hall, of Nebraska Animal Medical Center in Lincoln, in the JournalStar.com.

"Avoid anything that contains wheat gluten." According to latimes.com, "(Sen. Richard J.) Durbin, D-Ill.,

said the Kansas facility where many of the products were made had never been inspected by the FDA."

He wishes to work with other states to come up with a common list of standards and rules, as well as reminding the FDA that they have ultimate responsibility and "should take steps to enact rules so that companies that delay reporting problems could face fines," according to latimes.com.

Hopefully, in time, the FDA will take on more responsibility for problems like these instead of allowing individual companies to recall in their own time. Pet-owners can only ride this crisis out while being extremely vigilant and cautious about the foods they purchase and actions they take regarding their beloved pets.

*Ylona Cupryjak is a sophomore theatre major from Keller. Her column appears Tuesdays.*

**CORRECTION**

• The April 10 Skiff editorial was inaccurate in stating that three Student Government Association members will receive \$1,200 in scholarships, according to a bill that passed April 9. But the bill was passed Nov. 28, 2006, and stated that six SGA members will receive the scholarships, said SGA house adviser Kim Appel.

**Editorial Board**

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## Virginia Tech shooting prompts schools to scrutinize security

By TIM BELLA  
Staff Reporter

The mass shooting attack at Virginia Tech on Monday is the latest reminder that college campuses might not be the safe educational cocoon they are presented as being, an expert on terrorism and university officials said.

While the reality that at least 32 people were slain on a college campus starts to set in on institutions nationwide, college administrators have begun to examine the overall safety of the university.

In the wake of this national tragedy, students need to be aware that there is no way to keep potential shooters off an open campus such as TCU, said Joseph Ruffini, the president and founder of JPR & Associates, LLC, a firm specializing in security and anti-terrorism training. Ruffini, who is the author of "When

Terror Comes to Main Street: A Citizens' Guide to Terrorism Awareness, Preparedness, and Prevention," said students need to take responsibility for the safety and well-being of themselves and those around them.

"It's a dangerous world that we live in," Ruffini said. "We can't assume anymore that college campuses are going to be nice, quiet, safe, academic environments."

Although it has yet to be confirmed, Ruffini said he was unsure as to whether Virginia Tech police followed protocol of the Active Shooter Doctrine, an act that was implemented after the 1999 school shooting at Columbine High School. The doctrine was developed so that the first responding police official on site would enter the school and attempt to take out the shooter — a more hands-on approach compared

to the former protocol that had officials form a perimeter around the campus until the SWAT unit arrived.

He said it is important for students to be aware of anything considered to be suspicious behavior.

"Police would much rather get a call, investigate and have it be nothing than have what happened with Virginia Tech police today," Ruffini said.

It is only speculation at this point as to the shooter's mental mindset, but criminal justice professor Chip Burns said the diverse and stressful environment caused by college campuses, and the intense competition present at campuses nationwide could have attributed to the shooter's decision-making process, barring that the shooter was indeed a student. He said the question of whether the attack was a random, heinous act is valid but other social or personal factors are probably taken into consideration.

See SECURITY, page 5

## College slaying affects students, scares friends of event's victims

By MATTHEW BOWERS  
The Virginian-Pilot

Students at Virginia Tech were stunned and angered by the shooting deaths on the Blacksburg campus this morning. The Associated Press has reported at least 32 people dead in the shootings.

In his apartment, three miles away from campus, Jason Grieves learned that a friend was one of the students who jumped out a second-story Norris Hall window to escape the gunman in the second wave of shootings.

"He definitely heard the gunshots," said Grieves, a Chesapeake, Va., native.

Grieves fretted about friends on campus, not knowing whether all of them escaped the shootings.

"One death, that was shock, OK, it's amazing," he said. "But, when you hear 20 people dead, that's when it's real. It really clicked."

Students are "all pretty upset and angry about it," he said.



JASON ARTHURS / MCT  
Police officers patrol the front steps of Virginia Tech's Burruss Hall, the building located next to Norris Hall, where 32 people were killed and more were injured on Monday.

On campus, students were warned to stay inside their dorms or classrooms, though Tech's student newspaper reported on its Web site early this afternoon they were allowed to begin going to dining halls. Classes are canceled today and Tuesday.

Michelle Silva, 21, a junior from Chesapeake, Va., lent

her cell phone to other students hunkered down in an off-campus apartment building.

"Most cell phones aren't working because the system is overloaded," she said. "If you can't get a hold of your loved one, don't assume the worst. Their cell phone just might not be working."

See STUDENTS, page 5

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**SECURITY**

From page 4

"Maybe it was random, but there had to be some factors that prompted him to do it," Burns said.

Cultural conflict and emotional or relationship problems force shooters, usually men, to feel a sense of entitlement and the need for control, said Jeff Ferrell, a criminal justice professor. Ferrell said he hopes the tragedy will force the American public to review and reflect on a present-day that glorifies and celebrates the reliability people have on guns.

"We tend to valorize and romanticize violence, and I think this is a dark mirror image of that," Ferrell said.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, said that despite TCU Police currently having a higher ratio of police per TCU student compared to the ratio of police per citizen, it still doesn't matter in the bigger picture of things. He said administrators need to be vigilant, especially in a college environment.

"Students generally think they are in a safer place and generally, they are," Mills said. "They are certainly not immune from people doing bizarre things."

**STUDENTS**

From page 4

Silva said she is unable to access her e-mail because that system is overwhelmed as well.

Silva, who turned 21 Monday, said students are shocked by what happened. "This is a horrible incident," she said. "I don't think campus will be the same for a while."

Kristen Walker, a freshman from Williamsburg, Va., first heard about a shooting at about 8:30 a.m., when a residential assistant told students that there had been an "incident" in West Ambler Johnston Hall, where she lives. The dorm, called West A.J., is where the first shootings occurred.

The R.A. told students that the 895-person co-ed dorm was on lockdown and to stay put behind locked doors.

"I mean, we're all pretty freaked out," Walker said. "There are just all kinds of rumors flying about."

Late this morning, Walker said, "Everything's pretty bare and dead — nobody's outside any-

more. And sirens have been going off for hours."

Jonathan Hostetler, a sophomore from Virginia Beach, Va., was in a building construction class in Hancock Hall about 9:45 a.m. when someone popped in to tell students there had been a shooting and to stay put.

"We're just away from all the windows. They've moved us upstairs to a classroom with no windows," in an adjacent building, he said by cell phone. "There are a bunch of police officers outside."

"Pretty much right now, all the information we're getting is from the news," he said. "Everybody's just waiting to see what the deal is. ..."

"People are staying pretty calm right now, because we don't know what's going on now," he added. "Everybody's worried, because we don't know what happened to any of the people."

Phyllis Gibson of Chesapeake talked with her daughter,

Kimberly Ferguson, who works in the Virginia Tech financial aid office. Ferguson called her mother with the news.

"Just that two people were shot, and after that, they heard more shots, and everybody's on lockdown," Gibson said.

Last August, Virginia Tech shut down its campus on the first day of classes after an escaped inmate allegedly fatally shot a hospital guard and a sheriff's deputy and was reported to be on or near the campus. No students were injured in that incident and the man was apprehended and is awaiting trial.

As today's incident dragged on, an automated emergency broadcast system on campus blared warnings about every three minutes, said Nathan Rosso, a senior from Virginia Beach. He said the messages included: "Stay inside"; "There's a shooter on campus"; "Stay away from windows"; "All classes canceled."

**Virginia Tech shootings**

Where the shootings on the Virginia Tech campus in rural Blacksburg, Va., claimed at least 33 lives:

**Monday, April 16**

**1 About 7:15 a.m. ET**

West Ambler Johnston co-ed dormitory, houses 895 students  
• Two killed

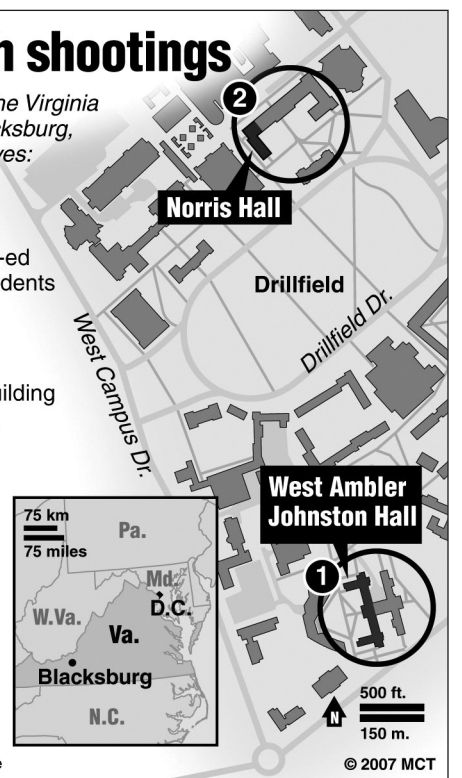
**2 About 9:15 a.m. ET**

Norris Hall engineering building  
• At least 31 people killed, including shooter

**Virginia Tech**

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- 26,000 students
- 2,600-acre (1,052-hectare) campus; more than 100 buildings and an airport
- Eight colleges, graduate school

Source: Virginia Tech, AP, CNN  
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Judy Treible



Rosso could hear them from his off-campus apartment a mile away, along with police cars racing across town. It brought him back to the August incident.

"It's just real weird," he said. "Blacksburg is a very small place, it's a very small college town. Man, for this to be going on."


Staff writer Janette Rodrigues contributed to this report.


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# Latin Americans find economic freedom in U.S.

By DARREN WHITE  
Staff Reporter

It seems Latin Americans are putting their money to work; it's just taking a little trip first.

The Inter-American Development Bank, a bank set up primarily to monitor and aid Latin American economies, reports that Latin American immigrants sent \$62 billion from the United States to their native countries last year.

These payments, known as remittances, are part of the ongoing political debate surrounding immigration in the United States.

Rob Garnett, associate professor of economics, sees these remittances as a positive sign.

"The rising level of these remittances is a sign of accelerating economic integration between the United States and Latin America, particularly Mexico, and of increased economic freedom for migrant population," Garnett said.

The trend deserves a careful look by policy makers and experts to see how these remittances benefit these native countries, Garnett said.

Remittances are not necessarily always a long-term investment, said Valerie Martinez-Ebers, an associate professor of political science.

"The amount is very high when they first get here," Martinez-Ebers said. "But the amount and frequency decreases the longer they stay here."

Martinez-Ebers, an investigator on the Latino National Survey, which surveyed more than 8,000 Latino immigrants

about political issues relevant to them, said many immigrants feel an obligation to their home countries upon arrival, but as they assimilate to American life, they find that obligation decreasing.

"Most try to bring their family here," Martinez-Ebers said. "This means there are less people depending on them at home."

This trend indicates that Latin immigrants are making roots in the United States and are more likely to stay than they used to, Martinez-Ebers said.

Sebastian Martinez of Casa Zacatecas Group, which works as a sort of embassy for natives of Casa Zacatecas, Mexico in Fort Worth, said some Hispanics use remittances to provide stability in case they return to their home countries.

"A lot of people don't feel secure here and want to go back," Martinez said. "At least you have something secure you can go back to if you're sent back home."

Martinez said Hispanic communities on the north and south sides of Fort Worth are setting down roots in the United States.

"People want to live here and open their business here," Martinez said. "People want their kids to go to college here and have better opportunities."

Many citizens feel a dual responsibility to both their native and new countries, Martinez said.

"We celebrate both flags," Martinez said.

# Iraq compromise sought at meeting between Bush, Congress

By RENEE SCHOOF  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — After clashing for weeks, President Bush and congressional Democratic leaders will sit down privately Wednesday to see whether compromise is possible in funding the war in Iraq.

The meeting comes at a time of higher U.S. losses. April could be one of the deadliest months of the war, with at least 58 service members killed as of Monday. While additional U.S. troops have helped decrease violence in Baghdad, it's increased in other areas of the country.

In public Monday, Bush and Senate

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., took hard bargaining positions on whether the U.S. should declare the start of a military withdrawal as part of the latest war-funding legislation. Compromise seemed unlikely.

Democrats also were trying to work out differences between the House of Representatives and Senate versions of the war-spending bill so that they can get it to the president's desk within two weeks.

If troop-withdrawal terms remain in the legislation and Bush vetoes it, as he promises, Democrats will have to find another way to try to bring U.S. military involvement in Iraq to an end, possibly by insisting in the next version of the bill that the Iraqi government meet certain benchmarks for progress, with a loss of military or economic aid as the consequence of failure.

Reid said Monday that an emphasis on benchmarks was possible if there were a veto, adding: "The president is not going to get a bill that has nothing on it. It would be wrong for this legislative branch of government to capitulate to this wrongheaded policy that the vice president and the president have been leading."

The White House hasn't publicly pushed Iraq's government to make progress toward political settlement, arguing that Iraq can't find political solutions until violence abates.

Bush and his supporters say a planned withdrawal would amount to defeat and encourage terrorism. Democrats argue that U.S. forces can't end a civil war and a withdrawal plan puts pressure on the Iraqi government to work harder to end the sectarian violence.

In a speech Monday from the White House, Bush said he expected to discuss

"any way forward that does not hamstring our troops, set an artificial timetable for withdrawal and spend billions on projects not related to the war."

The House version would require most U.S. forces to withdraw by the end of August 2008. The Senate version calls for a withdrawal to begin this summer and sets a nonbinding goal of getting most forces out by next March 31.

Some U.S. forces would remain to train Iraqis and fight terrorists. Both versions of the bill add about \$20 billion beyond what the president requested, including \$4.3 billion for military and veterans' health care. Congress added nonmilitary spending for hurricane relief, health insurance for poor children and agricultural subsidies.

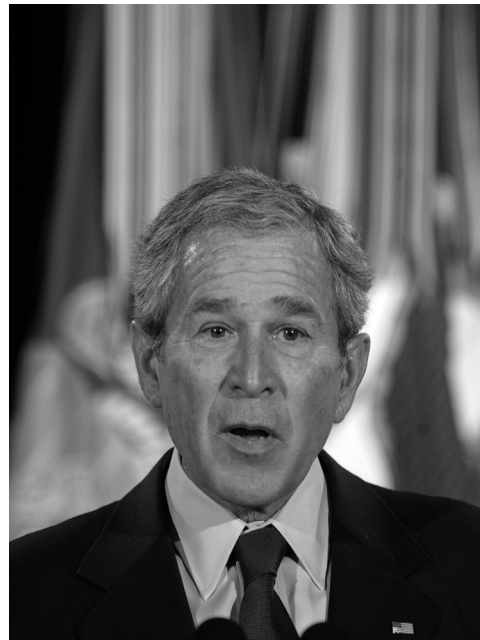
Democrats said the president was isolated and that his war policy had failed.

"The president continues to push for a war without end, while the American people believe it is time for a new direction," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Monday.

Reid said his only offer Wednesday would be "that the president sign our bill. ... We're going to send the president a bill that has timetables in it."

Speaking with Reid at a news conference, retired Lt. Gen. Robert G. Gard Jr., who served in Vietnam and was an assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara during that war, said Americans had lost the support of the Iraqi people and that there are too few U.S. troops to protect the Iraqis and isolate them from the insurgents.

"What we're doing is counterproductive. It is detrimental to our national security," Gard said.



CHUCK KENNEDY / MCT  
President George W. Bush speaks on the Iraq war supplemental at the American Legion Post 177 on April 10 in Fairfax, Va. Bush invited congressional leaders from both parties to discuss funding for the war in Iraq.

# Man convicted of ties to Hussein's network

By JEFF COEN  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — A Des Plaines, Ill., man accused of being a "sleeper spy" planted in America by Saddam Hussein's intelligence network was convicted Monday of lying about his ties to the former Baghdad regime.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Conway reminded Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer

of the seriousness of the case against Sami Khosha-ba Latchin, 59.

"This jury has now spoken," he said. "He spied on this community, judge. It's very, very serious. We're talking about a spy."

Lawyers for the defense declined to comment.

Prosecutors said Latchin was sent to the United States to recruit collaborators to

collect information on opposition groups. His defense contended there was no evidence that Latchin was acting as an intelligence officer.

Prosecutors pointed to the testimony of top Iraqi intelligence service officers who testified that Saddam himself ordered a spy-planting operation.

It was a long-term effort, they said, that was ruined

when documents outing Latchin surfaced in Iraq after the American invasion.

Latchin's lawyers asked jurors to "question authority" and the government's witnesses, who had plenty of reasons to protect themselves and blame Latchin. They have said Latchin was a normal immigrant who has no connection to the Iraqi spy network.



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a. Tuition has increased \$12,000

# Chinese father trains 8-year-old for marathon

## Experts say pressure to compete leads young runner to risk health

By EVAN OSNOS  
Chicago Tribune

Second-grader Zhang Huimin, who weighs 42 pounds and likes the Little Mermaid, sat up and gave a groggy glance around the one-room home she shares with her father, an out-of-work fish farmer with a singular goal: grooming his daughter for the 2016 Olympics.

"Don't dawdle," her father said softly, "or you won't be out the door by 2:55."

Next year, Beijing will host the 2008 Olympics, casting an unprecedented spotlight on China's athletes and the nation that shapes them. Huimin is too young for the Beijing Games, but she has already appeared in an Olympic promotion on state television, her first flicker of national fame.

On this Saturday, as she does most weekends, the girl will run more than 26 miles before school — on top of dozens of miles she runs before school each week. Those statistics cry out for skepticism, but watching her run for more than four hours or interviewing marathon officials who recorded her recent races makes it hard to find any hints of a hoax.

To her adoring village in southern China, her image — pigtails and arms swinging, her father cycling beside her — embodies strength and sacrifice. But to others just learning of her story, she personifies a darker side of today's China: a culture of

relentless competition amplified by a media hungry for celebrities.

The story of China's youngest marathoner is most likely not about the world's next great runner; her tiny body is almost certain to give out if she keeps running so much, experts in China and the U.S. say.

Rather, her story is most revealing about the conditions that created her: a father whose dream of sporting glory never materialized, an impoverished town dazzled by attention, and a nation where the transformative power of fame can make almost anything seem worthwhile.

"It's good for her," said Li Kequan, head of the running club in the nearby city of Haikou. "It's also good for the country and it's good for Haikou."

Indeed, this patch of the Chinese countryside has few other icons. Haikou is the capital of China's smallest and southernmost province, Hainan. On the edge of the city lies the rice-paddy county of Lingao, population 400,000, barely a speck by Chinese standards. Water buffalo amble across the highway. Farmers earn an average of \$1 a day.

In China, the prospect of athletic fame holds unique appeal. In a nation of 1.3 billion people that never has enough jobs or university places to go around, sports is a path to success that



Zhang Huimin, 8, right, trains at dawn with her father, Zhang Jianmin, on March 24, in the southern city of Lingao, China. She is China's youngest marathoner. She is too young for the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing, but she was featured in a recent Olympic promotion on Chinese state television.

EVAN OSNOS / MCT

does not require influence or money.

The most recent Forbes listing of Chinese celebrities ranked athletes in the top two, based on media appearances and income: Shanghai-born Houston Rockets center Yao Ming, who was a gangly 3rd grader when he was plucked by the state to play basketball, and Olympic gold medal-winning hurdler Liu Xiang, who earned an estimated \$7.25 million last year in endorsements.

Among the residents of Lingao is Zhang Jianmin, a small, kindly 54-year-old laborer. He was a stand-out table-tennis player and runner when he graduated from high school in 1974, but the chaos of the Cultural Revolution stymied his hopes of entering China's Soviet-style sports schools.

He later found work as a bureaucrat but gave it up to try raising fish. That failed,

and today his income comes from an adult son who sends cash each month. His wife left years ago, and they have lost contact, he says.

Zhang said he started running with his daughter when she was 4, adding distance each morning. By age 6, she could run 8 miles; at 7, she completed the Haikou marathon in 3 hours, 28 minutes and 45 seconds.

Most recently, she finished China's Xiamen International Marathon on March 31, with a time of 3 hours, 44 minutes and 51 seconds. Organizers waived the minimum age of 18 and allowed her father to bike beside her because "she is a special case," said He Xi, vice director of the race.

Zhang is blunt: He has staked everything on his daughter's running.

"My plan is that we will have a hard five years," he said, "and then, when she reaches 12 or 13 years old, she could take part in more

national competitions. Hopefully, a professional team will take her."

Ask any health expert about her training regimen, and the answers are similar. "The long-term consequence is that she is going to be injured, and her career is going to be short-lived," said Dr. Kathy Weber, head of Women's Sports Medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Overtraining at such a young age can erode the cartilage in joints, delay menstruation, reduce bone density and cause a range of orthopedic problems, including stunted growth. At 42 pounds, Huimin is underweight, her father concedes, but she has never had a full check-up, so he does not know what toll her training has taken.

"I think this will be very detrimental to her physical and mental well-being," said Mark Plaatjes, a 1993 World

Champion marathoner who like most of his peers did not run that 26.2-mile distance until his late teens.

Until recently, Huimin and her outsize training had gone largely unnoticed. She is too young for China's sports academies, so coaches say they won't look seriously at her until she is 13, which explains why her father's homegrown training has gone unchecked.

Indeed, now that Huimin's story has begun to appear in Olympic promotions, even some of the country's athletic kingmakers are unnerved.

"I just heard about it recently," said Feng Shuyong, head coach of China's national track and field team. "But nobody in this field agrees with that kind of training. We think it's unimaginable."

Chicago Tribune special correspondent Lu Jingxian contributed to this report.

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# Grass-fed cows low in numbers throughout Texas

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
McClatchy Newspapers

GRANDVIEW — Inside the only boucherie in town is a meat case full of chuck roasts, flank steaks and New York strips.

But what they're really selling in the rustic Burgundy Boucherie is a story.

It's an old story, actually, one about a Texas ranching family that raises cattle on rolling, green hills of native grasses, never uses pesticides, hormones or grain, and sells their meat to people they know on a first-name basis.

Jon and Wendy Taggart tell it best.

"It's not new," Wendy Taggart said. "It's the way ranching was done years ago."

A few years back, they climbed out on an agricultural limb, gambling that people would pay extra for organic, 100-percent grass-fed beef bought directly from their store in Grandview, about 35 miles south of Fort Worth.

They struck at a time when many Americans were growing more interested in all-natural products and more concerned with problems in mass-produced meat.

That interest keeps growing, and not just in the expected places such as New England and California. The Dallas-Fort Worth area is considered the second-strongest market in Texas for environmentally friendly foods.

But there's one problem. "There is more demand than supply," said Brad Stufflebeam, president of the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. "Texas is decades behind this movement."

The grass-fed beef movement — which means the cows are not fattened up in feedlots with grain



TOM PENNINGTON / MCT  
Rancher Jon Taggart and his wife, Wendy, have found a niche with high-end, direct-to-consumer, grass-fed beef in Grandview.

or corn — is in its infancy.

The American Grassfed Association is only 4 years old, and few people have particularly reliable statistics about it.

But in a state as cattle-rich as Texas, there are fewer than 20 grass-fed producers that can be found on the Internet, most of them selling whole or half carcasses, not individual cuts.

Nationwide, it is estimated that less than 1 percent of the beef supply comes from grass-fed cows, an even smaller amount from organic grass-fed operations like the Taggarts'.

"It's a niche, niche market," said Angela Jackson, president of the Organic Grass-fed Beef Coalition in South Dakota. "It's been growing 50 percent a year the last three years, but the number of producers coming on is

not as fast as the growth in demand. We don't ever see being able to catch up."

Bucking the 50-year agricultural tradition of always growing bigger to survive, the Taggarts elected to go smaller by creating Burgundy Pasture Beef.

And far from just surviving, they are prospering. They are left to wonder why more ranchers aren't telling the same story they are.

"Our business increased 70 percent from 2005 to 2006, and that was the smallest increase we've ever had," Wendy Taggart said. "I think there's a lot bigger market out there."

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Denver expects to see continued growth among grass-fed producers, particularly since grain prices are so high.

But Joe Schuele, a spokes-

man for the group, said it is unlikely to ever dethrone grain-fed cattle as the predominant source of beef.

"We're all in favor of cattle producers identifying and capitalizing on that kind of market opportunity," Schuele said. "It's a marvelous opportunity for a select number of producers, but it's not likely to be an opportunity for a huge number. It's unlikely to create any major shifts in cattle production in the foreseeable future."

Eight to 10 full carcasses usually hang in Jon Taggart's dry-age freezer. Even when they're stripped of any identifying characteristics, Taggart still knows which carcass came from which cow.

Just four miles away is the Taggart ranch, a 1,370-acre spread of wheat fields turned

native grass pasture.

Pure Angus calves come to the Taggart ranch at about 12 months from operations that use only grass. They stay there for another 12 to 15 months, eating only grass. Jon Taggart decides which is ready for slaughter, based on how fatty they look.

They go to slaughter near Hillsboro, Texas. The carcasses come to the boucherie — or butcher shop — for 21 days of aging.

They're processed and packaged from employees on site. Then the meat is sold.

This is what people mean when they say "local food."

Organic is no longer the buzzword for the food savvy. That market kept up double-digit growth over the past few years, to the point that large agriculture companies are now in the business of organics.

To local food supporters, industrial agriculture is bad; organic or not.

"Local food is the ultimate in accountability," Stufflebeam said, because it puts farmers and ranchers directly in touch with customers. "Local food is a more secure food system. When people understand the value of food, where it comes from and the people who grew it, it makes the banquet on our tables much more rewarding and nutritious."

To illustrate how much local has overtaken organic as the rallying point, neither the Taggarts nor Stufflebeam have ever requested organic certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I hope our customers put more faith in what I say than the USDA," Jon Taggart said.

The Taggarts' grass-fed program started nine years ago because of money. Specifically, not enough of it ending up in their bank account

through a conventional stocker-calf operation.

"We were struggling," Jon Taggart said. "The cattle business is a tough business. We had to come up with some way to increase our income."

So, in their words, they left the "commodity-driven rat race" in which beef prices go up and down on based on the packer or grocer market.

Instead, they converted their ranch and their herd to all-grass and all-natural, a process that took several years. In September 2004, they opened their store, perhaps their biggest leap of faith, because it was too difficult to run the business out of their house.

Because they sell directly to the customer, they can set their own prices, which have never come down.

Bone-in rib-eye is \$12.99 a pound. A tenderloin is \$26.99 a pound. Flank steak is \$7.99 a pound, and short ribs are \$4.29 a pound, all of which goes to the Taggarts.

"It's a better way to raise a family," Jon Taggart said. "We can budget our household now."

Running a grass-fed ranch is easier in some respects.

Jon Taggart doesn't have to plow, fertilize or buy antibiotics. Every few days, he moves the cows to a different pasture and makes sure the grasses are doing well, and the cows take care of themselves.

But the rest of it is a huge departure from what ranchers normally do — processing the meat, marketing, running a Web site and dealing with customers.

"We are service-oriented," Wendy Taggart said. "Our customers want to talk to who is raising their food because that's important to them."

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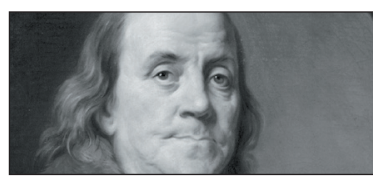
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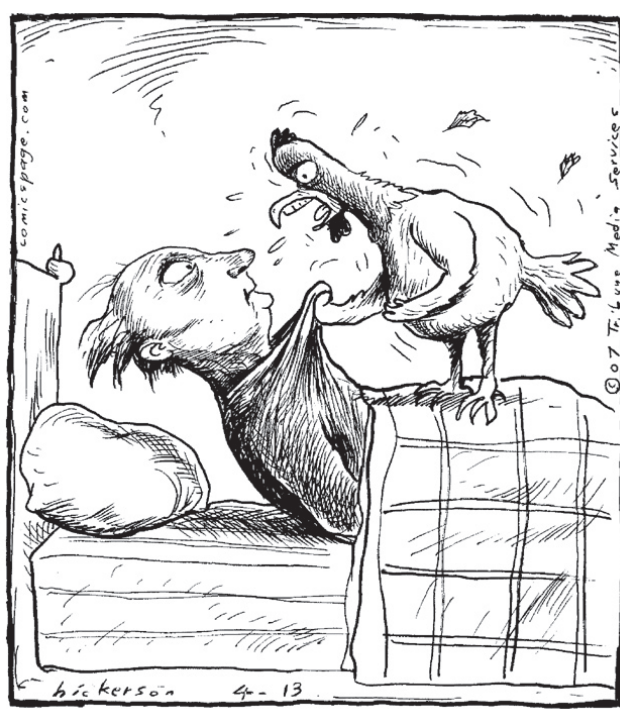


**TODAY IN HISTORY**  
1790: American statesman, printer, scientist and writer Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at age 84.

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A: At the baa baa shop.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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

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

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

**Friday's Solutions**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
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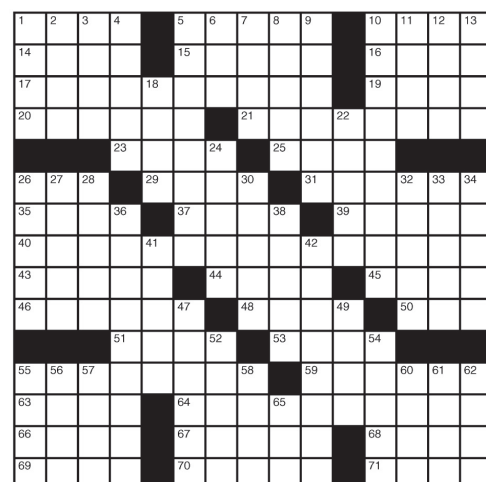
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- ACROSS**  
1 Hatteras or Canaveral  
5 Piece of broken pottery  
10 Crows gone wild  
14 Caspian feeder  
15 Vietnam's capital  
16 In a frenzy  
17 Hit where one lives?  
19 Punjabi princess  
20 Surfer's inhalations  
21 Talked idly  
23 Letter opening, often  
25 CNN word  
26 Tease  
29 Pindar works  
31 Of the teeth  
35 God of love  
37 Elec. measures  
39 Spooky  
40 European landmass  
43 Outfit  
44 Connery or Penn  
45 PGA pegs  
46 Lend an ear  
48 Opera singer  
50 EPA-banned substance  
51 Snare  
53 Hoist  
55 Hive resident  
59 Gauvain location  
63 Declare  
64 Certain female dancers  
66 Country road  
67 Cream of the crop  
68 Iditarod terminus  
69 Ran away  
70 Title documents  
71 Leg joint



By Stanley B. Whitten  
Highwood, IL

4/16/07

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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- 41 Mimicry  
42 Those asked  
47 Collared  
49 Distant  
52 U.S. family of artists  
54 Use one's gray cells  
55 50%
- 56 Track shape  
57 Hawaiian bird  
58 Author Wiesell  
60 Privy to  
61 Domesticated  
62 Words of understanding  
65 Inc. in Great Britain

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

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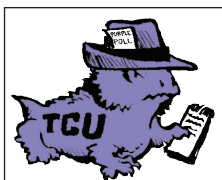
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# DRAFT PREPARATION

**Seven players from the Horned Frog football team have attended an NFL workout in Cowboys stadium to get ready for the upcoming draft.**



Quarterback Jeff Ballard



Safety Eric Buchanan



Wide Receiver Michael DePriest



Wide Receiver Quentily Harmon

By JOHN BOLLER  
Staff Reporter

The 2007 National Football League draft is only two weeks away, and 18 Horned Frogs have declared that they will enter the draft.

Horned Frog players Jeff Ballard, Herb Taylor, Marvin White, Michael DePriest, Eric Buchanan, Quentily Harmon and Jared Retkofsky went to Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, last Friday to participate in local workouts, said Mark Cohen, director of athletics media relations.

The workout was the last opportunity for these players to showcase their skills and knowledge of the game to the NFL scouts before draft day on April 28.

Ballard, a quarterback from Friendswood, is TCU's career leader in winning percentage by a starting quarterback (.900, 18-2). Although he is not predicted to get drafted, according to draft experts, he is expected to make a team in the Canadian Football League.

"He is probably not going to make it to the NFL," said Charean Williams, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "It looks like the Calgary franchise from the CFL is Ballard's best bet."

Ballard ended his career with the fourth-longest streak in the nation for passes without an interception (125), according to nfl-draftscout.com.

DePriest, a wide receiver from Keller, whose stock is currently on the rise, according to nfl-draftscout.com, said he is remaining positive and focused for the draft.

"It is very professional at the NFL level," DePriest said. "The coaches tell the right way once and they expect you to get it after that."

DePriest will be competing with his teammate Quentily Harmon to be drafted as a wide receiver.

"We are both rooting for each other," DePriest said. "But at the end of the day, we are both trying to fight for the same spot on a team."

DePriest said that in addition to being drafted as a receiver he could be drafted as a special teams player.

Harmon, a wide receiver from Jacksonville, led the Horned Frogs in catches last year with 52 and receiving yards with 791.

"It helps to go into the draft coming off of a good year," Harmon said. "It gives teams a chance to look back and see that I was a go-to guy for our team."

Taylor brought the most veteran experience to the Horned Frogs, and he started in all 48 games in his career at TCU.

"He is a big body, which is something NFL teams need," Williams said. "He moves off the block well. He also performed well at the East-

West Shrine Game, where he caught the attention of a lot of NFL scouts."

Strong Safety Marvin White led the Horned Frogs last season with 86 tackles (58 solo) and had a team leading four interceptions. White is expected to be a fourth round pick, according to nfl-draftscout.com.

"He has a good shot of going late in the draft," Williams said. "His speed could prove to be his ticket into the NFL."

Although draft analysts are currently not projecting safety Eric Buchanan to be drafted, he did, however, participate in Friday's workouts.

"It went well, I feel that I did pretty good," Buchanan said. "You just hope everything works out for the best, take advantage of your opportunities and do the best that you can."

The final member to go into the draft is Jared Retkofsky, a senior long-snapper from Justin. He is rated the second best long-snapper available by nfl-draftscout.com, and he is projected to go in the seventh round.

"He has a good shot of getting picked up," Williams said. "He was invited by NFL scouts to the combine, which is always a positive sign for players."

Since head coach Gary Patterson took over coaching in December 2000, 14 Horned Frog players have been drafted into the NFL, and 26 have gone on to NFL camps.

## Baseball team looks for payback after 13-5 loss against Sooners

By ELISA GOMEZ  
Staff Reporter

The No. 28 TCU baseball team will begin a nine-game home stint when the team faces the No. 23 Oklahoma Sooners on Tuesday night.

The Horned Frogs are looking to avenge a 13-5 road loss to the Sooners. The loss was the only blemish on the Frogs' recent seven-game road trip.

The Frogs went 6-1 on the road, including two conference sweeps of the Air Force Falcons and the UNLV Rebels.

At the plate, the Frogs have been led by seniors Austin Adams, Keith Conlon and Steven Trout. Conlon leads the team and is second in the Mountain West with a .391 batting average. Trout and Adams are also in the top 10 in the MWC with batting averages of .355 and .343, respectively.

Strong showings by juniors Andrew Walker and Clint Arnold have also helped the Frogs offense score 55 runs in the past seven games. Arnold was named MWC Hitter of the Week, after hitting two home runs and three doubles. He also

drove in nine runs and scored six times last week.

The Frogs will face a Sooner pitching staff that is the third best in the Big XII. The Sooners hold a 3.67 ERA through 38 games. The staff has also had 312 strike outs in 336 innings pitched.

The Frogs pitching staff has been less than stellar, posting a MWC third best ERA of 4.40, but they are facing a Sooner team that holds a .254 team batting average. Frogs opponents scored an average of 7.33 runs a game in their past seven home games.

The Sooners have gone 3-4 in the last seven games, recently losing the last two home games to the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Leading the Sooners at the plate is junior Joe Duni-gan, who owns a .349 batting average. As a team, the Sooners have struggled to get extra-base hits with only 17 doubles, two triples and four home runs on the season.

The first pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Lupton Stadium.



ROBYN SHEPHEARD / Staff Photographer  
Junior outfielder Clint Arnold swings a pitch during the Frogs' March 3 4-1 victory over the Vermont Catamounts. Arnold was named Mountain West Conference Hitter of the Week last week after hitting two home runs and posting a .579 batting average during the Frogs' four victories.

## Freshman sprinter qualifies for regionals, fills in for injured runner

By MARCUS MURPHREE  
Sports Editor

The first command echoes through the stadium, "Runners to your marks."

With a silent swagger, he adjusts the starting blocks and takes a deep breath.

The second command rings out, "Set."

Tensed in the afternoon sun, he knows a fraction of a second is all that it takes for the race to begin, and in a sprint, a fraction of a second is all it takes for the race to be lost.

The gun fires, and the runners begin a mad dash for the finish line. In a quarter-mile race, 49 seconds is an eternity, but 45 seconds is a blur.

### FRESHMAN FILL-IN

Freshman sprinter Dell Guy has emerged as a dominant force in the 400-meter races for the Flyin' Frogs. After last season's All-American sprinter Che Chavez was sidelined with a medical red-shirt through part of the season, Guy had to fill in as the anchor runner for the 1,600-meter-(4x400-meter-) relay team.

During the first annual Horned Frogs Invitational in March, Guy posted a time of 47.04 seconds in the 400 race en route to an NCAA Regional-qualifying mark. During the final event of that afternoon, Guy anchored the relay team that came from behind to beat the New Era Track Club by two seconds.

"He has been a great asset to the team in both the 400-meters and the leader 4x400 relay with the injuries to Che, who is our returning All-American," said fellow teammate and sprinter Delwayne Delaney.

Guy is a stark contrast to Chavez at first glance. After all, Che stands at 6 feet 3 inches tall with galloping strides, and Dell is a 5-foot-7-inch spark plug with nothing more than heart and passion pushing him around the auburn oval. But the times on the clock show the freshman is able to live up to his junior counterpart.

Delaney, a senior, has been watching Guy develop this season.

"I am really impressed and did not expect this much out of him so early," Delaney said. "I know I could see the potential, but being this good so early has been a real plus and has surprised me."

During training, head coach Darryl Anderson has worked to transform Guy from a 100- and 200-meter sprinter to a quarter-miler.

"He had always trained like a short sprinter, and now we started training him as a quarter-miler, and he has made the adjustment and is starting to get comfortable," Anderson said. "I think it's going to come together here in the next three to four weeks."

### ADJUSTMENTS

Though Guy holds the Nevada state record in the 400 with a time of 47.52 seconds and a personal record of 46.6 seconds, he said there has been room for improvement since he came onto the college scene.

"I have had to make total adjustments, and everything had to change," Guy said. "I had to change my technique first, then my racing style and now I'm learning how to win."

With the TCU Invitational and Penn Relays due in the next two weeks, Anderson's projection of Guy's performance "coming together" will be put to the test.

"I don't think he's gotten close to hitting his stride and competing yet," Anderson said. "He's still figuring out how this thing works."

After changing his training style, Guy is now working at setting a new personal best in the 400.

"I want to run a 45 (seconds)," Guy said.

So far in the outdoor season, he has run a time of 45.8 seconds in a leg of a relay, but he has yet to be clocked in an official open race.

### MOUTH OF THE TEAMSTER

During the races, Guy's focus is on catching the man in front of him, passing him and then leaving him behind. After the races, however, he has become quite the talker off the track. As one of the

top runners, leadership responsibilities have not bothered the rookie sprinter.

"I don't like to burden a freshman with that" Anderson said. "He's natural with trying to help people and lead, and he talks 100 miles per hour, (so) getting him to be quiet some days is interesting."

Guy sees his motormouth ways as just part of his personality and a method of motivation for the Flyin' Frogs.

"I like to talk," Guy said. "I love to talk; it's a motivator. It gets the rest of the team pumped up, makes us want to race and makes us want to win."

While motivating the team, his antics also can reduce some of the tension that comes during the season.

"He's a real funny guy and a good entertainer," Delaney said, "You always get laughs when you are around him, and he is a great teammate."

### ON WINGS OF ANGELS

Painting Guy's rib-cage like a canvas is a tattoo of angel wings.

"I got them to remind myself that I can do it, and it means something," Guy said. "It means I'm going to be something."

The Mountain West Conference Championships and the hallowed Penn Relays are on the horizon, and Guy has a chance to prove to that he is somebody before a national audience.



ROBYN SHEPHEARD / Staff Photographer  
Freshman sprinter Dell Guy competes in the 400-meter dash at the first annual Horned Frogs Invitational March 24. Guy posted a time of 47.04 seconds and qualified for the NCAA Regionals.