

## NEWS

An expert panel discusses Americans' obsession with celebrities. **DAILYSKIFF.COM**



## FEATURES

A TCU graduate is now a religion professor and assistant to the dean of admissions. **PAGE 4**



## SPORTS

See how the soccer team has been using offseason practice to its advantage. **PAGE 6**



TCU

# DAILY SKIFF

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## Geology department to introduce new energy institute

By JAMES BROWN  
Staff Reporter

Responding to a globally increasing demand for energy, TCU is forming a multidisciplinary energy institute to prepare students for work in various facets of the energy industry.

The institute, which plans to offer undergraduate and graduate coursework in the departments of geology, engineering, environmental science and in the Neeley School of Business, will

focus on the exploration, extraction and transportation of carbon-based energy along with a study of new drilling technologies involved in the processes.

"Everything we do will be designed to provide additional educational and research opportunities for students and faculty," said Michael McCracken, dean of the College of Science and Engineering. "What this will do is open up, for those that have an interest, a fairly wide array of

additional employment opportunities."

Though the College of Science and Engineering will be most heavily involved, McCracken, one of the main pioneers of the institute, said the program will also offer classes for business students with an interest in the energy industry.

McCracken said courses centered on the development of alternate energy are also vital to the institute's curriculum, but

due to TCU's location atop the Barnett Shale, the initial thrust will emphasize petroleum products such as natural gas.

Where TCU sits "may be the most intense concentration of gas in the whole U.S.," McCracken said, illustrating the area's enormous opportunity. "It's an obvious niche."

Because many other shale formations exist worldwide, McCracken said, experience with the "Barnett play," as the reser-

voir is known as among industry professionals, will give students ample opportunity to apply their skills after graduation.

McCracken also said interaction with local energy companies involved in exploration of the shale is a major advantage resulting from TCU's proximity to the Barnett Shale.

As for internships and employment opportunities for students, McCracken said he anticipates financial and consultative sup-

port from various companies and individuals, with whom the institute will have a symbiotic relationship.

"Support this operation," McCracken said in his message to energy executives. "Down the road there will be a payback."

The payback, McCracken said, will materialize in the form of interns and employees along with valuable research and technology the institute will provide.

See **INSTITUTE**, page 2

## Senate to discuss election's vacancies

By Susan Gilmartin  
Staff Reporter

The Faculty Senate will try to deal with three vacant seats from one college at their meeting next week, the Senate chairwoman said.

Elizabeth Gillaspay, Faculty Senate assistant secretary, said in an e-mail there are 18 new senators for the next term but three vacancies in the College of Science and Engineering.

Chairwoman Suzy Lockwood said the online elections were April 16 and 17.

Lockwood, an assistant nursing professor, said the new senators will be introduced at their May 3 meeting and proposals to fill the vacancies will be discussed.

There are usually one or two vacancies each election, and the Senate has no plans to change the way it gets people to run, Lockwood said.

"Participation in the Senate is a faculty decision, and if they choose not to run, they choose not to run," Lockwood said. "If they choose to have their college unrepresented, they make that choice. We are not going to do anything to go out and try to coerce people into running."

Lockwood said this election is unique because there are three vacant spots in the College of Science and Engineering, which is partly due to an increase in the available spots in the senate.

Earlier this semester, bylaws were initiated to create proportional representation for the number of faculty in each college, which means larger colleges, or those with larger faculties, will be allotted more spaces on the Senate simply because they have more people.

Magnus Rittby, associate dean for the College of Science and Engineering, said there were two new faculty members hired for the 2006-2007 academic year, which is a normal amount.

Keith Whitworth, Faculty Senate secretary, said the number of available spots in the Senate for the College of Science and Engineering increased from eight seats to 10 seats because of the change in bylaws.

David Bedford, Student Relations  
See **FACULTY**, page 2

## TRAVELING ENSEMBLE



(LEFT) Andy Martin, a trombone player from Los Angeles, performs a solo during the Jazz Ensemble's concert last month. The Jazz Ensemble will be playing in a tour of Italy this summer. (TOP RIGHT) Sophomore Suzanne Vinnik and senior Micah Bell sing a duet during the 30th annual TCU Jazz Festival. Fundraising events, such as tonight's concert, have helped students cut down the prices of the trip to Italy from \$3,200 to \$1,250 per student. (BOTTOM RIGHT) TCU professor Gary Whitman plays "Concerto in Swing," conducted by composer Patrick Williams from Los Angeles. The ensemble will present a fundraising concert tonight in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

## Ensemble fundraising for European tour

By LESLIE DYER  
Staff Reporter

The TCU Jazz Ensemble is presenting a fundraising concert today to raise money for its tour of Italy this summer.

The tour will last from July 8 to 19, and the ensemble of about 25 musicians will travel to multiple cities including Fort Worth's sister city, Reggio Emilia, said Curt Wilson, director of Jazz Studies.

The fundraising concert is a salute to the big bands from the Swing Era of the 1930s and 1940s, Wilson said.

"It's a \$3,200 trip, but thanks to fundraising like this concert, contributions and the

School of Music's budget, the students are only having to pay \$1,250," Wilson said.

The ensemble will perform twice at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia on July 11 and 12.

He said the Umbria is one of the most well-known jazz festivals in Europe.

Most of the musicians at the Umbria Jazz Festival are professionals, but there are also a few college bands selected to play, Wilson said.

The Jazz Ensemble auditioned for this festival by sending in its "Leap Frog" CD, Wilson said.

"This CD was chosen as

one of the top-10 college CDs in the U.S. by the International Association of Jazz Educators," Wilson said.

Wilson said that out of his 31 years at TCU, this is his seventh international tour.

"A lot of schools audition, so this is a big deal," he said.

The Jazz Ensemble will also play in Reggio Emilia on July 14, the Valdarno festival in Tuscany on July 15 and at Lake Como on July 17.

"It will be a great experience for the students because they will get to play in front of thousands of people," Wilson said. "Also, the European audience is much more critical

than the American audience because the average European is more into jazz than the average American."

The ensemble will also travel to Rome, Florence and Milan to experience the culture, art and architecture of Europe, Wilson said.

### FOR YOUR INFO

Jazz Ensemble fundraising concert  
• 7:30 p.m. today  
• Ed Landreth Auditorium  
• \$10 tickets available at the door

## Asst. dean denies stereotypes

By DIA WALL  
Staff Reporter

Projects overflowing on a cluttered desk, photos displayed on every surface and a plethora of stress relievers make up the office of the assistant dean of campus life and dean of the class of 2007.

James Parker, 32, was born in Oklahoma City and earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communication in 1998 and a master's degree in education in 2002 from the University of Oklahoma.

For 24 years, Parker did not miss a single Sooner home football game, but, for the past six years, he has found a new home as a Horned Frog.

His job title changes daily. He supervises Worth Hills housing, works extensively with the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils, manages student concerns and enforces discipline. The main goal for Parker he said is to teach students to become better people and better leaders.

Susan Adams, associate vice chancellor of campus life, describes him as committed and caring.

"He establishes relationships with students and families," Adams said. "He sincerely wants to help because he wants students to be successful."

But Parker said he still thinks there is work to be done. He wants people to reach out and get to know him, because he would like more positive interactions with students.

"Ninety-five percent of Greek students don't like me, but they have never had a conversation with me," Parker said. "Fighting through those stereotypes is a daily challenge."

There are Greek students that do reach out to him, though, and their perception is drastically different than what he may believe.

See **PARKER**, page 2

## Chairman: AddRan dean leader with sense of humor

By NATHAN BASS  
Staff Reporter

When the AddRan department of humanities and social sciences began its search for a new dean last fall, the search committee wanted to find someone who would exemplify the TCU mission and its values, said the religion department chairman.

The committee decided that person is Andrew Schoolmaster from Eastern Kentucky State University.

David Grant, chair of the religion department, said Schoolmaster received exceptional recommendations from everybody the committee talked to.

He also said Schoolmaster was impressive as a leader and has a great sense of humor.

"I'm looking forward to coming back to Texas," said Schoolmaster, who said that he's "39 years old and holding strong."

"After a couple of years (at EKSU)," Schoolmaster said, "I realized that those roots were rooted a little deeper than I thought, which prompted me to start looking for an opportunity to move down here again."

Chancellor Victor Boschini said Schoolmaster has excellent communication skills that will come in handy while working in the AddRan department.

Schoolmaster, who was

named as the new dean April 11, is the AddRan department's second dean since 2000. Mary Volcansek has served as the dean since 2000 but will return as a political science professor in the fall.

Schoolmaster said it wasn't a difficult decision to take the job. He acknowledged that there is always regret having to move away, though, because of the many friendships established.

"TCU is a fine school," Schoolmaster said. "I always loved going to Fort Worth for different events when I was at UNT, and it is a real first-rate city."

He also said that while he

would like to teach again, his first year will be a chance to get to know the university.

"I think the first year will be a lot of getting to know the faculty, the students, and getting to learn more about TCU," Schoolmaster said.

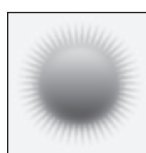
Schoolmaster grew up on a farm in the small town of Fairport, N.Y., located just outside of Rochester.

He earned his undergraduate degree in history and his master's degree and Ph.D. in geography at Kent State University. He began teaching at the University of Minnesota as a research specialist in forest resources.

He moved on to North Texas State University a year later, teaching geography until he was named executive assistant to the chancellor and president in 2000. He was named associate dean for administrative affairs at UNT in 2002 before moving to EKSU in 2004, where he was a geography professor and dean of the arts and sciences department.

"He has a lot of enthusiasm and excitement about the position," Donovan said. "He is also very talented and has been a very effective dean at EKSU."

Schoolmaster will formally assume his duties as the new dean July 16.



### WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly Sunny, 74/53  
FRIDAY: Mostly Cloudy, 78/57  
SATURDAY: Cloudy, 79/57

### PECULIAR FACT

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — Despite protests from some residents, Sheridan city animal control said Shirley Weidt isn't violating any laws by keeping a goat in her minivan. — Associated Press

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Children converge on campus, **dailyskiff.com**  
OPINION: Conservatives sometimes right, **page 3**  
SPORTS: Tennis to play Falcons, **page 6**

### CONTACT US

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

## INSTITUTE

From page 1

Ken Morgan, associate dean of the College of Science and Engineering, said some companies are interested in involvement beyond financial support, including the possibility of teaching classes.

Industry professionals also comprise the institute's advisory board, which will help guide the program, modifying the curriculum according to the industry's trends.

Morgan describes the members of the board as the "whose who of the Barnett Shale," many of whom, such as the founders of Four Sevens Resources Co., are TCU alumni.

McCracken said Larry Brogdon, ex-TCU football player and original Four Sevens partner, along with others at Four Sevens, have been big support-

ers and have a strong interest in the project.

On March 2, the board of trustees signed a letter of intent to name Four Sevens the university's natural gas operator, giving the energy company exclusive rights to negotiate a lease for TCU's share of the Barnett Shale.

The development of the institute began during the fall, McCracken said, when several mechanical engineering graduates now involved in offshore drilling told the department it would have been helpful to know the basics of petroleum engineering.

McCracken said it was the suggestion to add petroleum-oriented engineering classes to the college's curriculum in conjunction with the frenzy surrounding the Barnett Shale that led to the formation of the institute.

"Several things came together for us," McCracken said. "It just

kind of snowballed from there."

Now students can get a background in energy engineering, especially petroleum, even if they plan to take a different route.

Matt Koehler, a junior geology major, said a petroleum background will be good for all students who are unsure where they will end up professionally.

And for students who know they want to enter the energy industry, Koehler said, "It will help get us on the right foot so we're not going into internships so blindly."

McCracken said the progress of the institute is beyond the theoretical stage and a director and a prominent energy executive, should be named within two to four weeks.

If all goes according to plan, the director will begin speaking to energy companies on behalf of the institute this summer, requesting feedback and contributions.

Morgan said the first class for the fall, in which students will use computer software to interpret seismic data, has already been approved and will be taught by an adjunct specialist.

During the next year, McCracken said he hopes to add one or two full-time faculty members to start developing the academic aspect of the program while the director continues work on the industry side.

The coursework, he said, will reflect the industry's concern for the environment and will be a guiding principle of the curriculum.

Morgan hopes that eventually the institute will become a hub for workshops and symposia related to energy engineering, a model for similar areas around the world.

"Everybody is looking at this," Morgan said. "This area, and TCU being here, is on the map worldwide."

## NEWS BRIEF

The Student Publications Committee selected Ky Lewis as the editor in chief of Image, Andrew Chavez as editor in chief of the Skiff and Natalie Haines as advertising manager of the Skiff during its April 13 meeting.

Lewis is a graphic design major from Austin. Chavez is a news-editorial journalism major from Fort Sumner, N.M., and Haines is an advertising/public relations major from Sugar Land. Lewis will be the editor in chief for fall 2007 and the spring 2008. Chavez and Haines will hold their positions for the fall of 2007.

## PARKER

From page 1

"I think at first a lot of people misunderstand his motives and what he's about," said Rachel Knapp, Panhellenic recruitment director. "But, when you work with him on a personal level, you realize that he really does have your best interest at heart."

Parker said graduation is the most anticipated event on his calendar because he cannot wait to see the incredible people he met at Frog Camp four years ago cross the stage into adulthood.

"I went to every orientation and almost every Frog Camp," Parker said. "I stay in regular contact with students. Watching them grow and mature from 18 to 22 or 23 is phenomenal."

The students are not the

only people who have changed in his time at TCU. Parker said five years ago his career was his No. 1 priority, and now it would barely make his top five. He said his goal is to wake up tomorrow and enjoy the life he has, and not to worry so much about tomorrow that he forgets to enjoy today.

As for the future, Parker would like to develop an alumni networking program for students, see a more diverse campus develop and some of the stereotypes and separation of socioeconomic classes diminish.

Until then, he fulfills his role at TCU living by the Conway Twitty song that reminds him of what his father taught him about work ethic and responsibility.

"That's my job," Parker said. "That's my job."

## FACULTY

From page 1

tions Committee chair, said he has been on the Senate for four years and did not recall having vacant spots on the Senate as a problem in the past. Bedford said there were four seats up for

election and four candidates in his college, which is the AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

He decided to announce his candidacy because he thought it was a good way to serve the university and learn more about the way things are run, Bedford said.

"I have found being on

the Faculty Senate gratifying," Bedford said. "I have gained significant involvement and would encourage faculty to run."

Lockwood said she has been on the Senate for six years, and her favorite part is being able to participate and plan for events and different issues on campus

with different colleges on campus.

"The networking is just invaluable," Lockwood said. "I have gotten to know people on Faculty Senate that I would never have gotten to know otherwise if I had been content to stay in my college and not go out there and get involved."

# Coming August 2007

To learn more, please visit our tables by the library and inside the student center on April 23-27 from 11:00AM-2:00PM, or contact us at [tcugammaphibeta@gmail.com](mailto:tcugammaphibeta@gmail.com) or [www.gammaphibeta.org](http://www.gammaphibeta.org)

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 fort worth zoo

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# 10<sup>TH</sup> ZOO RUN RUN

# Modern 'til Midnight

Presented by SEWELL

## Modern 'til Midnight: Pretty Baby

Friday, April 27  
6 pm-midnight

Admission is \$10  
FREE for Modern members  
Advance tickets available!

### Happenings in the Galleries

Guests will experience the special exhibition *Pretty Baby* by taking part in special activities throughout the evening, including conceptual projects, interactive events, spotlight tours, and art explorations in the galleries.

### Film Programs

Free with admission to Modern 'til Midnight. Auditorium seating is limited to 250.

### Pretty Baby Film Series

Short Subject Films by  
Miranda July - 8 pm

### Getting Stronger Every Day

(2001, 7 minutes)  
*Nest of Tens* (2000, 27 minutes)  
*The Amateurst* (1998, 14 minutes)  
*Atlanta* (1996, 10 minutes)

### Me and You and Everyone

*We Know* (2005) - 9 pm

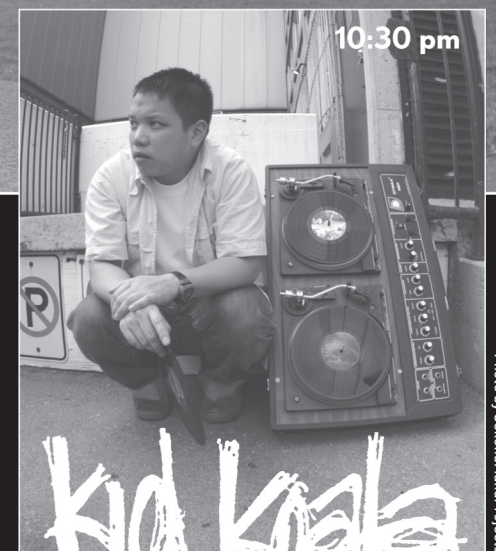


Photo by Skiff/Photo/Photo

## LIVE MUSIC

Enjoy live music in the Modern's Sculpture Garden

Kid Koala - 10:30 pm

Mom - 9:30 pm

DJ Sober of the Party - 7:30 pm

### Café Modern and Lobby Bar

Cash bars and coffee bar are available from 6 pm until last call at 11:30 pm. Enjoy a global assortment of Modern appetizers and Café Modern food service from 6 to 11 pm.\*

\*Beverages and food are not included in admission price.

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth  
817.738.9215  
[www.themodern.org](http://www.themodern.org)

The Modern



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Work is not man's punishment. It is his reward and his strength and his pleasure."  
— George Sand

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

**New energy institute useful**

The Barnett Shale formation has become a household name for drilling companies in North Texas looking to open a pocket of natural gas. TCU rests atop this subterranean jackpot, and a new energy institute is in the making for the geology, engineering and business schools.

With more global emphases being placed on alternative energy research and the threat of global warming, an endeavor such as this for TCU is a huge step in the right direction for preparing students in facing these issues.

Not only will this help merge different departments on campus work together in an interdisciplinary forum, it will substantiate a need for an emerging energy venture.

Research from the energy programs can help provide graduates from that program with valuable insight into how the fields of mining and providing energy work hand in hand. With the global demand for energy and a growing environmental concern with

energy consumption, this program could highlight the importance of the TCU mission statement.

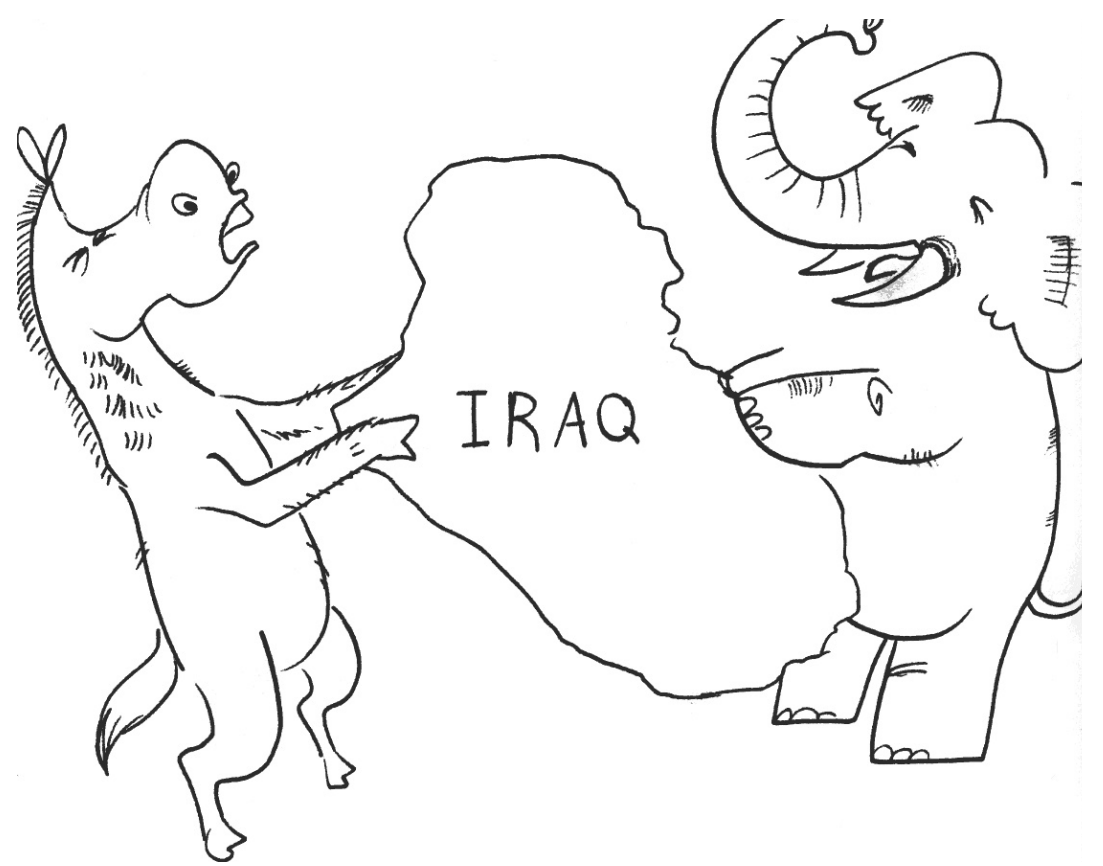
If the TCU mission is "to educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community," then this communal activity is helping bring together some of the best and brightest minds from various colleges.

Sometimes a college needs to look at a need in society that must be filled, and the energy research institute has done just that. With the combination of the Barnett Shale, local drilling companies and the growing demand for energy awareness, this institute could produce graduates who could make a difference in a community that is starting to understand the need for reliable energy and people who understand how to provide it.

When the classes for the institute begin in the fall, the first step toward making a new intelligent energy campaign will be under way at TCU.

*Sports editor Marcus Murphree for the editorial board.*

**BY BRENDAN KIEFER**



**Don't let the easy way out ruin adventure of achieving more**

A friend of mine recently sent me the "Mystery Science Theater 3000" episode dissecting the 1951 short film "Spring Fever" that evidently was meant to teach the world the importance of springs.

The plot goes something like this: A man doing the manly chore of fixing a couch gets so fed up with the springs that he wishes he never had to see another spring again. Insert the creepy cartoon "Coily the spring sprite" who grants the man his wish and then spends the next three minutes popping up whenever something the man owns doesn't work because it has no springs. The man learns his lesson, the wish is reversed, and he spends the next half of the movie telling everyone about the importance of springs.

As hilarious as this, along with almost every other instructional movie from the 1950s is, I can't help but wonder what the world would be like if there were little sprites to make everything easier by granting wishes or allowing us to take our wishes back.

Wanting things to be easier is a part of human nature. It's the reason we invented the wheel, the pulley system and duct tape.

There have been recent advertising campaigns centered on "easy buttons," having a product "so easy a caveman could do it" or using the tagline, "yeah, it's that easy." These campaigns indicate there is still a desire in our society to have everything easier, so those cheeky sprites would have a plethora of choices in terms of with whom to impart their wisdom.

But then there's the lottery problem from the movie "Bruce Almighty." In the movie, everyone in the country who prays they will win the lottery does, meaning the lottery winners are split hundreds or thousands of different ways, and each individual only gets a small amount.

So, while all these people assumed winning the lottery would make them happy, being one of many winners actually makes these people unhappy.

If everything were easy for everybody, nobody would be happy because all their achievements would be worthless.

Worth, after all, is determined by comparison. If the comparison finds everything compared to be equal, then nothing compared has worth.

This is not a statement against social equality because even if all people were socially equal (something I hope for), their worth would be determined by their contributions or potential to contribute to society.

This is also not to say that we should all go back to living in a state of nature with no technology because, even if it were possible, the pervasiveness throughout history of the wish for everything to be easy indicates that human nature would soon dictate that we would seek to create technology and leave that state.

What I am suggesting is that we should appreciate the value of achieving things the hard way.

For example, there are plenty of online templates for fake degrees or online "universities" giving people easy ways to earn degrees in half the time.

So, for all the graduating seniors who worked hard and took the time to earn a real degree from this excellent university, congratulations and best wishes on all your future endeavors.

*Talia Sampson is a junior news-editorial, journalism and international relations major from Moorpark, Calif. Her column appears Thursdays.*

**College education should go beyond just teaching students facts, data**

Students go to college for a variety of reasons. Many students attend universities to increase their earning potential.

Others go to college for personal fulfillment. Some people simply go to college to have fun — or even earn their

"Mrs. Degree." However, Ronald B. Standler, a Massachusetts attorney who specializes in higher education law, believes that the primary purpose of a university education should be to teach students how to think.

Unfortunately, many students go to college and do not learn how to think; rather, they learn what to think. Instead of presenting students with all various sides of a topic, many professors propagate their own views among their students.

Some professors do this by simply not mentioning any opposing viewpoints and teaching their opinions as if it were the only way of thinking. They should at least present other beliefs on controversial issues so that students know there are alternatives.

If professors present both sides on an issue, however, many steeply bias their lectures in favor of their personal beliefs. I experienced the epitome of this last semester when a visiting professor lectured on the

origins of the world. I knew from the start that this professor held a completely different view than I did, but I decided to listen to what this person had to say; after all, she held a doctorate, and I was just a naive college freshman.

Within the first few minutes, however, this professor had shattered my worldview and ripped my beliefs up one side and down the other. When I questioned her reasoning as to why my view on our world's origins was wrong and hers was undoubtedly correct, this professor refused to acknowledge that my viewpoint had any credibility whatsoever — despite the scientific evidence I brought up.

I am not the only TCU student who has experienced the problem of being taught what to think rather than how to think and thinks it should change. Margaret Schrubba, a freshman nursing major, concurs that professors should not teach their views as absolute truth. Rather, they should present all viewpoints and allow students to make their own decisions about what to believe. Granted, most professors teach with some sort of bias, but they should at least try to minimize it in the classroom.

Claudia Camp, a TCU religion professor, says students need to learn to see things from many other perspectives so that they can critically analyze them.

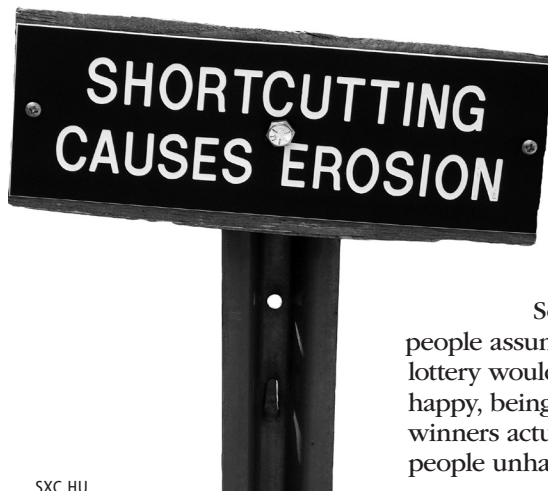
If professors — people whom students respect and aspire to emulate — teach their personal beliefs as fact and dispel all other methods of reasoning as falsity, students will most likely not question them. Hence, by propagating their personal views, professors are not teaching students how to think nor giving them the analytical skills they need in the "real world."

Standler says the ability to think critically is a key trait for success. However, if professors tell students what to believe rather than giving them all the information and allowing them to personally examine the evidence, they are not giving students this crucial skill.

Most jobs don't require individuals to regurgitate memorized information. Instead, they involve analyzing data and examining information to solve problems. Students would be much more successful in the business world if they learned how to think in college rather than just what to think.

If professors realized they undermine students' critical thinking skills by teaching their personal opinions as fact, perhaps they would change their teaching habits and truly educate students on how to think, hence giving them the abilities they need to succeed after their college educations.

*Christina Durano is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Albuquerque, N.M.*



**Conservative party right in many ways but needs some help**

To my fellow conservatives, I've learned and thought about a lot of political issues in my four years here at TCU. And,

to the liberals, I think you'll find I'm fairly objective. Before I graduate, I'd like to leave you with my thoughts about what we, as conservatives, have right and what we're getting wrong.

The first thing we have right is our patriotism — loving America is never the wrong thing to do.

Patriotism is what made this country great and will keep it going. We also support our troops, which is the right thing to do. And anyone bashing our soldiers doesn't deserve to stay an American.

The second thing we have right is our fundamental belief that government handouts don't solve social ills. Welfare hasn't cured poverty yet, and it never will. Conservatives believe that free markets are the only way to solve our problems. However, this means we have to find alternative ways to help the misfortunate — so give to charity. Every time a conservative pass-

es the chance to give to a social cause, we become hypocrites and give liberals one more chance to claim the government has to step in because "no one else will."

The third thing conservatives have right is immigration policy. Illegal immigration has to stop. It depresses American wages, is a burden on our social services and increases crime. Northern Mexico sits next to the largest economy in the world and has very little excuse for being impoverished. It's time it started cleaning up its internal corruption problem so its people stop running to the border.

But we have a number of problems we need to address as well. The first is primarily religious. The hateful fundamentalism that has infiltrated conservative politics has to stop. People such as Pat Robertson are destroying the conservative movement by using it as a vehicle for their own religious bigotry. Many conservatives need to step beyond their religious convictions and show compassion and concern for others — like Jesus did. That includes gays, Muslims and even hippies.

Second, it is time we took our heads out of the sand on global warm-

ing. It's happening, and it's happening because of the lifestyle we lead. To make matters worse, the fossil fuels we use not only pollute our air, but they fund terrorists and rogue regimes across the world. It's time we began supporting major green energy initiatives or there won't be a world left for America to lead.

Third, we have to spend more on education. Under President Bush, funding for higher education has dropped dramatically, and the state of public education has deteriorated. We have to spend more on our schools even if it means increasing taxes or

we jeopardize America's future.

Finally, there are a number of people who have gone above and beyond in screwing up our country. Therefore, I would like to close with a list of people I think we ought to deport to Siberia for the things they have done to embarrass and insult America, the conservative movement or both — Jane Fonda, Pat Robertson, the Dixie Chicks, Ann Coulter, Sean Penn, Jerry Falwell, Rosie O'Donnell, and, of course, Michael Moore. Goodbye, TCU!

*Tyler Fultz is a senior history and political science major from Indianapolis.*

**Editorial Board**

JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE  
MARCUS MURPHREE

**ANDREW CHAVEZ**

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The content of the Opinion page does not necessarily represent the views of Texas Christian University. The Skiff View editorial represents the view of the TCU Daily Skiff editorial board

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e-mail it to [LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU](mailto:LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU). Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.



**OFFICE SPACE**

A former TCU football player and graduate will take on an important administrative role in May.  
**DAILYSKIFF.COM**

# Double DUTY

## Religion professor's curiosity, passion exceed classroom walls

By JILLIAN HUTCHISON  
*Staff Reporter*

He splits his time between two offices. He manages demands from two jobs, both at TCU.

In one, he gets chalk on his hands and loves it. In the other, he pores over applications and helps prospective students make one of the most important decisions of their lives.

Then, he goes home to 8-year-old twins.

Jim Atwood, 59, is both a religion instructor and assistant to the dean of admissions, as well as chairman of the freshman admissions committee, something that may seem an unlikely combination.

"He is marvelous at being able to balance an academic post with a demanding administrative role at TCU," said Ray Brown, dean of admissions.

Atwood first became interested in religion while completing his undergraduate work at TCU. He planned on being a political science major, but, after taking a religion course, he changed his mind.

"I'd never encountered the academic practice of studying religion," Atwood said.

Atwood graduated from TCU in 1970 near the top of his class, with the highest GPA of all the male graduates. From there, he went on to receive his

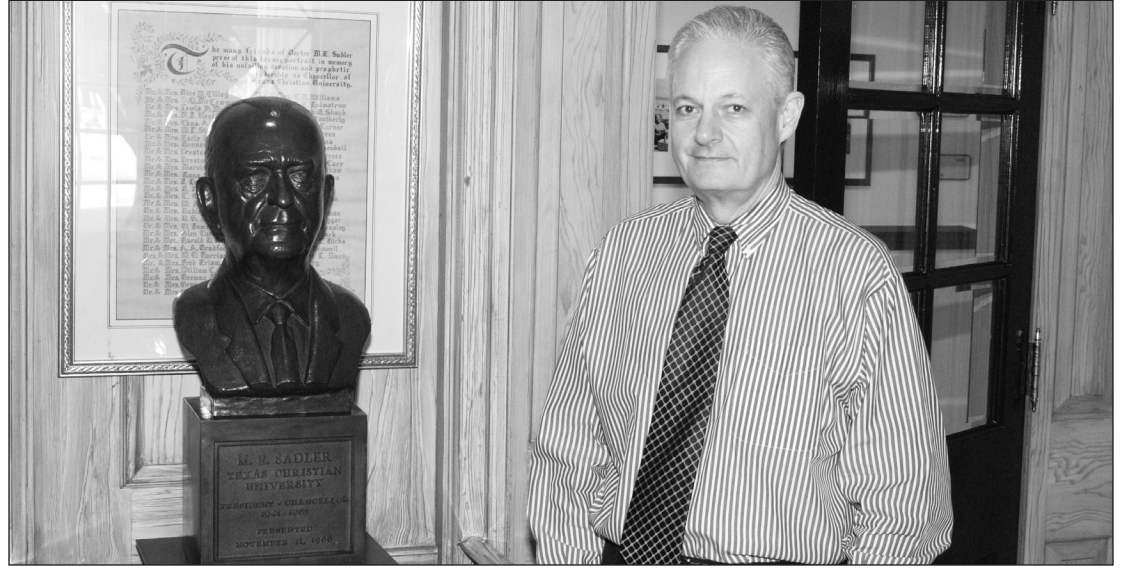
master's and doctorate degrees from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

After moving back to Fort Worth, Atwood became an adjunct professor of religion in 1978.

"When I got the opportunity to teach," Atwood said, "that was more than I ever hoped for."

Atwood said he became exceptionally close to a few professors while a student at TCU. One of them was Ron Flowers, a now retired religion professor and a man Atwood said has been one of the most inspirational people in his life.

"We became not just profes-



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

Jim Atwood splits his time at TCU between being a religion instructor, assistant to the dean of admissions and as chair of the freshman admissions committee. At home, Atwood works with his 8-year-old twins.

sor and student but friends," Flowers said.

Flowers said the relationship developed as Atwood frequently dropped by his office to ask questions and discuss issues from class.

"I found him to have a high level of intellectual curiosity," Flowers said.

Flowers said he was delighted when Atwood joined the faculty and said it was a natural fit.

"I have always thought of him as being a peer and an equal, a valued colleague," Flowers said. Atwood said being a faculty member with some of his former professors was a strange, yet surprising experience.

"They were so nice to treat me like one of them," Atwood said.

Atwood not only has a good relationship with his colleagues but also with his students.

Senior English and religion major Ryan Motter said he met Atwood through church more than four years ago and is currently in his class. Motter said Atwood truly cares about his students, unlike many professors.

"He deals with incredibly fascinating subject matter that's difficult to wrestle,"

Motter said. "It's hard to teach and keep an open mind, but he's definitely capable of it."

While he was teaching, Atwood said, the admissions office had a newly created position for someone to handle a large donation that had been given to TCU and designated specifically for students affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. Because of his strong ties to the Christian Church, Atwood was the perfect candidate for the job.

"I decided I would try it," Atwood said. "That was 24 years ago."

A large portion of Atwood's job in admissions is working with parents and students who are Disciples of Christ.

"Remember the Church Lady from 'Saturday Night Live'?" Atwood said. "I'm a church man."

In admissions, Atwood said, he enjoys working with the staff, as well as the prospective students. He said he knows they're about to make an important decision, and it is his job to help them.

Atwood is able to look back on his own TCU experience as a student and compare and contrast it to what TCU is like today. Though he said TCU has changed a lot,

some things never change.

"TCU had good people then and has good people now," he said.

Atwood has a unique perspective on college.

"You go to college to learn how to learn," he said. "As a teacher, you're also a student."

Atwood also has a life outside of TCU. He is married to Kris, his wife of 13 years, and they have twin boys, Christian and Jeffrey.

"I'm an old man with young blessings," Atwood said.

Atwood said Kris also graduated from TCU and works in education.

"We're a frog family," he said.

Atwood and his wife enjoy theater and traveling, especially London, he said.

While Flowers said he has the impression that Atwood is a devoted husband and father, he said Atwood embodies so many other qualities. Flowers described him as bright, humble and a gentleman. Motter described Atwood's sense of humor and personable nature.

"I've been really proud," Flowers said. "Proud of what he's done and proud that I've had some small part in getting him to where he is."

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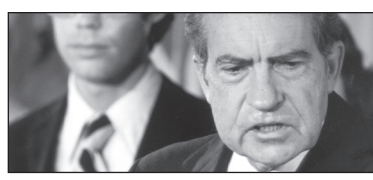
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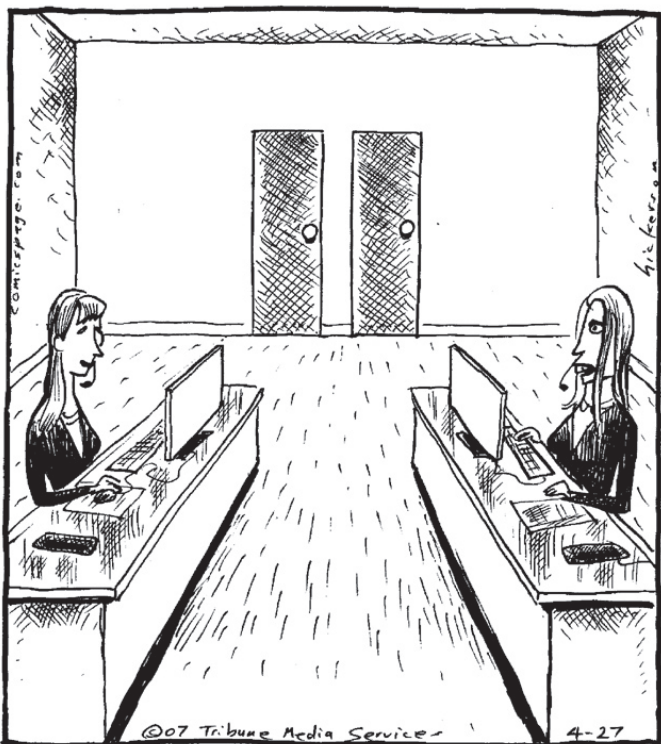


**TODAY IN HISTORY**  
1972: President Nixon, despite the ongoing communist offensive, announces that another 20,000 U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Vietnam in May and June, reducing authorized troop strength to 49,000.

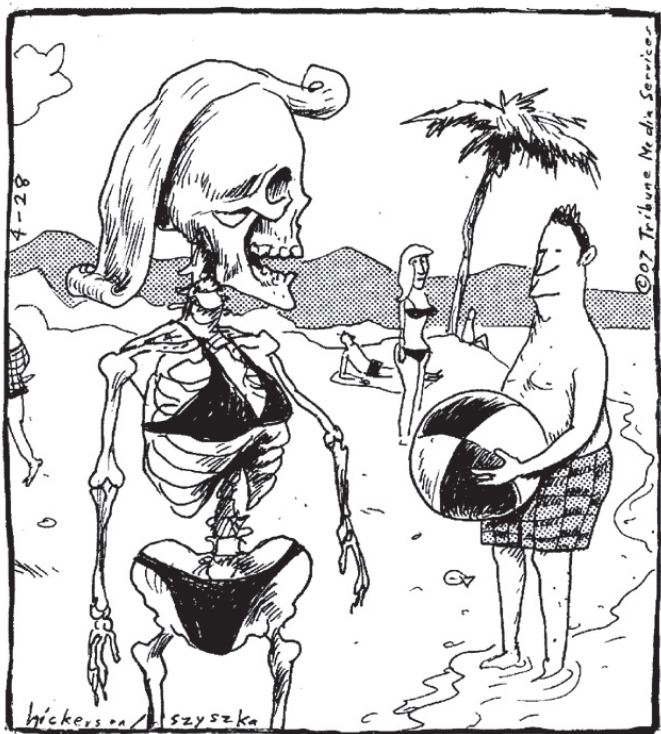
**WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE**  
Q: Why did the jelly roll?  
A: Because he saw the apple turnover.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 7, 8, 9, 1, 5, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 1, 5, 8, 9, 5, 2, 7, 2, 8, 6, 1, 5, 7, 3, 4, 9

**Directions**

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

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

**Wednesday's Solutions**

9x9 grid with solutions: 4 6 5 9 1 8 2 7 3, 8 7 1 2 3 6 9 5 4, 9 2 3 4 7 5 1 8 6, 7 5 9 8 2 3 4 6 1, 6 4 8 5 9 1 7 3 2, 1 3 2 7 6 4 8 9 5, 5 9 7 3 4 2 6 1 8, 3 1 4 6 8 9 5 2 7, 2 8 6 1 5 7 3 4 9

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CROSSWORD grid with clues: 1 Eye amorously, 5 Joplin of ragtime fame, 10 Lattice strip, 14 Retain, 15 Of an arm bone, 16 Clarinet's relative, 17 Opposed to, 18 Explosive stuff, briefly, 19 Mature, 20 Start of James Thurber quote, 23 Dig a trench, 24 Shea Stadium player, 25 Pined (for), 28 Vicious or Caesar, 29 Took to court, 31 Had sushi, 32 Castle protectors, 35 Part 2 of quote, 37 Uffizi Palace display, 38 Fountain treats, 39 Salacious stare, 40 Part 3 of quote, 42 Spanish priest, 43 PC group, 44 Islands off Galway, 45 Slugger's need, 46 Utopian, 48 Segment of a min., 49 AT&T part, 52 End of quote, 56 Tarot user, 58 Come to terms, 59 Sign, 60 Coffee servers, 61 Approaches, 62 Egghead, 63 Chess call, 64 Credo, 65 Pastoral poem, 66 Preposition, 67 Syrup source, 68 Mountain nymph, 69 Expiation, 70 Spy Hari, 73 Lacking fizz, 74 The of Venice, 75 Not of the cloth, 76 Walk back and forth, 77 Bidding, 78 RN part, 79 Cubic meter, 80 Used a stopwatch, 81 Variety of corundum, 82 Ivan of tennis, 83 S-shaped molding, 84 RN part, 85 Cubic meter, 86 Novelist, 87 Variety of stopwatch, 88 Addition figure, 89 Important time

By Alan P. Olschwang, Huntington Beach, CA

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

15x15 crossword solution grid with words: DATA, ADELA, ARMS, ALEC, SILAS, MEAN, MEMO, SNARE, AGRA, SPRING, TRAINING, END, DEY, OASES, NPR, OTTO, SAN, ASAP, ENA, DISMAL, BATTING, PRACTICE, STEAMS, TEN, ASTA, PEA, COE, MTR, LEASE, DAR, SPA, ENGLISH, LESSONS, NALA, PEDAL, LATE, ITEM, ARETE, EGAN, NETS, RENEW, DEBT

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

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**HOME RUN**

The baseball team will host the San Diego State Aztecs this weekend.  
**TOMORROW**

**STILL KICKING**

**Practice remains strong after soccer season ends**

By MICHELLE NICOUD  
Staff Reporter

Although soccer season ended in October, off-season training for the soccer team is helping to build for next season.

For the last seven weeks, the team has worked to gain an edge by building a competitive mindset, something that it has gotten closer to in the final weeks of practice, head soccer coach Dan Abdalla said.

A team's on-field persona has a lot to do with its success, Abdalla said.

"I think right now, we're finishing at our best, which is a great gauge," Abdalla said. "If we could be playing our best in November, like we are right now, we'll be in great shape."

Freshman forward Lizzy Karoly said Abdalla's goal is reflected in the momentum of practices.

"Our practices have been really intense," Karoly said. "We are doing a lot of strength and conditioning to make us specifically stronger and to push ourselves to the limit and past what we thought we were."

Karoly was the lead scorer during the 2006 season when she netted six goals and she earned Top Drawer Soccer's third-team All-Rookie accolades during her rookie campaign.

The incoming freshmen

are offensive aggressors who will increase the tempo of the games, Abdalla said.

Last season's core of freshmen contributed to 11 of the 19 goals scored and five of the nine total assists.

"I think you'll see kids that aren't shy and that are willing to go out there and take control and be the point guard or quarterback of our team," Abdalla said. "They will make those that we already have better."

With 11 recruits coming in that can play positions on all parts of the field, senior midfielder Angie Nickens said she foresees an aura of competitiveness that was not present in years past.

"It's going to be great for the returning players," Nickens said. "It will be motivation to play harder, and it will make the team better because everyone's going to be playing at a higher level."

The range of weather throughout the spring practices may work to the team's advantage when the season starts in August.

"This spring has just been rain, sleet and snow," Abdalla said. "That's good because when we get up to Provo, Utah, in November, we want the kids to be used to that."

Some losses from the 2006 squad include goalkeeper Katy Buchanan and co-captains Breanne Kaldheim and Karissa Hill. Even though Buchanan will not return in 2007, freshman Kelsey Vross will be returning to get some minutes in the net. Last season Vross notched a shutout against the UTSA Roadrunners in her first start at home.



Freshman forward Lizzy Karoly volleys a loose ball during the Frogs' game against New Mexico on Oct. 8. Karoly led the Horned Frogs in goals last season with six.

**Men's tennis awaits Falcons in Mountain West tourney**

By ELISA GOMEZ  
Staff Reporter

As reigning conference champions, the men's tennis team will be in position to defend its crown this week out in the Rocky Mountains.

The No. 68 Horned Frogs will begin match-play in the 2007 Mountain West Conference Championship this afternoon in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The team went 5-1 in conference play during the season, including a regular season finale sweep of the Air Force Falcons, University of Nevada-Las Vegas Rebels and the New Mexico Lobos.

The Horned Frogs enter the championship as the No. 2 seed behind the Brigham Young University Cougars and will face the No. 7 seed Falcons in the opening round. The two teams previously met April 13 when TCU shut out Air Force, 7-0.

Junior Cosmin Cotet, who is ranked No. 103 nationally in the latest Fila/ITA poll, will lead the Frogs in singles play.

Seniors Radu Barbu and Chris Biro have also added to the Frogs' success in recent weeks. Barbu,

a recipient MWC Tennis Player of the Week, is currently riding a seven match winning streak including a comeback win in his last match against the Lobos' Graeme Kassautzki. Biro, a graduate student, has won 10 of his last 11 matches and is 5-1 in conference play as he finishes out his final year of NCAA eligibility.

Sophomore Krieger Brink has won four of his last six matches and was 4-2 in conference play.

The No. 43 tandem of Cotet and Brink lead the Frogs in doubles play. The pair posted a doubles record of 4-1 in conference play and 14-4 throughout the season.

The Falcons have been shut out in MWC play and are on an eight match losing streak. The tournament bracketing will have the winner of the TCU-Air Force match face the victor in the UNLV-Utah meeting.

UNLV is the No. 3 seed in the tournament and Utah is the No. 6 seed. The Frogs defeated both of these teams in regular season matches.

The TCU-Air Force match is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., CDT.

**TOP SCORERS**

**Lizzy Karoly**  
• Goals: 6  
• Assists: 2

**Michelle Nguyen**  
• Goals: 3  
• Assists: 3

**Chelsea White**  
• Goals: 2  
• Assists: 0

**Lauren Pope**  
• Goals: 4  
• Assists: 1

**Caroline Starns**  
• Goals: 1  
• Assists: 0



(From left) Pitchers Cody Dunbar, Steven Maxwell and Sam Demel play pepper to warm up before the baseball team's game against Texas Tech on Wednesday. Visit [dailyskiff.com](http://dailyskiff.com) to see how the Horned Frogs played.

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