

**NEWS**

A Fort Worth bond proposal might bring improvements to the TCU area.
TOMORROW

**OPINION**

Violent videos are becoming a dangerous trend.
PAGE 3

**SPORTS**

Former Lady Frog and TCU alumna Adrienne Ross journeys through professional training camp.
PAGE 8

TCU**DAILY SKIFF**

EST. 1902

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008**Vol. 105 Issue 108 www.dailyskiff.com**African author, child soldier to share story with students**By YUSI CHENG
Staff Reporter

Ishmael Beah had a different childhood. He learned how to use a gun when he was 13, like many child soldiers who are still forced to join battles in the jungles of Africa.

Beah, a human rights activist and best-selling author of

"A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," will speak today as part of an event sponsored by the TCU Center for Civic Literacy and the Amon G. Carter Foundation. The book was ranked as one of the top-10 nonfiction books of 2007 by Time Magazine.

Beah, a Sierra Leone native,

was forced to become a child soldier in his country's brutal civil war when he was 13. He was removed from the army by UNICEF and later adopted by an American storyteller in New York. He attended the United Nations International School in Manhattan and graduated with a degree in politics from

Oberlin College.

In a video clip from his Web site, Beah said he wrote the book because it is absolutely important that people understand how children are recruited in wars in Africa and other places around the world.

"When I first came to the United States, I was very

shocked that people don't know what is going in Sierra Leone," Beah said in the clip. "People don't even know where Sierra Leone is."

Karen Anisman, associate director of development and community outreach for the Center for Civic Literacy, said the center is bringing Beah

to campus because what is happening in Sierra Leone is a timely and heartbreaking issue.

According to a June 2007 Human Rights Watch document, thousands of children were recruited and used by all sides during Sierra Leone's

See **SOLDIER**, page 5

College works on proposing Ph.D programBy KRISTIN BUTLER
Staff Reporter

In response to calls for a communication-studies doctoral program throughout North Texas, the College of Communication is working to create a proposal for a program of its own.

Chris Sawyer, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Communication Studies, said there is a large number of people asking for a Ph.D. program in North Texas.

Sawyer said most people who want a doctorate already have jobs and families in the area and would have to relocate to where a communication-studies doctoral program is offered because there is not one in the area.

Two universities in Texas offer doctorates in communication: University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University, according to the National Communication Association Web site.

Sawyer said administrators wanted to wait until the new dean of the College of Communication was selected before proceeding too far into the planning process.

David Whillock, associate dean of the College of Communication, will be the new dean. He said the doctoral program is just a concept and idea for now and the college is not far along in the process.

Whillock said the department is talking to administrators and master's students to make sure the program is something they would utilize.

"We have to make sure we are being successful and accountable in our programs so we can build upon that," he said.

Whillock said the biggest challenge is finding the funds to integrate the program.

"These programs take time, and they

See **DOCTORATE**, page 2

GASSED OUT

Photos by ROBERT BEMBER / Staff Reporter

LEFT: Workers examine the ground where a construction accident caused a broken gas line Wednesday behind the Brown-Lupton Student Center. **RIGHT:** Employees at The Main sit outside the Student Center, which was evacuated, along with Reed Hall, because of the gas leak. An Atmos Energy official said contractors hit the gas line with a backhoe.

Gas leak causes Reed, Student Center evacuationsBy EMILY ALLEN
Staff Reporter

A broken gas line from a construction accident resulted in two separate evacuations from the Brown-Lupton Student Center and Reed Hall, and disrupted classes Wednesday.

Larry Markley, director of the Student Center, said he called the Physical Plant after staff members began to smell natural gas leaking into Suite 111 at the north end of

the building.

"They (Physical Plant) came over and said that we needed to evacuate," Markley said. "It wasn't in the building, but some of the gas was leaking into the building."

Rand LaVonn, public communications director for Atmos Energy, said contractors hit a buried gas line with a backhoe. Crews were called in to fix the broken line.

"Someone dug into an underground steel natural gas line and penetrated the steel, so

gas was escaping as a result of that action," LaVonn said. "Unfortunately, that happens more than we would like."

Students and faculty members were asked by TCU Police and other staff members to leave the buildings. The broken line was in the construction area between the Student Center, Jarvis Hall and Foster Hall.

TCU Police Lt. Ramiro Abad said the fire department determined there was no need

See **GAS**, page 5

If passed, certificate would offer practical international experienceBy BIBEK BHANDARI
Staff Reporter

The Undergraduate Council has approved the Certificate in International Studies program which, if it earns university approval, would give students an opportunity to further their study-abroad experience, said the director of the Center for International Studies.

Jane Kucko, director of the Center for International Studies, said the department decided on a certificate

instead of a minor because a certificate would have a more practical emphasis, whereas a minor has a more academic emphasis.

Tracy Williams, associate director for the Center for International Studies, said the certificate differs from a minor because it is co-curricular, which involves application of skills learned in class, and interdisciplinary, meaning required classes would come from different schools around campus.

"This certificate program recognizes a student's intensive investigation of international issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective," Williams said.

Williams said the certificate would start in the fall with the university's approval and would be made up of three components — knowledge, skills and application, and interactive perspectives.

The knowledge component would be made up of 13 credit

See **CERTIFICATE**, page 2

Operas rekindle old debateBy ELIZABETH SEHON
Staff Reporter

Rivalry and harmonious beauty brought two of the most famous classical composers together 232 years ago, and their operas will be performed this weekend on campus.

The School of Music will perform "Mozart versus Salieri" Friday and Saturday in Ed Landreth Auditorium, said Richard Estes, TCU opera studio director.

An opera, "Prima la musica, poi le parole," by Salieri and "The Impresario" by Mozart will be performed each day by a different cast of upperclassmen and a few graduate students with a full orchestra, said Corrie Donovan, a senior music major who will play Ingrid

Idol in "The Impresario."

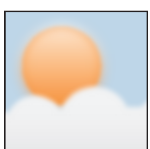
Estes has been working on the project since October and said he wanted to mimic what took place in Vienna in 1786, when Emperor Franz Joseph chose Mozart and Salieri to perform their operas on the same night competitively.

That night, Salieri's Italian opera was playing at one end of the room while Mozart's German singspiel played at the other.

"It was old Italian versus the new Vienna model," Estes said.

World War II veteran George Stephens will play "The Impresario." Before serving in Europe, Stephens attended TCU and came back to study after the war.

See **OPERA**, page 2

**WEATHER**

TODAY: Partly cloudy, 86/67

TOMORROW: Isolated storms, 81/57

SATURDAY: Partly cloudy, 78/59

PECULIAR FACT

ATLANTA — A bar owner uses a 300-pound robot marked "SECURITY" to patrol the streets near his bar.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Professor teaches green lifestyle, page 4

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SPORTS: Women's tennis to face Wyoming, page 8

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS@DAILYSKIFF.COM

CERTIFICATE

From page 1

hours: a one-credit hour pre-departure intercultural-seminar course, a mandatory study-abroad program and nine hours of any cultural and global-awareness classes the university offers or a major/minor in foreign language, Williams said.

Sharon Fairchild, chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, said all languages in the department — French, German, Italian and Japanese — would qualify toward getting the certificate.

The skills and application portion would help students apply their academic learning and study-abroad experience into a research project or activities, such as Model UN or the international

spring break program, Williams said.

The certificate program would require students to interact with the local community in a way that would demonstrate an international perspective or attitude. Students would be required to participate in the International Student Association, be a conversation partner to an international student or complete 40 hours of community service, Williams said.

The program would enable students to “formalize their real commitment to international studies and study abroad” by broadening their interest in international topics, Fairchild said.

International students would not be required to complete a study-abroad program because they are already studying in a country outside

of their own, Kucko said.

Williams said students with certificates would stand out to future employers.

“It will benefit them by giving them an incentive to take advantage of these different types of activities and designation or marker to show future employers that they have an international competency,” she said. “All jobs need students to know about the world, interact with different people and to understand how issues and problems have a global focus.”

Before deciding on the Certificate in International Studies, Williams said the department researched international-certificate programs and minors at other universities, such as Southern Methodist University, North Carolina State University and Tulane University. She said TCU’s program is different from those universities because it would focus on practical and interactive approaches to what students have learned in their classes.

DOCTORATE

From page 1

aren’t cheap either,” he said.

Bonnie Melhart, associate provost for Academic Affairs, said there are many different ways to get funding for doctoral programs. Other Ph.D. programs at TCU get funding from external financial supporters, such as grants, scholarships and fundraisers, she said.

Sawyer said communications studies would form a committee to determine what fundamental and specialized courses to offer.

Whillock said people working toward their doctorates would be able to do more scholarly research than with their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The doctorate students would also help teach with faculty in the classroom, he said.

“We want to have a world-class program at TCU with our teaching and research programs,” he said.

When accepting people into the program the college would look for people with instructional skills, interpersonal skills and social cognition, Sawyer said.

Most full-time Ph.D. programs include 60 hours or more beyond the master’s degree, Sawyer said. A full-time load is nine hours for a Ph.D., she said.

Sawyer said TCU would have to hire an unknown number of faculty members in special areas but said he believes most of the current faculty members are qualified to teach for a Ph.D.

The university currently offers doctorates in English, history, psychology, chemistry, physics-astronomy and educational science, Melhart said.

OPERA

From page 1

Later, he studied in New York at the American Theatre Wing. Stephens sang with the New York City Opera, the Boston Opera and was a soloist at Carnegie Hall in the performance of Bach’s Magnificat.

“This opera took a long time to piece

together and was difficult,” Donovan said. “But I’m doing what I love and sacrifices have to be made for something you love.”

Brian Smith, a TCU alumnus, said he vaguely understands the rivalry between the two composers but would like to see the opera.

“I think it would be fun to go and see how it was like back in Vienna.”

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go where there is no path and leave a trail.”*
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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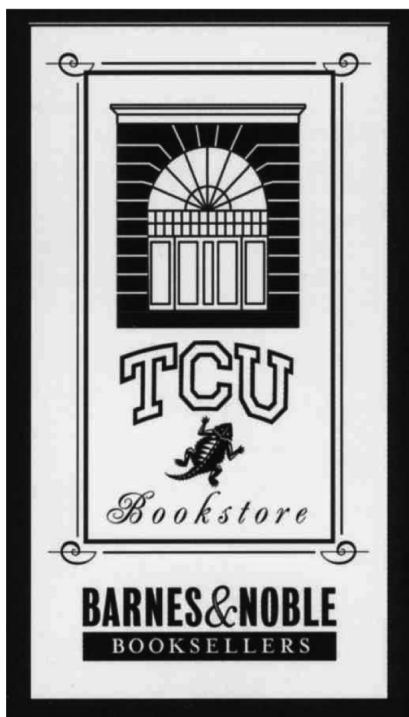
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THE SKIFF VIEW

Defending evolution right choice

Since the Scopes Monkey trial in the 1920s, debate and controversy has surrounded the argument of whether to teach creationism or evolution in the classroom.

More than 80 years later, the bickering continues between creationism and evolution as a Dallas-based group, the Institute for Creation Research, is trying to make a bid for a graduate-level creation science degree though online courses.

Scientists are in the right by objecting to this proposal. Charles Darwin's research regarding evolution and natural selection has been a topic of controversy for years, but the work was also a momentous discovery and his findings should not only be studied but appreciated.

The founder of the institute trying to undermine the work of scientists who support evolution, Henry M. Morris, claims there is science that supports a creationist environment.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will vote today regarding its stance on

allowing a master's degree in creation science from the institute.

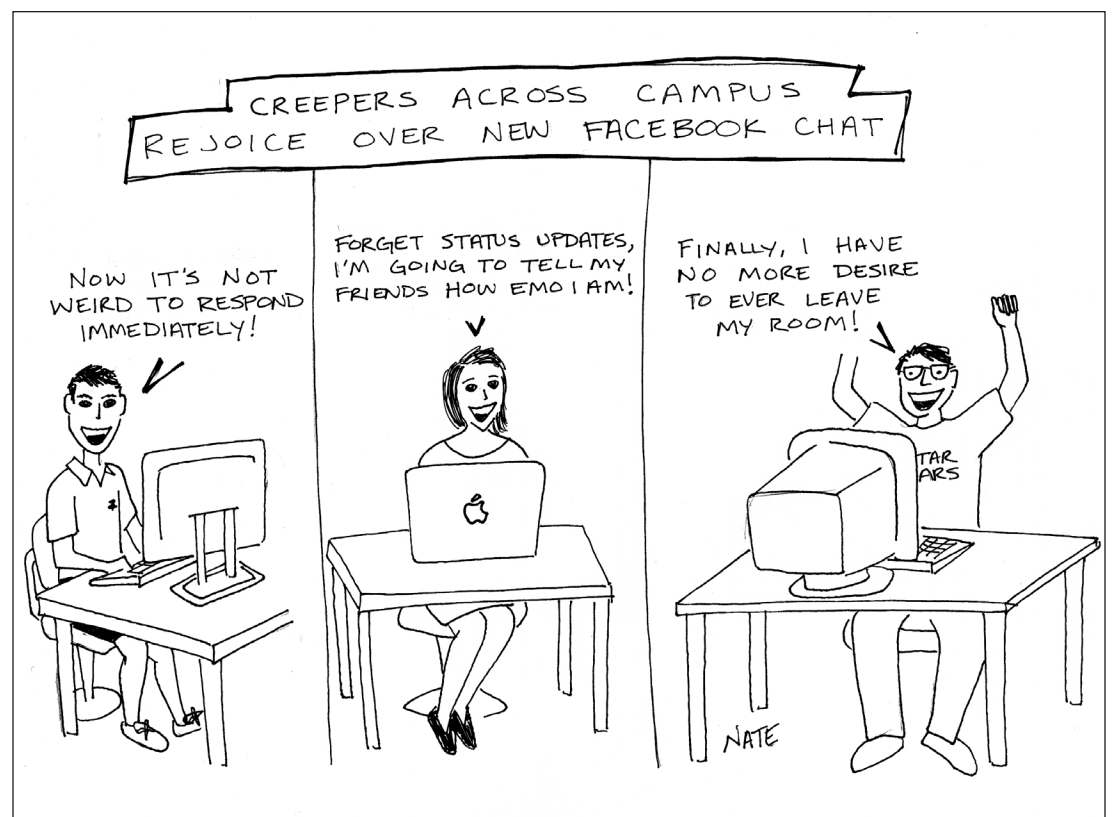
Although the institute's Web site claims its students "receive a rigorous and thorough education in the sciences," the Texas Commissioner of Higher Education, Raymund Paredes, feels that the Christian organization using the Bible as the foundation for its master's degree is not a solid enough basis for a different science program.

The higher education board should be commended for their actions to bring this issue to a vote instead of letting a group use its own agenda to decide what is a justified master's degree program.

Raymund Paredes sees the flaws in the Institute for Creation Research's plan. The cliché of separation of church and state should extend to higher education and his recommendation to stop the program is the decision that should be upheld.

Multimedia editor Marcus Murphree for the editorial board.

BY NATE ARNOLD



Nate Arnold is a junior marketing and e-business major from Edmond, Okla.

Internet teen fights need to be prevented

People can find a wide range of videos on Web sites, such as YouTube.

From choreographed wedding dances to the ranting of a woman over a divorce to the latest comedy bits, most of the videos are pretty harmless and entertaining.

However, some are not so funny. With the craze of becoming famous in the online "ce-Web-riety" world, people have resorted to outrageous stunts to try to get attention. But the most horrifying trend that has appeared recently is videos of girls beating up each other.

Last month, a video of eight Florida teenagers attacking another girl surfaced and generated millions of hits. On April 2, the six girls and two boys, who range in age from 14 to 18, were arrested and tried as adults on charges of battery and kidnapping.

The video made national headlines and brought attention to "girl fights" that are taped and aired on the Web as a way of revenge, as well as to give someone his or her 15 minutes of fame.

Another video showing an attack in Indiana popped up online Friday at Photobucket.com. The video is of a 12-year-old girl being beaten by another middle-school girl while others watch and laugh. Authorities believe the attack was inspired by the Florida video, according to an Associated Press article. The victim, who police said was lured to the parking lot where the attack happened, was treated at a hospital for injuries.

Is this what the thrill of becoming famous on the Internet has come down to? Girls beating up other girls for amusement?

Glorifying violence and providing an outlet for that violence to serve as entertainment will only cause children and teenagers to find even more shocking and dangerous ways to get attention.

The media and parents need to bring awareness of this problem before the trend continues to grow. Asking or pressuring sites like YouTube to immediately take down this kind of video would help prevent them from becoming so popular. Parents also need to start paying more attention to what their children are up to and what they are watching on the Internet.

Elizabeth Davidson is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Austin.

Kansas City church has right idea in its quest to stop complaining

The alarm blares too early, the test was harder than it should have been, there's no clean clothes, no food in the pantry and no one to go out with this weekend.

Sometimes life is just too much. Or sometimes, you feel like complaining about all the little things to anyone who will listen.

The bad things seem to overshadow the good, and before you know it, you have managed to pull everyone down into your pity party.

Someone is out to change that. The Rev. Will Bowen of Christ Church Unity in Kansas City, Mo., started preaching about complaining and challenged his congregation to give it up.

Give up complaining? The challenge is to go 21 days without grumbling and to wear a purple bracelet as a reminder. Start complaining, then

move the bracelet to your other wrist and start working toward those 21 days all over again.

The task may seem daunting, almost impossible. But imagine the effects it could have. Members of Bowen's congregation have talked about how happy and different they feel having broken the habit of complaining.

Simply focusing on the positive instead of the negative can make a huge difference, both on you and the people around you.

Bowen's challenge is sweeping the world. According to ABC News, Bowen's church has sent 5.3 million bracelets to people who have requested them. The goal is to send out 60 million bracelets worldwide, about 1 percent of the world population.

The challenge to go without complaining, however, has received criticism. Barbara Held, a psychology professor at Bowdoin College in Maine, thinks that to

stop complaining is not for everyone. She thinks some people just need to vent.

Everyone needs to vent about something, but it's all in how you do it.

What's important, and what Bowen emphasizes, is having a positive perspective.

Jillian Hutchison is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Omaha, Neb.

COMPLAINT DEPT.



SKC.HU

Women should seek balance between work, home lives

April 24 marks the 15th anniversary of Take Our Daughters to Work Day. The Ms. Foundation launched the program in 1993 to introduce young girls to the working world's possibilities for their future.

Women were already discovering educational and professional opportunities. By 1982 they had outstripped men in the number of bachelor's degrees earned annually; by 1986 the same was true for master's degrees. Today, women hold more than half of professionally related jobs, and 43 percent of management-related, business and finance jobs.

Meanwhile, on the personal side, women's marriage rate declined 25 percent between 1990 and 2005, while the number of unmarried cohabiting couples almost doubled. In 2004, 19 percent of women

ages 40-44 had no children, almost twice the proportion of childless women of the same age in 1976.

Why the discrepancy between these trends in women's personal and professional lives? It's not that young women aren't interested in marriage and motherhood: Nine out of 10 high-school girls say these goals are important to their future happiness.

Have feminist rally cries drowned out the voices of girls themselves? Has all the focus on expanding young women's educational and professional horizons obscured their path to the married life they dream of?

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how to become a rocket scientist (or a doctor, lawyer or engineer). These are well-marked — and now well-worn — paths for women. More educational and

vocational opportunities certainly offer many benefits to women. But when options increase, so does the complexity of navigating among them. Choosing well among competing good opportunities is one mark of a successful life — and a vital skill for young women, in particular, to learn.

So take your daughter to work. But take her out for ice cream afterward and talk about all the things she might like to be when she grows up. Veterinarian? Architect? Mom? Introduce her to the wide range of possibilities, but point out that some dreams come with conditions. It's not ideal to start trying to have children after 40, for example, and it's best for their welfare to bring them into the world within the security of marriage. Tell her that successful people must choose between good things at various seasons of life, and

help her develop criteria for thinking about the options she'll have.

As you talk about her day at work, note that the qualities of leadership on the job resemble the qualities she'll need to manage a home someday. The traits that would make her professionally successful would also make her a good wife and mother. Personal humility, ambition for the team, sacrifice for a mission larger than self, listening: This is what corporate managers hear from bestselling leadership gurus such as Jim Collins and Marshall Goldsmith. They're telling executives, essentially, that they'll succeed with a little less "me-me-me" and a little more of mom's old-fashioned selflessness.

Girls need more encouragement to develop this character of self-sacrifice and less empty "go-girl" enthusiasm that

breeds self-absorption. These competing instincts worked their way into a conversation of several young women I recently overheard at a coffee shop near Dartmouth College. A woman with a baby entered, and the four girls — presumably Dartmouth coeds — cooed loudly over the child. Afterward, the girls' conversation went something like this: "I want a baby, I want a baby now!" said one girl.

A second was less sure: "Babysitting for two days was the best form of birth control."

"I know, you don't get more than three hours of sleep at a time when you have a baby," said a third. "When my brother was a baby, I'd hear him cry at night and my mom would have to get up to feed him and then she wouldn't be able to get back to sleep."

Her audience sighed: Can you believe women actually

Editorial Board

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Science professor practices, teaches green living to pupils

By ANNA HODGES
Staff Reporter

While standing on a mountaintop surrounded by mountain peaks with no artificial light in view, Tony Burgess experienced a revelation. The environmental scientist still identifies this instant as the moment he found his passion for nature.

"Times like those keep me coming back for more," he says.

Tony Burgess, the self-identified "uber-dork" of TCU, is a nationally known naturalist — an expert in the study and research of nature.

His students, however, simply call him a friend.

"He sincerely cares about each one of his students," said Helen Byrd, a junior studio art and photography major.

As the head of TCU's Biodiversity Institute for Environmental Studies, Burgess is involved in field research that ranges

from bird-banding to fungus tutorials.

Decked Out

His students say his rough "mountain man" appearance easily distinguishes him from the typical TCU professor. As a professor who says he would rather be teaching hands-on at places, such as the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, Burgess is not likely to dress up for class. Instead, he lectures in his suspenders and hiking boots.

"It's as if he wants to be ready for the moment someone calls him to go hike through the woods," Byrd said. "He'd be ready."

Green All Over

Byrd said she laughs every time she sees Burgess driving to work.

"He drives this tiny, little green environmentally-friendly car," she said. "He's just the epitome

of the crazy, old environmental scientist."

Although his students tease him for his eccentric lifestyle, he says it just comes with the territory.

"I make no bones about it," he says. "What I study is a big part of my life."

While the popularity of the national movement to "go green" excites Burgess, he says it is important to remember the bigger picture.

"It is my hope that people will begin to make wiser choices regarding the coexistence between the two. It's too late to avoid change," Burgess says. "We must adapt to it."

Burgess says he helps his students develop practical ways to encourage daily interaction between humans and their environment. He says his ultimate goal is to instill his own appreciation of nature in his



Environmental Science professor Tony Burgess inspects flora near a lake behind Worth Hills. Burgess is a self-proclaimed "uber-dork" and a proponent of what he calls a "re-revolution," an environmentally conscious movement left over from the '60s and '70s.

students.

"He has helped us to understand that being environmentally conscious is not just for

"hippies," Byrd said. "He is teaching his students to appreciate our environment and its beauty while learning how to live in harmony with it and care for it."

Ellen Schwaller, a senior environmental science major, identifies Burgess as one of the facilitators of the current movement to "go green" in today's society. She said it's because of people like Burgess, who inspire others to live a simpler lifestyle, that the "green movement" is gaining support worldwide.

"I do believe that our society is once again finding a group of concerned and passionate young people seeking peace and healthy communities," she said. "It is just starting to bud."

Burgess still remembers the first Earth Day in 1972.

Hippie 'Re-revolution'

In his classes, Burgess talks about the concept of a "re-revolution," a current movement inspired by the hippies of the '60s and '70s, who are mentoring today's youth.

Burgess said movements go in cycles.

"It's neat to see the green movement come back after a 30-year hiatus," Burgess said. "Things are turning more liberal again — more green again."

Burgess said the movement is different this time because it is global in scope.

"This time around, aging hippies will be able to inform a little better," he said.

Burgess said the Clean Water Act, which aimed to clean up the nation's water supply, was a positive result of the initial movement. In the end, however, the movement did not accomplish what it set out to, he said.

"The flower child movement degenerated into being fashionable — that was the negative," he said.

A Student's Teacher

Burgess says although he enjoys being involved in the general environmental movement, his students are his first priority.

He said he tries to relate to his students on a personal level because he is eager for his students to develop their own appreciation of nature so that they will carry on and encourage the "green movement."

Students say Burgess knows his students inside and out, just like the plants he studies. He recognizes the naturalistic tendencies in his students and says his role as a professor is to teach his students to be more comfortable with their own skills.

Burgess says he knows a true naturalist when he sees one.

"A naturalist is someone who is comfortable with complexity, has a bright mind and an empathetic heart," he said. "A naturalist relates to nature emotionally and intellectually."

Burgess has helped train countless aspiring biologists and wildlife specialists. Students say his style of integrated field and lab teaching sets him apart from other professors.

"He is one of the most encouraging teachers I have ever had," Byrd said. "He is quick to recognize achievement, no matter how small."

Burgess says the best advice he gives his students is to follow their passion — a lesson he learned from his own mentors.

"Have faith that if you follow your passion, doors will open," he says.

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AUSTIN'S SXSW

SPSP

GAS

From page 1

to evacuate Foster Hall.

"After the Student Center was evacuated, the fire department was called immediately and they did a gas test to ensure that Foster Hall would be safe," Abad said.

Karla O'Donald, a Spanish instructor, evacuated from Reed Hall shortly before her noon class began. She and her students met outside in the Student Center courtyard for class, though O'Donald said not all students showed up.

"There's no time to waste," O'Donald said. "We're getting to the end of the semester."

Maggie Roberts, a freshman nursing major, was with her friends when she saw students beginning to re-enter the Student Center about 12:10 p.m. "We went inside just after

they started letting people back in," Roberts said. "We sat down to eat lunch and then we were told by TCU Police to leave due to a major emergency."

Markley said the building

"We sat down to eat lunch and then we were told by TCU police to leave due to a major emergency."

Maggie Roberts

Freshman nursing major

was evacuated for a second time around 12:24 p.m.

Grill 155 cook Larry Webb said he was told to leave the Main after being inside for about 10 minutes.

"I've never seen a gas leak in the Student Center in my five years working here,"

Webb said at the scene.

The closing of the Student Center brought students outside, sending many to the hamburger stand as an option for lunch.

Amanda Mitchell, a supervisor for the Main, said the stand eventually ran out of supplies because employees were unable to get back into the building, which was guarded by TCU Police until it reopened about 1:10 p.m.

LaVonn said crews fixed the problem with no effects on other buildings.

"I can't tell you if it was a permanent fix that was made to the natural gas line or a temporary fix," LaVonn said. "Either way, crews will make sure that that line is safe."

Staff reporters Valerie Hannon and Robert Bember contributed to this report.

ROSS

From page 8

"First day I was kind of overwhelmed," Ross said. "Now in the fourth day, coach no longer expects me to make those first mistakes."

Floor Leader

Arriving at TCU as a point guard, Ross spent the second half of her time at TCU as a wing player, the team's shooting forward and occasionally ran the floor for the team.

The transition to professional point guard was not what Ross first thought it would be.

"In practice, I got in trouble for not taking the open shot even though I made a good pass," Ross said.

The right play is always expected on this level, she said.

"Sometimes, as a wing you sit and watch. As a point guard, you have to know what happens before it happens," Ross said.

The transition has shown Ross some positives. Being an vocal floor leader works well for Ross, who admits she has always been a talker.

Pro Frog

With her training camp contract, Ross became the second Lady Frog ever to sign with a WNBA team, joining former teammate, mentor and Lady Frogs' Director of Operations Sandra Irvin. Irvin also happens to be a member of the Silver Stars.

"It's like when we were at TCU when I was a young point guard," Ross said. "My sophomore year I missed a lot of time because of injury and didn't get to travel with the team so I missed her play a lot. I had forgotten just how good of a player she is."

Ross said it is great having another player she knows she can trust there to provide advice and a person talk to.

"Sometimes off the court we'll go up to each other and tell each other what we need to do next time," she said. "As a point guard I have to give her directions on the court, but when we get off she comes up to me and lets me know how I'm doing."

Ross said she expects to see a breakout year from the former No. 3 pick.

Contract Negotiations

Jeanne McNulty-King, Ross' agent, said before signing with the Silver Stars, they had been talking with other teams, but the Silver Stars were the first to commit to her.

Ross said the reason had more to do with the Silver Stars' roster needs.

"They needed a backup point guard who can play the wing," she said. "They were top of my list because of a good situation."

As a training camp signee, Ross has no guarantees and could be cut at anytime, McNulty-King said.

"They make cuts along the way," McNulty-King said.

If Ross is signed to the regular season team, her contract would still hold no guarantees until the mid-point of the season, McNulty-King said.

Ross said for now, she is just focusing on each individual day, trying to consistently improve and compete.

"I know I still need a lot of work but it's more mental," she said. "It's day four and I feel like I did really well, but I could say this now and get cut tomorrow."

According to the 2008 WNBA collective bargaining agreement, undrafted rookies can be signed to one- or two-year contracts.

McNulty-King said if Ross is signed it would most likely be to a one-year contract.

The collective bargaining agreement also stipulates that the 2008 minimum contract for rookies is \$34,500 a year, up from 2007's minimum of \$32,400.

If Ross is cut, McNulty-King said there is a possibility other teams might still be interested in her, and invite her to the remainder of their camps, but it would be unlikely.

Another possibility for Ross, if she is cut, is being signed by a team during the season.

McNulty-King said if a team is short on depth during the regular season, Ross would also have the chance to be asked to try out, but in that case it would most likely be with the Silver Stars.

Ross, of course, maintains her optimistic stance.

"I appreciate every day," Ross said. "As far as what happens after, that is not the issue right now."

SOLDIER

From page 1

conflict. Thousands of girls were also recruited as soldiers and often subjected to sexual exploitation, according to the document.

In an interview with CNN, Beah said he lost all of his family in the civil war and was fed and protected by the government, which later trained him to fight in the war.

Soldiers were given guns and forced to watch war films. They also had to take drugs so they could go for weeks just running around, and were not afraid to shoot anyone, Beah said.

"If you are an able body that can carry an AK-47, they wanted you to become part of it," Beah said in the interview.

He told CNN he didn't think much about it because at that time it was just about survival. "We were told that you are

fighting for your country," Beah said. "You are fighting to stop all the kids from losing their families like you've lost your family."

He said in the interview he lost his own humanity at that time and so did all the people around him.

"When you kill a human being, it does something to you," Beah said. "It traumatizes you and it changes you."

Beah told CNN before he wrote the book, he had lived through all these memories and will continue to live through them for the rest of his life.

"I am doing this because I want people to be aware of it

and to understand the people that this is happening to are human as anyone else," Beah said. "It's not some far-away people from some far-away place."

Beah said in the interview he is lucky to have escaped being a child soldier because he believes somebody must have been looking out for him.

"Surviving in the war doesn't have anything to do with being trained or being a good soldier," Beah said. "It's just pure luck."

But those memories will always be there, and it's not something he can put behind him, he said.

"We were told that you are fighting for your country. You are fighting to stop all the kids from losing their families like you've lost your family."

Ishmael Beah

Author of "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier"



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1800: The Library of Congress is established in Washington, D.C.

WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: Where do baby cows eat?

A: The calf-eteria

Bliss

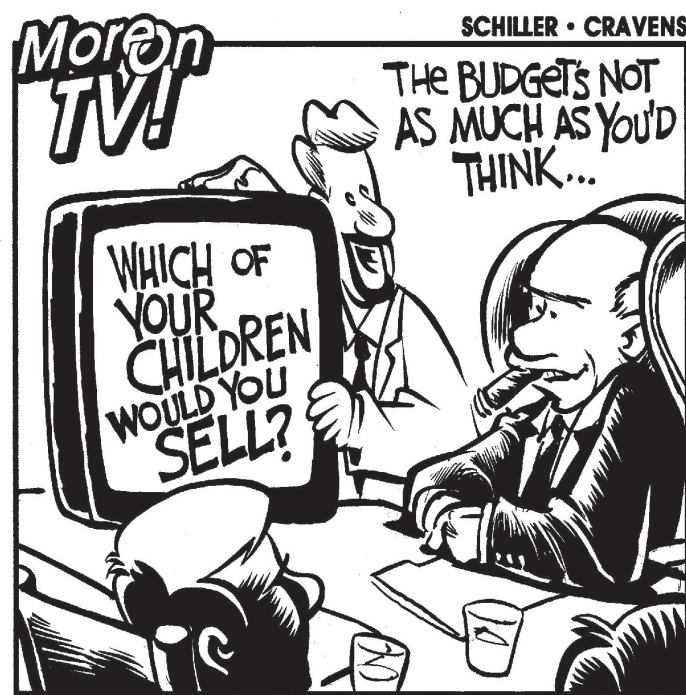
by Harry Bliss



“Are you sure he’s been fixed?”

More On TV

by Jay Schiller and Greg Cravens



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

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

Wednesday's Solutions

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

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

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ACROSS

- Topped (off)
- Machinery part
- Belgrade native
- Slanted
- Fruit cooler
- Switch ending?
- Inclined troughs
- Start of an insult
- Memorable time
- Part 2 of insult
- Consumers
- Interactive urban fantasy game
- 987-65-4321 grp.
- She sheep
- Italian epic poet
- Uniform
- Part 3 of insult
- NFL kicker Jason
- Fancy headress
- Contribute
- Top card
- Pecan candy
- Coniferous tree
- de plume
- Part 4 of insult
- End of insult
- Peter or Annette
- Morales of "La Bamba"
- Rental agreement
- Neckwear
- "Maverick" star
- Ward of "The Fugitive"
- 1960s radical grp.
- Changes directions sharply
- Hidden away
- Off the boat
- More than one
- Poker prizes
- Fencing weapon
- Bandleader
- Arnaz
- Type of lily
- Proficient ones
- Lengths in France
- Family clans
- Perry's creator
- Horse color
- "Ben Hur" co-star
- Innoculants
- 21 Rental
- Thing
- Squealer
- Somewhat: suff.
- Night before
- Sebaceous cyst
- Last bit
- Frequently, to a bard
- List ender
- 35 Assam or peko
- Like a fossil
- Defective
- Mature
- Dinghy mover
- Blue Eagle org.
- Mil. mail drops
- Vinegar holders
- Geometry master
- Chant
- More aristocratic
- Muslim leaders: var.
- Assad's land
- Bistros
- Mariner's assents
- Sense organ
- Twofold
- 57 Trots
- Bryce Canyon state
- 59 Achy

By Robert H. Wolf North Woodmere, NY 4/24/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

TRAINING DAYS



MARCUS MURPHREE / Multimedia Editor
Former Lady Frog Adrienne Ross attempts a layup in TCU's 73-59 win over Wyoming on Feb. 13 at home. Ross was signed to the San Antonio Silver Stars' training camp roster, becoming the second TCU player signed to a WNBA team.

Alumna signs to professional team

By BRETT LARSON
Sports Editor

After four days of training camp, TCU alumna Adrienne Ross is still competing to secure a regular season position on a WNBA team, the San Antonio Silver Stars.

Ross, who was a member of the TCU Lady Frogs for five years, was signed to a training camp contract with the Silver Stars, which started April 20.

Camp Daze

After four days of camp, Ross said the experience is different and more intense than college, with a definite bump in intensity.

Each day players meet for one long day of training.

"This coach doesn't do two-a-days, so

they're really long days," Ross said.

Ross starts her basketball day at 8:45 a.m., when she arrives at the practice facility to meet with team trainers. Next, from 9:30 to 10 a.m., Ross is put through weight training.

At 10 a.m., she works individually with a coach, polishing specific skills. Ross prepares her game for a chance to showcase her talents in the next — and probably most important part of her day — team practice.

Practice officially starts at 11 a.m., and for the next two and a half hours, the team drills, working on assignments, plays and specifics. Once the clock hits 1:30 p.m., the team starts its intense ab workout, and finally, Ross ends the day with a little more individual training.

See **ROSS**, page 5

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's squad to face Wyoming

By BRETT LARSON
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team's first-round opponent in the Mountain West Conference Championship is No. 8 University of Wyoming, which beat No. 9 Air Force in the opening round Wednesday.

Since TCU earned the No. 1 seed for this year's conference championship, it plays the winner of the two lowest seeds.

Wyoming beat Air Force by the score of 4-1. It was the second conference win for the Cowgirls this season, with the other also coming against Air Force, which finished the season winless in the MWC.

TCU faced the Cowgirls once earlier this season, winning 5-2

on March 30.

The Horned Frogs swept doubles play and saw their top four singles players win in the earlier match against Wyoming. Freshman Idunn Hertzberg, playing in the No. 5 singles position, fell 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 10-6.

TCU's No. 6 singles player, senior Melissa Bere, lost in straight sets 6-4, 6-2.

TCU started Mountain West play with three straight days of play, facing Colorado State University, Air Force and Wyoming.

Wyoming was the only team to win matches against TCU in the opening three-game series.

The game was also the last

one the women's tennis team played on its home courts.

TCU has faced Wyoming in the conference championships every year it has been a member of the Mountain West. This is the team's third year competing in the conference.

In 2006, the two teams met in the second round of the MWC tournament, where TCU defeated the Cowgirls 4-0.

Last season, No. 2 seed TCU beat the No. 7 seed Wyoming 4-0 in the first round.

Since joining the Mountain West, TCU is 5-0 against Wyoming with a 27-2 scoring advantage.

This season was the first time the Horned Frogs allowed the Cowgirls to score on them.

FOR YOUR INFO

Mountain West Conference Tennis Championship

Men's Tennis

Where: Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center
Quarterfinals
When: Today
Match 1: 10 a.m. No. 3 Utah vs. No. 6 San Diego State
Match 2: 1 p.m. No. 2 New Mexico vs. No. 7 Air Force
Match 3: 4 p.m. No. 4 UNLV vs. No. 5 BYU

Semifinals

When: Friday
Match 5: 10 a.m. Winner of Match 1 vs. Winner of Match 2
Match 6: 2 p.m. No. 1 TCU vs. Winner of Match 3

Finals

When: Saturday
Match 6: 10 a.m. Winner of Match 4 vs. Winner of Match 5

Women's Tennis

Where: Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center
Quarterfinals
When: Today
Match 2: 10 a.m. No. 2 UNLV vs. No. 7 Colorado State
Match 3: 10 a.m. No. 3 New Mexico vs. No. 6 San Diego State
Match 4: 2 p.m. No. 1 TCU vs. No. 8 Wyoming
Match 5: 2 p.m. No. 4 Utah vs. No. 5 BYU

Semifinals

When: Friday
Match 6: 10 a.m. Winner of Match 2 vs. Winner of Match 3
Match 7: 2 p.m. Winner of Match 4 vs. Winner of Match 5

Finals

When: Saturday
Match 8: 10 a.m. Winner of Match 6 vs. Winner of Match 7

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