



NEWS

Interior Design students kick off their senior show. DAILYSKIFF.COM



FEATURES

Adam Brody tells the Skiff about life outside "The O.C." **PAGE 5**



SPORTS

See how the track and field team has prepared for the TCU Invitational. **PAGE 8**



TCU

DAILY SKIFF

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Student remembers time at Virginia Tech

By **TIM BELLA**
Staff Reporter

With the Virginia Tech shootings unfolding throughout the day Monday, Lauren Pope could envision herself on the grounds of the 2,600-acre campus.

As names and faces are being put together to the 32 slain victims and gunman of the Virginia Tech attack, TCU students, such as Pope, and faculty with ties to Virginia Tech and the state of Virginia continue to reflect and mourn days after the most catastrophic school shooting in U.S. history.

Pope, a junior kinesiology major, attended Virginia Tech during the fall 2004 semester — her first of her college career. She then transferred to TCU in spring 2005.

Pope said she has been in contact with her friends at Virginia Tech, and was relieved to find out no one she directly knew was involved in the shootings.

The sight of the wounded and the sound of gunshots were too real to some, especially those with a familiarity of the campus's nuances such as Pope.

"They talk about Norris Hall and all the different places on campus, and I was just picturing myself there," said Pope, a midfielder for the soccer team.

As ex-roommates of student-turned-gunner Cho Seung-Hui share their experiences of what it was like living with him, Pope said it was surreal thinking that she could have lived in the same hall as Cho because she lived in Cochrane Hall during her freshman year.

She said the Blacksburg, Va., community promotes a positive,

family atmosphere, which made the shootings surprising.

"It's so small and so personable," Pope said of Blacksburg. "You would never expect anything like this to happen."

The experience was horrifying for Virginia residents such as Julie Bassett, who said more than half of her graduating class attends Virginia Tech. Bassett, a junior music education major from Woodbridge, Va., was unable to come in contact with her Virginia Tech friends to ensure they

See **VT**, page 2



Junior kinesiology major Lauren Pope attended Virginia Tech during the fall semester of 2004. **BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor**

Fraternity changes philanthropy for brother

By **ASHLEIGH WHALEY**
Staff Reporter

Phi Gamma Delta will gamble for a new cause this Saturday at Casino Night to honor and support one of its own members.

Nathan Mitchell, a sophomore neuroscience major, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis last fall and has inspired members in his fraternity to join him in fighting the disease, said Connor Sanders, a junior supply and value chain management major and former president of the fraternity.

Money raised at Casino Night and all other philan-

throp events will now benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, a research center dedicated to finding a cure for the disease, said Sanders, who is chairman of the event. Students and alumni can join Phi Gamma Delta from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Saturday at River Crest Country Club for poker, blackjack and Russian roulette, Sanders said.

Today there is no cure for multiple sclerosis, said Sanders, who decided to change the philanthropy because of something Mitchell said to him last fall.

"After Nathan told me about his diagnosis, he said, 'If anything, this will give me more motivation to become a doctor,'" Sanders said. "The thing about Nathan is he's got a great attitude."

The pathology of multiple See **CASINO**, page 2

DROP IT



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Staff Photographer

Freshman premajor Jake Slaton prepares to drop his 'egg-equipment' from a 50-foot mobile platform during Thursday afternoon's Red Bull Gravity Challenge. Slaton and his teammates, Josh Noble, junior biology major, and Matthew Brown, freshman economics major, took first place in the event. They were in costume as the 'defensive line' of a foosball team and competed for Phi Kappa Sigma.



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Staff Photographer

Junior biology major Bennett Waxse and his team took second place at the Red Bull Gravity Challenge. The first place team won a trip to Flugtag 2007, which will be held in Nashville, Tenn.

Students try to defy gravity in Red Bull contest

By **MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE**
Staff Reporter

The lawn outside Clark Hall on Thursday was the scene of the first Red Bull Gravity Challenge in the U.S.

Contestants built protective casings for their eggs, which were then dropped from 50 feet. Winners were determined on how little the egg was damaged, the creativity of the team and their 'egg-equipment.'

Designs for the 'egg-equipment' ranged from a papier-mache baby to a volcano filled with baking soda.

The winners of Thursday's event were freshman economics major Matthew Brown, junior biology major Josh Noble and freshman pre-major Jake Slaton of Phi Kappa Sigma.

The team won a trip to the Flugtag '07 contest in Nashville, Tenn., and a wakeboard from KISSFM, said Matthew Appleby, field marketing

manager for the Red Bull event.

Second-place winners won the teams combined weight in Red Bull— roughly 500 pounds. The third-place winners won half of the teams weight in Red Bull— roughly 230 pounds, Appleby said.

Judges included baseball team head coach Jim Schlossnagle, soccer head coach Dan Abdalla and DJs Billy the Kid and Pooh from KISSFM.

The flugtag contest consists of a similar concept as Thursday's event. Contestants design a device and pilot it off of a platform suspended over water, according to the Red Bull Web Site.

The first flugtag was held in Vienna, Austria, in 1991; 35 flugtags have been held around the world since then, according to the Red Bull Web Site.

"TCU is one of our favorite campuses; they sell a lot of Red Bull, and we just want repay the favor," Appleby said.

Symposium to address global level of energy use

By **SAEROM YOO**
Staff Reporter

Fourteen environmental science graduate and undergraduate students will host a symposium Monday to address local and global energy usage.

Stephanie Eady, who is an environmental science graduate student and one of the 14 organizers of the symposium, said the panel of speakers attending will comprise a variety of backgrounds to highlight the necessity of a variety of perspectives in order to determine what the future holds regarding energy.

"We're committed to have carbon in the next 20 years," Eady said. "To find one single alternative to carbon is ridiculous."

Speakers attending will represent traditional and alternative energy providers, major energy-using corporations and environmental law experts, Eady said. Provost Nowell Donovan will also speak to represent a geologist's perspective regarding climate change and energy.

Donovan said he will open the symposium by expressing the need for a firm background in data before any decisions are made in energy policy.

Michael Slattery, the institute of environmental studies director and geology professor, said he hopes the symposium will be a medium through which an array of stakeholders of the energy industry engage in dialogue about energy issues and how they affect the community.

Eady and Donovan said they see a solution to energy issues in a diverse range of options. They said energy policies should depend on the regions concerned.

Eady said West Texas, for example, is rich in wind, so taking advantage of wind power in that region would be logical. However, not all regions are rich in wind, so advocating a national policy for wind power would be irrational, she said.

See **FUTURE**, page 2

Political theorist addresses education's importance at Honor's Convocation

By **JENIGHI POWELL**
Staff Reporter

Liberty is learned through education, said a professor and world-recognized political theorist at Thursday's annual Honors Convocation.

About 150 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the hour-

long ceremony focusing on students' performance in a global community with performances by the 3-year-old Steel Drum Band and a keynote speaker, Benjamin R. Barber.

Barber, University of Maryland professor of civil society, is a best-selling author, president and director of CivWorld,

a non-governmental organization campaigning for democracy.

Manochehr Dorraj, professor of political science, introduced Barber as a "first-rate thinker and true Renaissance man."

Barber congratulated honors students for completing their thesis pre-

sentations, which were presented in this week's five-day festival.

"I want to really address my remarks to you (honors students) because you are a rare species," Barber said. "In the media today, you're somewhat forgotten. Your achievements ought to be recognized."

Education is an essential element to creating and maintaining a democracy, Barber said.

"The central role of education is so we can learn liberty," Barber said. "Teaching is what keeps the soul, mind and democracy alive."

Mickey Ley, a member of

See **HONORS**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Cloudy, 78/58
TOMORROW: Partly Cloudy, 77/58
SUNDAY: Isolated T-Storms, 76/62

PECULIAR FACT

DALLAS — Faced with complaints that his donkey was too loud, attorney Gregory Sham-oun decided to bring his case directly to court: He had the donkey testify. — Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

FEATURES: Build-A-Bear business advice, page 6
OPINION: Find joy in each day of life, page 3
SPORTS: Nation finds solace through baseball, page 8

CONTACT US

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

VT

From page 1

were safe until late Monday night. She said her friends were flooded with voice-mails, e-mails and Facebook and MySpace messages from anybody and everybody.

"They had been contacted all day by everyone they had ever known to see if they were OK," Bassett said.

When she was first made aware that the shootings were taking place at Norris Hall — the engineering building — Bassett feared for a close, high school friend of hers, who is an engineering major and regularly takes classes in Norris. Her fears were confirmed when she found out later that he was inside the building

and in close proximity of the shootings as they were taking place.

Before finding out that he was safe, Bassett said, it was difficult to think that people she cared about could have possibly died.

"It was really hard trying not to think of people you know of being involved," Bassett said. "You are kind of in denial about it."

Students aren't the only ones mourning for Blacksburg. Sue Anderson, an associate professor for the School of Education, lived in Virginia for 10 years while attending the University of Virginia, and taught in the area during that time. Even though Virginia Tech and UVA are traditional rivals, she pointed to an April 18

article in the Charlottesville, Va., Daily Progress newspaper of how UVA is showing its support for Virginia Tech as an example of how the state is coming together amidst tragedy.

Anderson said she hopes universities will use the Virginia Tech shootings as motivation to prevent such an act from repeating itself.

"In my experience, Virginians are proud people, and I think they have responded to the crisis with typical dignity and grace," Anderson said. "Virginians will grieve together, and then, as universities all over the nation are doing, look for ways to respond better to crises on campus and to prevent such tragedies from occurring again."

HONORS

From page 1

the honors cabinet, said Barber's message was inspiring and complemented the global theme.

"He was really inspirational," said Ley, a sophomore political science major. "The speech was pertinent to students and I was really pleased he came."

Convocation also recognized sophomore engineering and mathematics major Lauren Del Gallego and Darren Ong, a sophomore mathematics major for the Honors Scholar Award. Del Gallego and Ong will receive \$2,500 for their future research project.

Economics professor Stephen

Quinn was given the 2007 Honors Faculty Recognition Award. The award is determined by a vote from all students in the honors program.

Nowell Donovan, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, introduced this year's Phi Beta Kappa honor society inductees. Only 30 students out of more than 700 honors students are selected to be in the society every year, Donovan said. Juniors inducted must have a 3.9 GPA and seniors must have a 3.7 GPA in order to be considered for the society.

Laura Hardin, president of honors cabinet, said Convocation is an important part of honors week that includes the whole TCU community.

Several non-honors students

attended Convocation as well. Shane Constable, a freshman premed and biology major, said he attended convocation in order to support his friends in the program.

Convocation was followed by a banquet for honors students and faculty as a conclusion to Honors Week.

"I think Honors Week provides a great opportunity for honors students to showcase their hard work and passion for a particular subject," said Hardin, a junior sociology and religion major. "Students presenting their honors projects have worked really hard for several semesters building up to Honors Week. This week honors students as well as supportive faculty for their academic achievements and successes."

FUTURE

From page 1

Ellen Schwaller, a junior environmental science major, said she hopes to see the university become a model of sustainability for the Fort Worth community. Schwaller is also one of the students who organized the event.

The symposium is a part

of a Vision In Action grant the environmental science department received in agreement to send a group of students to Oxford University every other year for three weeks to learn about energy policy and climate control, Slattery said.

The students would then organize a conference to address energy futures in the interceding years, Slattery said.

CASINO

From page 1

sclerosis is something Mitchell studies as a neuroscience major, he said.

"Predicting what will happen is more of an art than a science because multiple sclerosis is person-specific," Mitchell said. "Doctors have to look at each person individually to see

what they need."

Discovering he had multiple sclerosis at age 19 was "a huge shocker," he said. Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50. The most difficult part is trying to get the recommended eight to 10 hours of sleep every night, said Mitchell, who used to sleep two to three hours before tests.

Parents, alumni and busi-

nesses donated prizes and money for students and alumni to win at Casino Night, Sanders said. Tickets are \$10 at the door and anyone is welcome, Sanders said.

For the members of the fraternity, Casino Night has become more personal this time and has received a great response, Sanders said.

"I feel very supported because this is something I'm

going to have to deal with the rest of my life," Mitchell said. "It wasn't a pat on the back; it was them saying, 'we're going to take actual steps to help you get through this.'"

Thomas White, a junior radio-TV-film major, said everyone is just trying to support their brother.

"We just want to show everyone, especially Mitchell, that we are one," White said.



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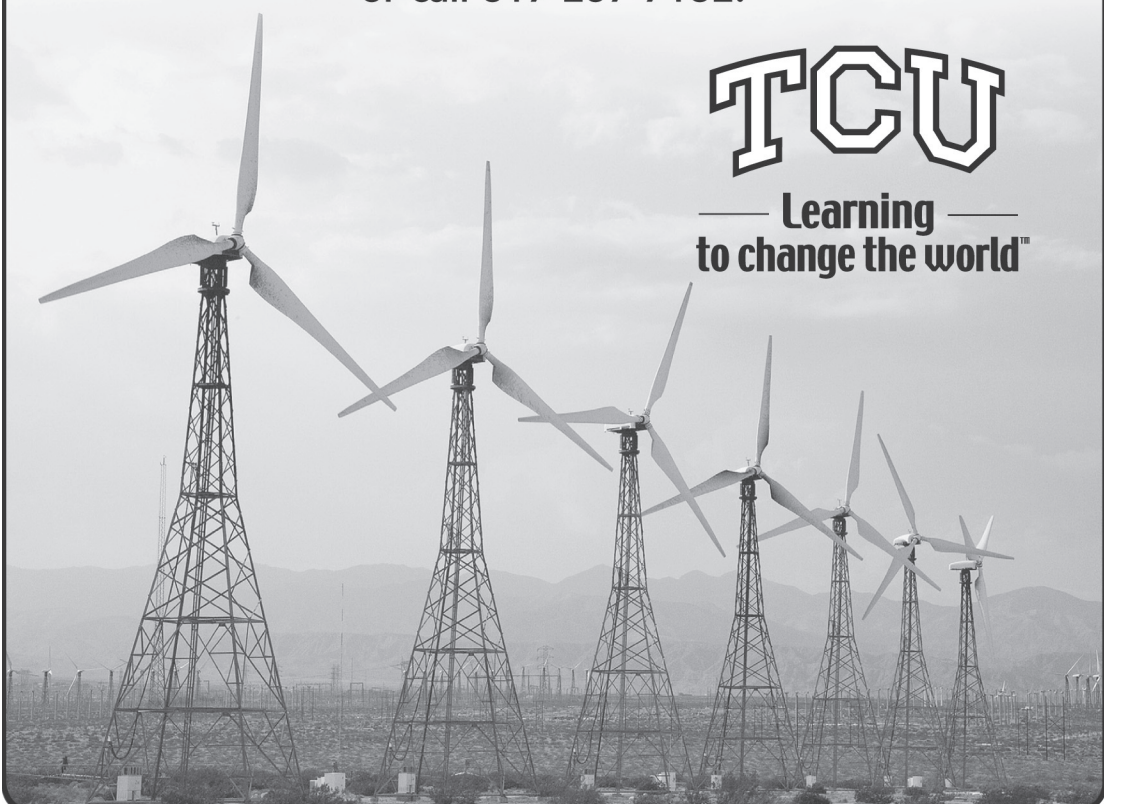
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TCU
Learning to change the world





QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

— Mother Teresa

THE SKIFF VIEW

Band's humanity good example for life

Humans have an impact on each other and the world. Music has the ability to divide or unite people. And the members of the local Fort Worth band, Green River Ordinance, are using their impact as musicians and human beings to make a difference in the world.

This summer, GRO members Josh Jenkins, Joshua Wilkerson, Jamey Ice, Geoff Ice and Denton Hunker and their manager Paul Steele are traveling to Uganda and Kenya to do humanitarian work for at least a month.

These guys will be helping the non-profit group Blood: Water Mission build wells and help with anything else possible.

Good for them. This band is not just going to strum their guitar strings and make a measly propaganda effort to save the world. Instead, they'll be getting their hands dirty in legitimate humanitarian work in a place that doesn't even

cross most people's minds on a day-to-day basis.

Of course, taking a month out of the real world to dig in African dirt doesn't suit everyone's schedule — we can't all be held to the standards of these 20-something musicians.

But these guys are, in effect, raising awareness for the needy. Whether it be across the Atlantic Ocean or right here in Fort Worth, there are so many people and situations that need help.

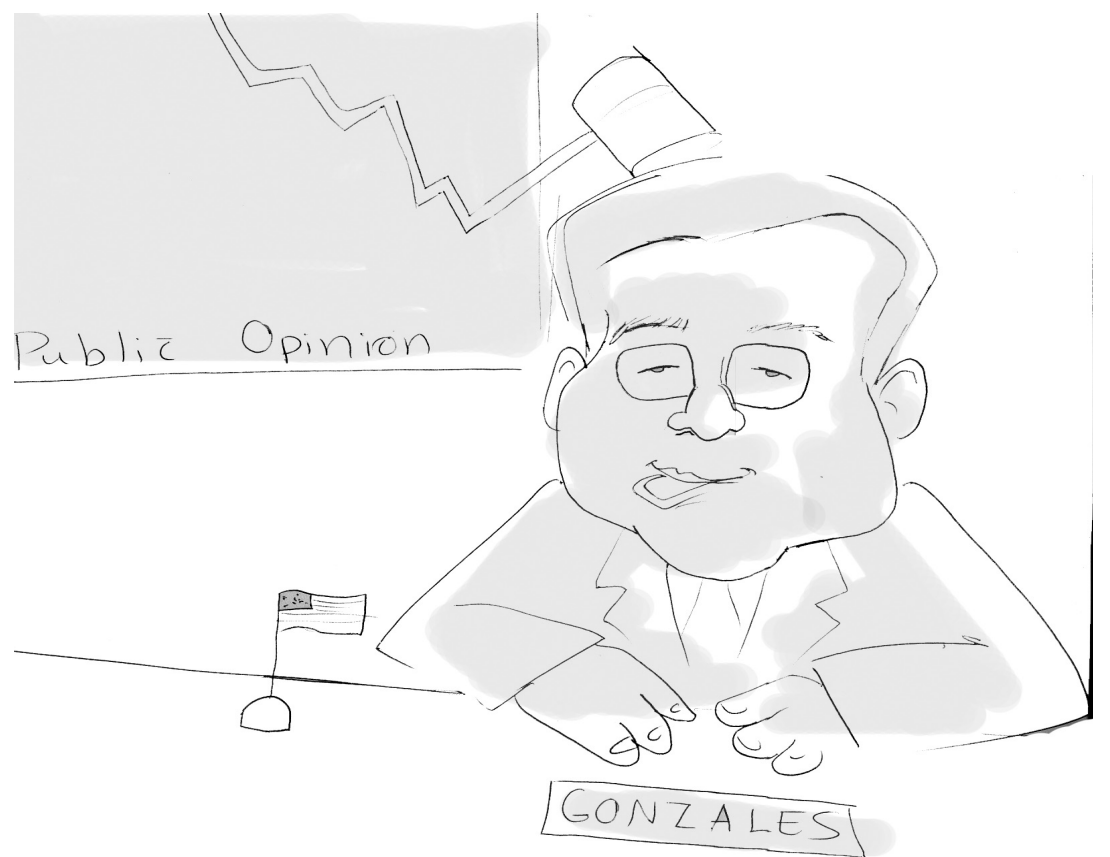
That's where the cliché "one person makes a difference," comes in. But it's really true.

We should all follow GRO's lead to lend manpower to someone in need, whether it be a Saturday morning spent helping to build a house in Fort Worth for Habitat for Humanity or cleaning out years of old clothes to donate to Goodwill.

The best of luck to these six guys who are truly using their power as humans to help others.

Features editor Amber Parcher for the editorial board.

BY BRENDAN KIEFER



Follow couple's example, find joy in each day

Life does not always have to be so serious. This is a terribly difficult concept to grasp in this hustle-and-go society. According to

COMMENTARY



Michelle Anderson

Yahoo! News, a retired New York couple let go and took a trip they will remember for the rest of their lives. Betty and Bob Matas started their journey in New York City by hailing a taxi in their Queens neighborhood. Neither Betty nor Bob Matas drive, and they wanted to spare their cats, Pretty Face and Cleopatra, from a plane ride to their new home, according to Yahoo! News. They traveled 2,500 miles, 10 hours a day, all the way to Sedona where they plan on living out the rest of their retirement. The taxi driver charged the couple a flat rate of \$3,000, plus the cost of gas, meals and lodging.

The Matas' were surprised by the attention they got from passers-by.

"Every state that we hit, people would say, 'Are you

the ones?' and we would say, 'Yes, we are the ones,'" Bob Matas said.

As unconventional as this method of moving sounds, the Matas said they are happy, and that is really all that matters. There is so much pressure to be practical and to make good use of time from many people these days. Life is too short not to take risks and do something a little crazy every now and then. That is what keeps people sane. If people are required to stick to the rigid expectations of this life all the time, they will never find release. Taking a break and throwing logic out the window is necessary from time to time.

TCU history professor Kathryn McDorman said, "All of us need to break out of our often self-imposed, rigid conformity now and then."

Making a living and just making it through the day is all that many people can focus on regularly. People owe it to themselves to expand their minds along with their spirits.

The Matas spent a significant amount of their time and money enjoying a ride

across the country. Not to mention, their two cats did not have to experience a ride in the luggage compartment of an airplane. McDorman points out that everyone should have the right to do as they please, especially if it hurts no one.

By reading the feature about the couple on Yahoo! News, it is easy to tell that people viewed this move as amusing and out of the ordinary. The Matas are a great example to all people. Who cares what other people will think or the fact that it costs a bit extra? In the end, happiness is what matters.

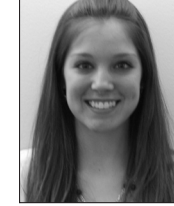
When I think back on my life, I don't remember the reasons I was stressed and run down. What I do remember are the moments that I let go and ignored the rules for a few days. It feels good to escape reality and treat yourself to something out of the ordinary. We are all programmed to get to where we are going, not to enjoy the ride. Don't look back on your life and wish that you had given in and enjoyed the ride.

Michelle Anderson is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Tyler. Her column appears Fridays.

Animal transplants positive medical advance

A professor at the University of Nevada spent seven years and about \$10 million perfecting a technique that creates what scientists

COMMENTARY



Marissa Warms

have called a chimera, an animal that is 15 percent human and 85 percent sheep, according to the Associated Press. These animals are predicted to be used for their organs. At some point in the future, scientists say chimera organs will be so close to humans that they will be able to save an incredible amount of transplant patients.

This idea is difficult to embrace if stem-cell research is called immoral. The difference is that we are not playing chicken with a prospective human's life. This concept uses an animal, a God-given gift, to heal friends and family members.

The concept can be unnerving if we let it, but we have to understand that God gave us animals to use. The human race has bred and killed animals for centuries for the use of

their meat, skin, feathers and even bones.

Scientists are close to finding a way to use animal organs to save human lives.

Professor Esmail Zanjani, the main scientist from Nevada, has been injecting adult human cells into sheep fetus' for years. He has already created a sheep liver that is large enough in proportion to a human's liver.

If this proposal takes root in our society, a scientist or doctor would take cells from a transplant patient and create a flock of sheep, in case one or more does not produce a precise match.

The only ethical question that can be argued thoroughly is what the nation would do with all of the excess sheep that are not used for that particular patient's transplant. It is uncertain what the answer to that would be.

If we take Tylenol for our pain or if we are put under anesthesia before surgery, are we not taking God's role into our own hands? We are taking lives that normally would end and extending them in almost every surgery done.

If we, as a world, can take those steps and qualify them as works of a human within his or her rights from God, then there can be nothing wrong with taking an animal and using its organs to save a human life.

It is no different than raising cattle, chicken or pigs for slaughter. Without the excess of these animals, most people would not be fed and would starve.

There will always be the concern that silent viruses, that are harmless in animals, could be introduced into the human race.

"Many silent viruses could create a biological nightmare in humans," said Patrick Dixon, an international lecturer on biological trends. "Mutant animal viruses are a real threat, as we have seen with HIV."

We have to trust that scientists will do everything in their power to find all of the quirks in this market before ever allowing it to be tested on a human.

After all, this entire world revolves around new medication and new medical technologies to allow us as much time as possible with our loved ones.

This is just another medical step that can be easily compared with the practice of transplants themselves, taking someone else's organ and placing it in another person's body.

Only this time, patients may not have to wait on someone else's death, to give them life.

Marissa Warms is a junior advertising/public relations major from Irving. Her column appears Fridays.



SXC.HU

Dems' plan can't save Bush's Iraq disaster

With their plan to set a deadline for pulling our troops out of Iraq, Democrats in Congress are proving the wisdom of an old maxim: Nothing is so bad that it can't be made worse.

The war is a disaster and President Bush has been a lousy commander in chief, with the disgraceful treatment of wounded warriors the latest proof. The public is sick of the mess and wanted the war to end yesterday.

Voter disgust gave Democrats their midterm election victories. But now that they have power, Dems are stumped about how to turn anti-Bush slogans into policy. After weeks of fiddling around with various pieces of legislation and resolutions, their leaders have hit on something the party is rallying around.

Unfortunately, the solution they've settled on — binding legislation to pull all combat troops from Iraq by March 31, 2008 — is the worst one possible.

Think of the impact around the world. If you're the enemy, you know you've won — all you have to do is wait for us to ship out. If you're one of our sol-

diers, you're being told to keep risking your life, but, however it turns out, we're bringing you home on an arbitrary schedule. If you're an Iraqi civilian friendly to us, we're leaving you to the wolves.

This "solution" takes a bad situation and makes it worse.

Ultimately, the legislation would come to nothing because Bush has promised to veto it. No doubt that's partially why some Dems are hedging their bets. Sen. Hillary Clinton, who had advocated a cap on troops and opposed a deadline, said she now supports the new plan but insists it really isn't a deadline, despite what Majority Leader Harry Reid says.

"It's a goal, it's not a hard deadline, it's a goal," Clinton told The New York Times. "We're just trying to create some pressure on the president. That's the whole point here."

She better tell that to Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who want to pull the troops out by the end of this year. If Clinton votes for any deadline when the Senate bill comes up next week,

she'll be for it, no matter how she tortures the meaning of "is."

Surely she doesn't want to go down the road of "I voted for it, but I was really against it." A similar whopper about her 2002 vote supporting the invasion isn't exactly a best seller on the campaign trail.

Therein lies the Dems' dilemma, especially those with White House ambitions. The war is off the tracks, and Bush won't listen to reason. Troop requirements for his surge are growing beyond the promised 21,500 and our new commander says even more may be needed, and for a long time.

Even then, there is no guarantee Iraqis will choose reconciliation over slaughter or that their government will be more than a front for warlords.

All of which means there are no good answers in Iraq or at home. There are only bad ones, and worse ones. Then there is the worst of all — a fixed deadline for withdrawal.

Michael Goodwin is a columnist for the New York Daily News. This column was distributed by MCT.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, Amber Parcher's April 18 article, "Humans as Herbivores," rightly suggests that vegetarian eating is on the rise. And, as the number of vegetarians continues to grow, especially on today's college campuses, so too do the reasons for making the switch.

In addition to reducing our risk of heart disease and various cancers, a vegetarian diet also reduces animal suffering. With

virtually no laws to protect them, farmed animals are routinely treated in ways that would result in legal prosecution if those same abuses were inflicted upon dogs or cats. Egg-laying hens spend their lives overcrowded in barren wire battery cages, barely able to even move. And there is the standard practice to castrate piglets and calves without any form of pain relief. Spring is the perfect

time to aim for a healthier and more humane diet — and finding delicious, animal-friendly options in grocery stores and restaurants everywhere has never been easier. For a free vegetarian starter guide, visit TryVeg.com.

Sincerely, Erica Meier Executive Director Compassion Over Killing P.O. Box 9773 Washington, DC 20016 www.cok.net

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Gonzales says attorneys were fired for disparate reasons

By MARISA TAYLOR
McClatchy Newspapers

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on Thursday stood by the decision to fire eight U.S. attorneys, even though Justice Department documents and congressional testimony raised questions about whether he had legitimate reasons to fire them.

Gonzales said he continues to believe "nothing improper occurred," but his department's explanations for the firings keep shifting. Initially, officials said the prosecutors were fired for "performance-related" reasons, but they later conceded that in some cases the reasons may have been related to policy differences. Critics have contended that the prosecutors may have been fired for failing to investigate Democrats or

for pursuing corruption cases against Republicans.

Here are Gonzales' latest explanations for the firings and the criticism raised by Congress and several of the prosecutors.

David Iglesias of New Mexico: Gonzales said he'd heard complaints from administration officials, including presidential adviser Karl Rove, and from Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., about Iglesias' performance since 2005. Domenici claimed Iglesias "was in over his head," Gonzales said.

Gonzales wasn't specific about the problems with Iglesias' performance, other than to say that Iglesias wasn't dedicating enough resources to prosecuting public corruption. Gonzales said Rove had complained about Iglesias' handling of voter fraud cases and

said Iglesias was put on the list to be fired either shortly before the 2006 congressional elections or shortly after.

Iglesias has said he believes he was fired for declining to go after weak voter fraud cases and for refusing to be pressured by Domenici and Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., into speeding up an indictment against Democrats before the congressional elections.

According to internal Justice Department documents, Iglesias had been recognized for his handling of voter fraud and had received a positive job evaluation before he was fired.

Carol Lam of San Diego: Gonzales said Lam was asked to resign mainly because of her handling of immigration cases.

Although he said Lam had "served with distinction in a lot of other areas," Gonzales said he couldn't ignore what other Justice Department officials considered to be problems with her office's immigration prosecutions.

Gonzales said Lam was "acutely aware of the concerns," but Lam has said she was never told of them.

Justice Department officials appear to contradict themselves in e-mails released to Congress. In one e-mail, an official asked whether Lam had been "woodshedded" on immigration. In other e-mails, officials defended Lam's handling of immigration and praised her office for increasing prosecutions.

Democrats have questioned whether the real reason for Lam's firing was her prosecutions of a high-ranking CIA official and of former Republican Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham on corruption charges.

Daniel Bogden of Nevada: Gonzales called the decision to fire Bogden "the closest call," but he added that there were concerns about Bogden's commitment to pursuing obscenity cases and his "level of energy."

Bogden has denied that he was reticent to pursue obscenity cases.

Documents show that Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty had been "skittish" about firing Bogden because he feared Bogden might have trouble finding a job after a long career as a prosecutor.

Kyle Sampson, Gonzales' former chief of staff, told Congress privately that McNulty was reassured in a 90-second meeting that Bogden wasn't married, according to local media reports.

Gonzales said he regretted not telling Bogden personally of the reasons, but "at the end of the day, we felt it was the right decision."

Paul Charlton of Arizona: Gonzales said Charlton had fallen out of favor for trying to get a decision on a capital murder case reconsidered and for pushing the FBI to record interviews with defendants "without consideration" of the FBI's opposition.

E-mails released to Congress, however, have indicated that some Justice Department officials had given Charlton a tentative go-ahead to pursue the idea. The documents also appear to show that officials were attempting to come up with an explanation for firing him — after the decision had been made.

Margaret Chiara of the Western

District of Michigan: Gonzales said she was fired for "poor management issues" and "loss of confidence by career individuals."

He added: "It was a question simply of someone not having total control of the office."

In e-mails to Justice Department officials after she was asked to step down, Chiara questioned whether her ouster was connected to the 2006 congressional election. She also complained in Feb. 1, 2007, e-mail to McNulty that "everyone who knows about my required resignation ... is astonished that I am being asked to leave," and she raised questions about the performance explanation.

John McKay, Western District of Washington: McKay was asked to resign because there were "serious concerns about his judgment" in pushing for information-sharing among federal agencies, even after he knew that certain Justice Department officials disapproved of his lobbying for it, Gonzales said.

McKay has said he believes he may have been targeted because he declined to file charges in a voter fraud case against Democrats after a tight governor's race in Washington state.

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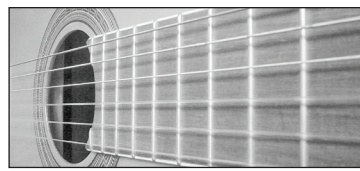
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Local band to perform service in Uganda

By MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE
Staff Reporter

Here's something you don't hear everyday. A local Fort Worth band, describing itself as the baby of U2 and Tom Petty, will be going to Uganda this summer to do humanitarian work.

Guitarist Josh Jenkins, 21, and lead vocalist and guitarist Jamey Ice, 22, both for Green River Ordinance, said their trip will start in Kenya building wells with the humanitarian group Blood:Water Mission.

After building wells in Kenya, GRO plans to go to Uganda for three weeks to help in any humanitarian work they can.

Paul Steele, manager to GRO, said they are official artists for Invisible Children and have done eight concerts so far raising money for IC.

Jenkins said seeing the Invisible Children film was what prompted them to want to help.

"After watching the Invisible Children video we were left asking, what can we do?" Jenkins said.

"We've always wanted to play music but we didn't want that to be it," Jenkins said. "We want to stand for something, we want this to be kind of our ministry."

Jenkins, looking like a cross between Shaggy and Chris Martin of Coldplay, with his long hair and green shirt, said he knows the trip will be different from what they have become accustomed to living in the United States.

"We know it's going to be different," Jenkins said. "We're five white guys from Texas, so doing a project like this will put our perspectives into place, and we will learn a whole lot at the same time," Jenkins said.

Ice said he wants their music to go beyond just the band and leave a larger impact on the culture.

"We don't want it to terminate on ourselves," Ice said. "We've been given such an opportunity to help and we want to use it to be voice among many. A lot of people are talented, helping in whichever they can," he said.

Jenkins chimed in saying that their talent is music and it would be selfish for them to simply play music.

Ice, jittering in his chair, getting excited thinking about going to Uganda, is a former TCU student and a former

member of a co-ed fraternity aptly named Frarority.

"I'm ready to get my world rocked," he said with a smile.

Ice is no stranger to humanitarian work. He has gone to Central America on mission trips, including Guatemala, Belize and Honduras.

"You go over there and you see people happy with so much less than what we have here. We have so much to gain," he said.

Antoine Scott, a senior biology major, said he appreciated how GRO are taking the extra step to make a difference outside their community.

"Don't get me wrong, they are a band, but I feel they are striving for much more," he said. "I feel they are using their talents to be more than just a band but a unified group of people trying to do their part and make a difference — true agents of change aware and responsive," Scott said.

Steele said both he and the band do not want to limit their work to Uganda solely.

"I've worked a lot with Blood:Water Mission before," Steele said. "They have a campaign to build 1,000 wells in Africa. We want to go wherever we can get our hands dirty."

Steele will be accompanying GRO on the trip and said he and GRO understand the importance of this trip and Africa is worth supporting.

Despite humanitarian work and International Children being popular in the news, Steele said he does not want their intentions to be seen as profiting on this popularity. He said they want to go wherever people need help and help as many people as they can within in a months time.

Jenkins reiterated the same concern of the trip being seen as just jumping on the bandwagon.

Steele doesn't know of any other bands doing the same type of trip. He said several local bands are doing charity concerts but GRO is the only band he said is going to Africa to aid in humanitarian work.

"The whole indy-scene is picking up on Africa," Steele said.

Steele said they will travel anywhere that is within a days' travel around Uganda.

Neither the funding nor the locations of the trip have been finalized yet. Steele said the details of the trip would be finalized within the next two weeks.



Adam Brody stars as Carter Webb in Warner Independent Pictures' new movie "In the Land of Women," a not-so-chick-flick film about dating.

THE LAND OF BRODY

The former 'O.C.' star tells the Skiff he brings his identity to every role

By BAILEY SHIFFLER
Staff Reporter

Though the sun may have set on "The O.C.," Adam Brody does not seem sad about waving goodbye to his days at Newport High. Rather, Brody appears content in his new role jetting across the country on a press tour to promote his new movie, "In the Land of Women."

Brody sat on a large ottoman in a suite at the W Hotel in Dallas, pulling one leg up to his chest as he compared his role as Carter Webb, the lead character of "In the Land of Women," to Seth Cohen, his four-year character on the hit FOX TV show, "The OC."

"The character (Webb) is naturally different in that he is a bit older; a bit more mature and he certainly doesn't talk nearly as much," Brody said.

Viewers have criticized Brody, saying Webb is essentially

the same character as Cohen and that Brody brought many of Cohen's mannerisms to his new role.

"If I did, it was only because I feel like I bring a lot of myself, ideally, to everything I do," Brody said. "I wouldn't say (the mannerisms) are Seth's so much as they are mine."

And Brody does have a lot in common with his characters. Dressed in pinstriped slacks, Converse sneakers, a black zip-up hoodie and a gray knit cap pulled over his long curly hair, Brody may as well been fresh off the set of "The O.C."

About 10 minutes into the interview, John Kasdan, writer and director of "In the Land of Women," entered the room and immediately teamed up with Brody, cracking jokes about Brody's lack of hairstyle for the day.

The two explained how

they had become friends while filming the movie. Because the movie was slightly autobiographical, Kasdan was able to help Brody throughout filming by supplying insights into Webb's character, Brody said.

Kasdan said Webb was a difficult character to cast and that after meeting hundreds of actors he couldn't find what he was looking for, which was "not to put too fine of a point on it: John Cusack, Matthew Broderick and Hugh Grant rolled into one guy."

Kasdan said they finally decided to postpone shooting to open the role to actors who were on TV shows and wouldn't be available for a few months.

"Adam was the first one I met," Kasdan said. "We instantly had a rapport; we instantly knew that we were going to make the mov-

ie together — he was that guy to me. I cancelled all the rest of the meetings, and we shut down the movie. And we started it up again eight months later."

Brody said he likes to think he had traits in common with Webb, explaining that he feels he is compassionate, a good listener and a romantic.

"Not to mention he's ripped," Brody joked.

Kasdan joined in saying it was written into the script. "Enter Carter Webb: built."

So, though "The O.C." aired its final episode in March, Brody said he was ready to move on. He said he hopes to continue in film if possible.

"It's up to me but only to a certain extent," Brody said. "So I'll try and do some more films. I enjoy acting, and I really enjoy movies so I'll try to continue to be a part of it."



Fort Worth band Green River Ordinance, (from left) Denton Hunker, Jamey Ice, Josh Jenkins, Joshua Wilkerson and Geoff Ice, will be spending a month in Uganda doing humanitarian work this summer.

Getting Ready for the Weekend

FRIDAY

- Check out Adam Brody in his new movie "In the Land of Women," opening in theaters today.
- Also opening today is the thriller "Vacancy," with Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson.

SATURDAY

- The 2007 Dallas International Guitar Festival runs every night this weekend. Check out guitarshow.com for more information.
- Visit the Noble Planetarium for "Lone Star Skies," running up to May 24 at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

SUNDAY

- For a way to wind down the weekend, visit the club 6th Street Live for free jazz music from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

'In the Land of Women' not average chick flick

By BAILEY SHIFFLER
Staff Reporter

"In the Land of Women" is a melodramatic coming-of-age film that shies away from the chick flick genre as it examines relationships of all sorts.

Though the previews may be misleading — it is not simply a love story between Adam Brody ("The O.C.") and Kristen Stewart ("Fierce People") — viewers may be pleasantly surprised at the level of depth reached in what may appear to be a shallow movie.

The film centers on Carter Webb (Brody), an aspiring writer whose life revolves around being in love. After another heartbreaking strike-out with Hollywood actress Sophia (Elena Anaya, "Van Helsing"), Webb decides to pack up and head to Michigan to stay

with his ailing grandmother and work on the novel he has always wanted to write. Living in the suburbs, Webb befriends the neighbors across the street, getting to know each one of the women, and learning something about himself from each one.

Though Brody may play

a character similar to his TV alias, Seth Cohen, he shines in a role that allows for quirky one-liners and the sarcastic humor that he has mastered. Meg Ryan ("Kate and Leopold"), playing the supporting role of the mother across the street, brilliantly portrays a struggling wife and mother who

feels unfulfilled with her plight. Stewart climbs the ranks in this film playing a tragic teen who needs direction in her high school life and at home.

Overall, "In the Land of Women," written and directed by John Kasdan, offers a bit of a dark twist to a traditional romantic comedy.

The film is very character driven and each actor is able to break free of what may have been a stereotypical role (the troubled teen, the ailing grandmother, the heartbroken nerd) and make it his or her own. Though chick-flick excited fans should be warned that the film is not what it seems to be from previews, others may be surprised from its unpredictable yet insightful look on relationships.



Warner Independent Pictures new movie, "In the Land of Women," stars Kristen Stewart as Lucy Hardwicke, Adam Brody as Carter Webb, and Makenzie Vega as Paige Hardwicke.

★★★★

Build-A-Bear founder discusses business appeal at Neeley breakfast

By LISA FALCONE
Staff Reporter

There might not be anyone having as much fun as Maxine Clark.

Clark, the founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop, spoke at a breakfast Thursday morning for the Neeley Tandy Executive Speaker Series.

"The more you love what you do and do what you love, the more successful you will be," Clark said. And her story confirms it.

She said Build-A-Bear Workshop is a "theme park within a mall," a store where children ages 3 to 93 create their own custom bears and other plush animals.

Customers choose unstuffed animals and with the help of the Master Bear Builder, white fluff is blown into the toys to fill them to their desire.

Each child is given a heart, and told to "Rub it, kiss it, and make a wish" before it is inserted and the last seam is stitched.

"No two animals are ever alike, no two wishes are ever the same. That's the same way we look at our guests, each one is unique, each one

is special and each one is valued," Clark said. "At Build-A-Bear, our guests are the heart of our business. They inspire us, they challenge us, and they make us smile."

After their companion is put together, the customer names their animals and provides valuable customer data for Build-A-Bear including name, address, age and gender.

"While our target is the 10-year-old girl, it may surprise you to know that almost 30 percent of our guests are boys, and 20 percent are over 14 years of age," Clark said.

Build-A-Bear operates 271 retail stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom and has sold more than 50 million bears. Primarily located in shopping malls, Build-A-Bear provides an experience of interactive retail.

Total revenues for 2006 were \$437 million, and their net income was \$29 million.

"(The profits are) proving fun does generate profit," Clark said. "Of course, we are a business so we focus on the bottom line of build-

ing a successful brand."

Prior to founding Build-A-Bear in St. Louis in 1997, Clark was the president of Payless ShoeSource.

"I left corporate America on a mission to bring back the fun to retailing, and to give back to the industry that had been so good me," she said. "I was looking to recreate the excitement and the magic that I felt as a child when I went shopping. I wanted to take the concept of children's retailing a step beyond where it was and turn it into experience retailing."

Clark said the idea for Build-A-Bear surfaced while

she was shopping for Beanie Babies with her friend's daughter, a 10-year-old girl named Katie.

"We couldn't find what we were looking for, and she looked at one of the ones that was left on the shelf and said, 'These are so easy, we could make these,'" Clark said.

Katie meant it in the literal sense, but Clark said she heard something much bigger.

"We sat down in my office and started thinking what the bears would look like and what they would be named," Clark said. "About a week lat-

er, Katie called me on the phone and said, 'We can't name the bears. I wouldn't want anybody to name my bear George for me.'"

We decided to make the process of naming your bear part of the experience at Build-A-Bear Workshop," Clark said.

By themselves, the stuffed animals cost \$10 to \$25. But, "Bear Boutiques," throughout each store, which offer clothing and other bear accessories including t-shirts, jerseys, princess dresses and golf bags, can cost anywhere from \$2 to \$15.

"We sell the brand experience," Clark said. "That means we sell not only the product but the fun of making your own stuffed animal. Each experience our guests have is unique, so they come back to our store again and again, and they share their experience with their friends."

Clark credits children for making her company a success.

"Everyday I listen to what young children have to say," she said. "Kids are worth listening to and can bring you tremendous ideas and thinking outside the box in the most purest sense."

Joshua Prather, 10, is a big fan of Build-A-Bear. He brought his reindeer named Rudolph to breakfast, and he has a dog named Penelope.

"Every time my grandparents take me, we get a lot of stuff for them," he said. "My

favorite part is stuffing the heart in."

And what was Prather's favorite part of Clark's lecture?

"Sometimes kids inspire parents." He left with a new addition to his Build-A-Bear family, a bear clad in TCU-wear appropriately named "Steve."

Joshua's father, Eric Prather, in Neeley External Relations, said he is sure his son will return to Build-A-Bear.

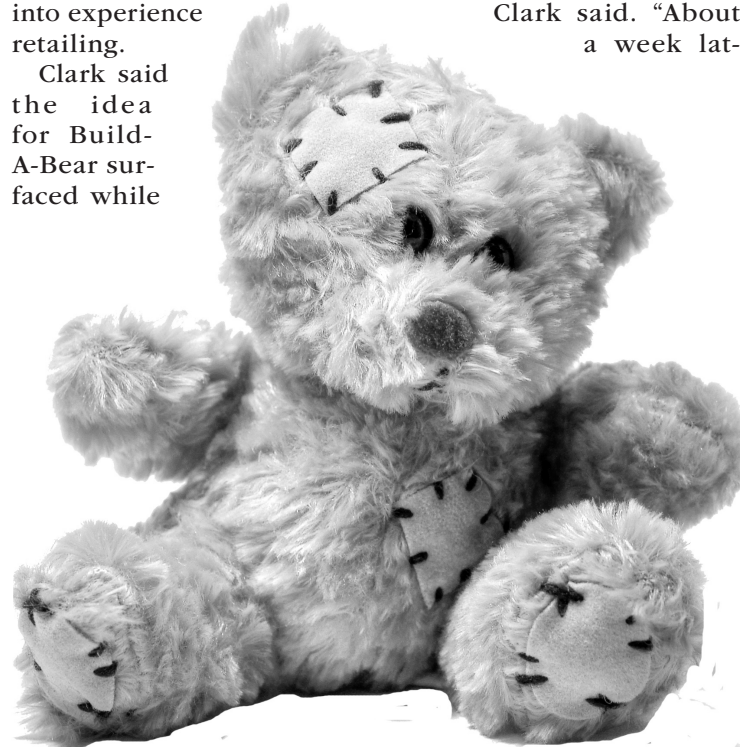
"He just loves animals, real and stuffed," Eric Prather said. "He likes to take care of them and protect them."

This was Clark's first visit to TCU, and she said she was impressed with what she saw.

"Most of the people are so incredibly welcoming, and I'm so impressed with the entrepreneurial program," Clark said. "I was 48 years old when I started my business, and some of these kids were 12 when they started their business, and I am just wowed by that. I'm so glad its being nurtured in a place like TCU."

Clark had been attached to her own bear, "Teddy," when she lost him as a young child. Her loss helped her get in touch with her inner child and the connection she had to her bear.

"If we left things to kids and stuffed animals, there would be no question there would be a world at peace," Clark said. "Because kids and stuffed animals all know that we are made of the same kind of stuffing."



SXC.HU

Don't Procrastinate

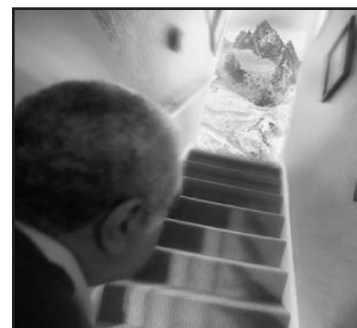
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***Fracture (DLP) - R (Fri-Thurs)** 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15

***In the Land of Women (DLP) - PG13 (Fri-Thurs)** 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:55, 10:25

***Perfect Stranger (DLP) - R (Fri-Sun)** 12:50, 5:15, 8:10, 10:50 (Mon-Thurs) 12:45, 4:05, 7:25, 10:10

***Redline (DLP) - PG-13 (Fri-Thurs)** 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

***Vacancy (DLP) - R (Fri-Sun)** 1:00, 3:15, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45 (Mon-Thurs) 1:00, 3:15, 5:40, 8:15

***The Reaping - R (Fri-Sun)** 12:35, 3:10, 5:35, 8:20, 10:55 (Mon-Thurs) 12:35, 3:10, 5:35, 8:20, 10:55

300 - R (Fri-Thurs) 1:30, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20

Are We Done Yet (DLP) - PG (Fri-Thurs) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:50

Blades of Glory (DLP) - PG (Fri-Thurs) 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:05

Firehouse Dog (DLP) - PG (Fri-Thurs) 1:10

Grindhouse - R (Fri-Sun) 12:40

Meet the Robinsons 3D - PG (Fri-Thurs) 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:00

Shooter - R (Fri-Thurs) 1:05, 4:25, 8:30

Wild Hogs - PG13 (Fri-Sun) 4:40, 7:10, 9:45 (Mon-Thurs) 12:40, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45

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TODAY IN HISTORY
1999: Two teenage gunmen kill 13 people in a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., south of Denver.

WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

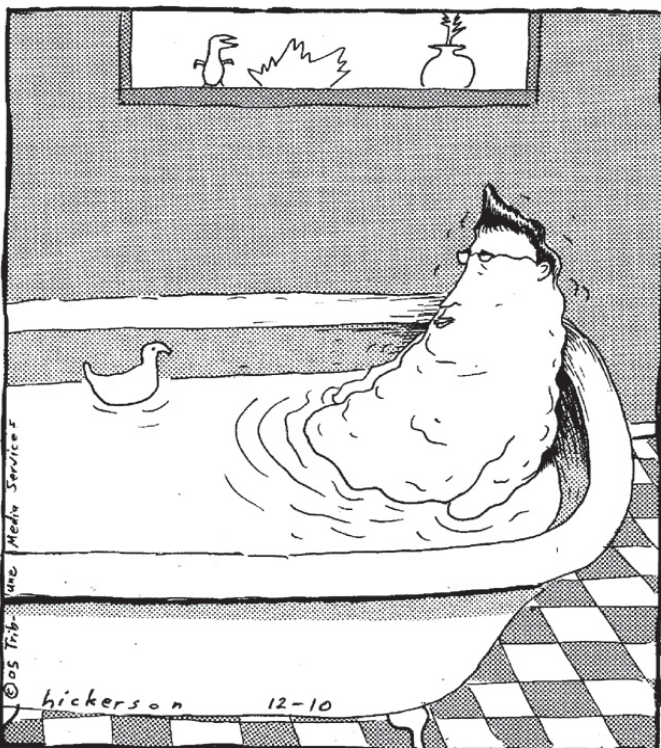
Q: Why did the girl run outside with her purse open?
A: She heard there was going to be some change in the weather.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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5				3	6	2
	2			6		
	8		5			
		4		8		6
	6	7			4	1
	1		4		8	
				1		5
				9		8
6		9	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 Tuesday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Thursday's Solutions

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

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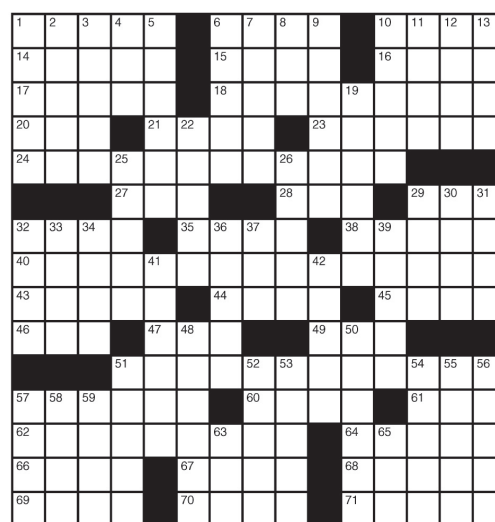
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ACROSS

- 1 Sword stroke
- 6 Country mail rtes.
- 10 Tramps
- 14 Musical beat
- 15 Carolina university
- 16 Restaurant acronym
- 17 Moroccan capital
- 18 Golf dream
- 20 Put into service
- 21 "Charles in Charge" star
- 23 Yeah!
- 24 Cause of an out
- 27 Nutrition label fig.
- 28 Mod. Bible
- 29 Shril bark
- 32 Rights grp.
- 35 "Design on a Dime" network
- 38 Bring out
- 40 Long-running game show
- 43 Soup sample
- 44 Big star at night
- 45 "The Simpsons" tavern
- 46 Decade divs.
- 47 Poker bullet
- 49 Grant-giving org.
- 51 Suspenseful endings
- 57 Sense
- 60 Cooking fat
- 61 Fluffy scarf brand
- 62 Long-time game show host
- 64 Poetic lament
- 66 Ultimatum word
- 67 "Dies" _____
- 68 Buenos _____
- 69 Spinning toys
- 70 Actress Peggy
- 71 Stylishly out-of-date

DOWN

- 1 Proud step
- 2 Animal tether
- 3 Fossil resin
- 4 Whirlpool tub



By John Halverson Viroqua, WI

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	F	T	B	E	T	A	P	H	O	T	O
I	C	O	N	A	M	I	N	R	E	C	A	P
F	O	O	T	P	R	I	N	T	S	O	N	T
E	N	D	A	R	R	E	S	T	N	E	O	N
U	R	I	E	L	A	T	E	S				
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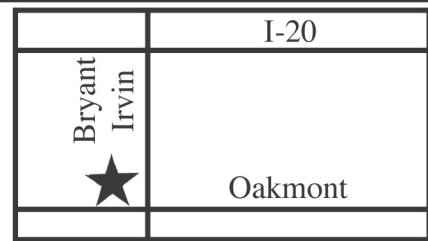
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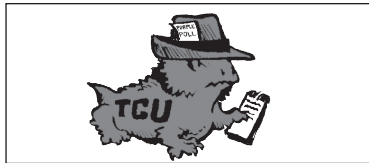
Religion Directory

<p>Baptist</p> <p>Agape Baptist Church 4833 Selkirk Drive Ft. Worth, TX 76109. www.agapebaptist.org. Sunday services 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ</p> <p>Spend your Sunday mornings wisely! Join in worship with an energetic group of TCU Christians. Be part of Frogs for Christ at Southside Church of Christ (2101 Hemphill St.) 9:30 a.m. worship, 11 a.m. college class. www.frogsforchrist.org</p>	<p>Episcopal</p> <p>Trinity Episcopal Church A place of prayer for all people - just across the street from the TCU athletic fields. Services: 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Come and join us!</p>
<p>Bible Church</p> <p>Trinity Chapel Bible Church Sundays 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. TCBC college 11 a.m. worship, discussion & all-around great time! Meet at Gladney Center (6300 John Ryan Dr. 76132). Check out www.tbccollege.com or email tbcc@trinitychapelbc.org</p>	<p>Disciples of Christ</p> <p>University Church of Christ 2701 W. Berry (817) 332.1118 Temporary Location: Activity Center. Sunday classes for adults, students with coffee, eats @ 9:30 a.m. Worship service @ 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m. 4 blocks east of TCU on W. Berry</p>	<p>Presbyterian</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church of Ft Worth. TCU Students are always welcome at First Presbyterian church! Join us at 1000 Penn St. for worship, education, fellowship, and mission. Be sure to visit our website at www.fpcfww.org</p>
<p>Catholic</p> <p>Holy Family Catholic Church 6150 Pershing Ave. 817-737-6768. Weekend masses Saturday 5 p.m. Sunday 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 12 noon.</p>	<p>Methodist</p> <p>Arborlawn United Methodist Church. www.arborlawnumc.org 5001 Briarhaven Rd., Fort Worth 76109. 817.731.0701. Sunday services - Traditional: 8:45 and 11:00 - InSearch Contemporary: 11:11 - Sunday School: 9:45.</p>	<p>Non-denominational</p> <p>Hopeworks Fellowship www.hopeworks.us Nondenominational Christ-centered contemporary service. Everyone welcome! 10:30 a.m. service. Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Indoor Theatre.</p>

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BATTER UP

Find out if the Horned Frogs baseball team can keep the home winning streak alive.
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ROBYN SHEPHEARD / Staff Photographer
Freshman Leslie Starnes clears the bar while pole vaulting at the first Horned Frog Invitational, March 24. TCU will host the eighth annual TCU Invitational Saturday.

TAKING FLIGHT

Track team aims to do well during dedication ceremony

By ALEX ZOBEL
Staff Reporter

The Flying Frogs will host the eighth annual TCU Invitational at the Lowden Track and Field Complex at 10 a.m. Saturday.

It will be the team's second home meet for TCU and there will be a dedication ceremony for the unveiling of TCU's new track scoreboard at 11:45 a.m.

The scoreboard, located at the northwest end of the track, is still under construction but is on track to be completed by Saturday morning.

Head Coach Darryl Anderson said it is a top-of-the-line scoreboard with video capabilities.

Teams competing against the Flying Frogs on Saturday include the University of Central Arkansas Bears, the Col-

orado University Buffaloes, the University of North Texas Mean Green, the Oklahoma State University Cowboys, the SMU Mustangs, the Texas Tech University Red Raiders and the University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks.

Anderson said that the toughest competition will be Texas Tech, the No. 12 ranked team in the country, according to Trackshark.com.

"Texas Tech is always fun," Anderson said. "They're without question one of the best teams in the country."

Anderson said he is excited for what is supposed to be good weather on Saturday.

In the past two meets the Flying Frogs ran into problematic weather conditions causing them to pull out of the Texas Relays and events

at the North Texas Classic.

Despite unfavorable weather TCU gave a solid performance at the North Texas Classic last weekend, earning first-place finishes in the women's 400 meters, women's 4x100 relay and men's shot put.

Senior Sprinter Jamee Jones said the team should do well this weekend.

"We've been making a lot of progress this year," Jones said. "Everyone is doing good. The freshmen are coming along, making good contributions, and the seniors are ready to go out with a bang."

Anderson said the main goal for Saturday's meet is to get more regional qualifying marks.

"We need to get our 4X4(hundred) team regionally qualified," Anderson said. "We

also have some people that are coming back from injuries that are going to get a chance to qualify."

He said while there are specific players that he would like to see qualify what he is looking for is a complete team effort.

"At the end of the day what matters is how we did from a team standpoint," Anderson said. "Conference is right around the corner, and we've got to get our game plan together."

Junior sprinter Raymond Jones said the team has been resting and fine tuning in certain events to prepare for Saturday.

"We've been taking it easy and getting our relays in check," Jones said. "Hopefully we can come out here and represent real nice."

Tragic-stricken nation finds solace through baseball

By MARCUS MURPHREE
Sports Editor

Tragedy struck Virginia Tech University this past week. The weight of the

COMMENTARY
situation tore at the country's heartstrings this week as families and distant friends mourned for those

gunned down, Monday. Students donned shirts of maroon and gold and anxiously awaited the latest breaking coverage in

the investigations. Families called loved ones back east, and, yet again, baseball became the rock for a nation in a time of crisis.

Perhaps I am using my editorial power to brag about baseball, but, in the past week, attention has gone from the Jackie Robinson celebrations on Sunday to a time of bowed heads in stadiums nationwide out of respect to those in the VT Massacre.

Leading the way were members of the Washington Nationals who wore Virginia Tech hats with pride Tuesday night. Though not

all the hats were matching, the team members were on the field helping to unify a university and nation that has been pressed to find a reason to smile this week.

In the shadow of Timothy McVeigh and the Oklahoma City bombings and today's eighth anniversary of the Columbine shooting, the carnage of Blacksburg, Va., opened wounds of a nation trying to bury these memories.

Baseball has stood strong through two world wars, September 11 and now this. The game has not stopped,

and it gives the country a reason to smile.

Some ballplayers were hit close to home with the tragedy, such as David Wright, third baseman for the New York Mets. His brother is an engineering major at Virginia Tech. Luckily, Stephen Wright was alive, but 33 other students and faculty members were not so fortunate.

Baseball is standing strong.

Heads bowed in silence, caps showing Hokie pride and one sport working to keep a nation's heart aglow during dark times.

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Disturbia PG13- 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, Midnight Vacancy R- 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:00, 9:30, Midnight Perfect Stranger R- 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50 Blades of Glory PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00 Meet the Robinsons G- 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25 Are We Done Yet PG- 12:00, 2:05, 4:15, 6:30 Grindhouse R- 8:45	Disturbia PG13- 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, Midnight Vacancy R- 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:00, 9:30, Midnight Perfect Stranger R- 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50 Blades of Glory PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00 Meet the Robinsons G- 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25 Are We Done Yet PG- 12:00, 2:05, 4:15, 6:30 Grindhouse R- 8:45
Sunday, April 22 - Thursday, April 26	
Disturbia PG13- 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 Vacancy R- 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10, 8:10, 10:20 Perfect Stranger R- 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50 Blades of Glory PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00 Meet the Robinsons G- 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25 Are We Done Yet PG- 12:00, 2:05, 4:15, 6:30 Grindhouse R- 8:45	



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