

## THE END

Dead Week is upon us. Finals week is around the corner. The Skiff asks you to please avoid doing things we will have to report on this fall.



## FULL COUNT

Fastball, curveball, change-up: When the game's on the line, what do you do?

# TCU DAILY SKIFF

## Man holds two students at gunpoint

By KATHLEEN THURBER  
Staff Reporter

A student pulled a gun from her car in an effort to defend herself and a friend from an armed robbery early Thursday morning, the student said.

Lauren Prasek said she and Rayanne Romero were attacked by a man with a gun at about 2 a.m. Thursday in the parking

lot of Snookies Bar and Grill on South Hulen Street.

Prasek, a senior fashion merchandising major, said the parking lot was empty when she and Romero, a senior communication studies major, left the bar, but that when they walked toward her car, a man who had been crouching beside the dumpster near

her car ran out and attacked Romero.

"He ran and slammed my friend against the car and had a gun in her stomach," Prasek said.

Though Prasek said she was not carrying a purse, she said the man then started yelling at her and Romero to hand over their purses.

"She (Romero) was pretty shaken up," Prasek said, explaining that Romero did not immediately give the man her purse.

Prasek said she then reached into her car and took out a gun that she is licensed to carry. She said the license does not allow her to bring the gun into bars but that, "it happened

to be in my car, so I took it out."

She said that once she pointed the gun at the man, he took Romero's purse, pointed his gun toward her and then ran away from the parking lot.

A police helicopter immediately came to search the surrounding area, though police have not located the man,

Prasek said.

Prasek said the man took Romero's purse, phone and wallet, and that he had made purchases with Romero's credit card before she and Romero had returned home Thursday morning.

Sergeant Kelly Ham said the TCU Police became involved. See **ROBBERY**, page 2



KIRA MEDNIS / Photographer

### Island jammin'

Freshman premajor James McCombs, sophomore finance major Kurtis Freeman and freshman health and fitness and movement science major Donovan Savage take a break from advertising for Island Party, an annual all-campus event put on by Brothers Under Christ. Island Party, which will be from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday near Amon Carter Stadium, will feature free food, concerts and games. Artists and groups such as Shawn Groves, LaCrae and Poor Rich Folk will perform at Island Party.

## Support group roles discussed by athletics

By MIKE DWYER  
News editor

National trends and more stringent NCAA recruitment policies have left TCU athletics administrators discussing the future of team support groups like the Purple Hearts and Diamond Darlings, said Marc Evans, director of ath-

letics compliance.

Evans said the NCAA has changed rules over the last two years to restrict how support groups can deal with recruits, and as a result, some schools, like the University of Alabama and Florida State University, have disbanded groups like the Purple Hearts.

Other colleges have reorganized or changed group charters to be sure they comply with regulations, he said.

"If you remember, there were some incidences at some other campuses — Colorado and others — and so that started this reform as to we need to review and look at

those (spirit groups)," Evans said. "So there have been discussions, but there has not been any decision made as to exactly what (TCU is) going to do with this group yet."

The athletics department reviews its practices every year to analyze how successful. See **HEARTS**, page 2

## Education complex building to begin

By LIZ CRAWFORD  
Staff Reporter

A ceremonial groundbreaking event for the new education building will take place at noon today, but actual construction won't begin until June 1, said Chancellor Victor Boschini.

Education students are taking their finals early so the Bailey Building can be cleared out by mid-May, said Sam Deitz, dean of the School of Education. Faculty and staff offices will be relocated to the

basement of Tucker Technology Center starting May 3, he said.

The building should be cleared by May 15, said Harold Leeman, associate director of major projects. The area will be a full construction site by June 1 and should be finished by July 2007, Leeman said.

The original Bailey Building, which will be gutted and receiving a new stairwell, will be made over to look like it did when it was built in 1914,



Courtesy TCU Physical Plant  
Construction on the new education complex, seen here in an artists rendering, will begin June 1. The new building will be 35,000 square feet.

the old building," Leeman said, "And the new building will stand alone. It will

Shawn Kornegay, assistant director of communications. See **BUILDING**, page 2

## Club fight results in police injuries, more investigation

By TALIA SAMPSON  
Staff Reporter

Police are still investigating the early morning bar brawl at Stone Canyon Saloon that occurred Friday, said Lt. Dean Sullivan, the Fort Worth Police Department public information officer.

Sullivan said no arrests were made, and there is no mention in the official reports he had read that Taser stun guns were used.

However, Sullivan said, "The entire incident is under review."

According to the police report, officers came at the request of an off-duty officer who was working part time at the club, to help him break up a fight.

"He saw a large fight with as many as 50 to 60 individuals fighting," Sullivan said.

The report went on to say that two officers suffered minor injuries in the fight.

Sullivan said one officer was hospitalized.

"Officer D. Martinez was struck with a flying beer bot-

tle to he left forehead," Sullivan said.

The reports Sullivan read listed six officers and the bar owner and included no witness statements, he said.

"It is not uncommon, during a large scale altercation, such as a bar fight, for witnesses to flee the area," Sullivan said.

Aaron Keen, general manager for Stone Canyon, said he thought the police did a good job and used the Tasers in a professional manner.

"I take full responsibility if any employees got Tased," said Keen, a 2005 TCU graduate. "Officers didn't recognize me or my staff, which was my fault for not having my employees properly attired with staff shirts."

Keen said this was the first fight he had seen since taking over as general manager in January and said the club plans to take more security precautions.

"We have more security staff, another cop on staff and we'll See **BRAWL**, page 2

## Class gets firsthand lesson in investing

By ERIN GLATZEL  
Staff Reporter

A student-run financial fund began with a \$600,000 donation, one professor and five students, and is now worth \$1.5 million.

The Educational Investment Fund is a class offered in the School of Business, which offers selected students the opportunity to administer and manage an equity portfolio for the William C. Conner Foundation.

Stanley Block, professor of finance, said around 18 students manage a portfolio for this private foundation and then provide returns to TCU and the Baylor School of Medicine, the foundation's two beneficiaries.

"TCU had the first student-managed financial fund in the country when it began in 1973," said Block, one of the founding members of the fund.

Dan Short, dean of the business school, said money from the \$1.5 million fund is primarily invested in the stock market and said 6 percent is paid out

each year to the Baylor College of Medicine and TCU.

This student-managed fund, which earns students six hours of credit, is a class that lasts two semesters, Block said.

To participate in this class, students must go through a selective process, including an interview.

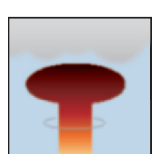
Block said, the average GPA of students in the class is 3.79.

Half of the students participating in the class are MBA's and the other half are undergraduate finance and accounting majors.

This year, students in charge of the fund were the winners of the Large Cap Gross Stocks at the yearly conference held in Dayton, Ohio March 28 through April 1, said Stefan Wolf, chief administrator for the fund.

"We have to send in all of our buys, cumulative returns and bank statements to be audited by one of the top four consulting firms in the nation," Wolf said. "I think the fact that

See **FUND**, page 2



### WEATHER

TODAY: T-Storms, 71/60

WEDNESDAY: T-Storms, 74/55

TOMORROW: Sunny, 79/56

### FUN FACT

West Virginia police found a missing potbellied pig early Wednesday in the back seat of a car reported stolen in Ohio.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: A thousands times goodbye, page 3

NEWS: Food and free market economy, page 7

FEATURES: Over a century of life experience, page 8

### CONTACT US

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

**ROBBERY**

From page 1

because the crime took place

in such close proximity to campus. Also, Romero and Prasek wanted to alert students of the incident.

Ham said he has not yet

spoken to the Fort Worth detective assigned to the case because he was in court all day Thursday.

Ham said TCU "will have

no part in the investigation because it is not in (its) jurisdiction."

A crime alert was sent to all students Thursday morning,

which described the man as a small-built, white male in his early twenties who was wearing jeans, a sweatshirt and a red bandanna over his face.

**BRAWL**

From page 1

be more strict on the dress code," Keen said.

At least one TCU football

player was working security for the club and said earlier this week that police shot him and several others with Tasers.

The player, junior wide receiver Michael DePriest, said, "The general manager got Tased,

and even the owner almost got Tased. I got Tased, too."

DePriest said club staff had the fight almost under control when police arrived and exacerbated the situation.

"People got hysterical. It

was like a raid, and everybody was a victim. I don't blame them, but I thought the situation could have been handled better," DePriest said.

Sullivan said no one had filed a complaint about the use

of Tasers or excessive force by police at the club but said if anyone came forward then the Fort Worth Police Department would have 150 days to investigate and take disciplinary action.

**BUILDING**

From page 1

Steve and Betsy Palko donated \$1.732 million, and the Mabee Foundation donated \$1.5 million for construction, Kornegay said.

The School of Education complex, comprised of the Bailey Building and the new building, will be called The J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation Education Complex, Kornegay said. The new building will be named the Steve and Betsy Palko Building after the top

donors, he said. Plans for the Steve and Betsy Palko Building include classrooms, lecture halls, computer labs and offices, Leeman said.

The new building will be rich in technology, Boschini said.

"Finally, the physical building will match the quality

of the education happening inside it," Boschini said.

The Steve and Betsy Palko Building and the renovated Bailey Building will have enough space to meet the demands of growth over the past five years, Deitz said. The classrooms are designed for

the way education professors teach, he said. The classrooms will also be available for the rest of the university to use to reduce the classroom shortage on campus, he said.

"This new facility will be an exciting and worthwhile addition to TCU," Deitz said.

**HEARTS**

From page 1

ful they've been, if they have assisted in accomplishing what they were supposed to and to make sure TCU is in line with NCAA regulations every year, Evans said. With the flux in recruiting policy, he said, it's natural that administrators would address support groups this year.

"The new reform package for recruiting has really changed what they can do for us," Evans said "I would say that there's been discussions as to what role they will play on our campus, but I don't want people to read any further than the fact that that's been discussed on every campus across country as to what their role will be."

Evans said his role in discussing Purple Hearts and Diamond Darlings is limited to informing department officials as to what NCAA rules are and

to inform them of what TCU needs to comply with those rules. The future of the organizations will be decided on athletics administrators.

Athletics director Danny Morrison said his department evaluates all compliance areas on a regular basis and is checking into all aspects of recruiting policy, not just Purple Hearts and Diamond Darlings.

"We just want to make sure our support groups are under NCAA compliance," Morrison said.

He said it is too early to speculate on whether the groups will disband or be drastically changed because athletics administrators are still in the early stages of discussion.

"We're trying to take what we're doing, see how we can improve it, how we can do better and just as importantly, how we can document it better as to what we're doing in that process," Morrison said.

"You can do a lot of good things, but if you don't have documentation of it, then one of the elements of compliance will be left out of the equation."

Evans said the review has nothing to do with a phone call from a Mountain West Conference compliance official he received after an episode of the ESPN series "The Season" aired in which TCU football players were given baked goods by members of the Purple Hearts in November.

He said the show made it seem as if players received treats from the Purple Hearts every week, which would be a violation of NCAA rules, but in reality, Purple Hearts only give baked goods to team members once a year, which is allowed under the current parameters.

The conference is routinely alerted of potential violations and asks its institutions to internally review incidents

based on media reports and appearances on a regular basis, Evans said.

"There's articles in newspapers all over the country, there's things that are run on newscasts, and people see things in backgrounds, or they think they see things," he said "It's very common that people call and just ask us to review and say, 'We think we saw this. Can you clarify for us?' That's very common in this office."

Javan Hedlund, MWC director of communications, said the conference office is usually in daily contact with its institutions about possible compliance issues, but could not comment on the specifics on the incident involving TCU and "The Season."

An attempt to contact an MWC compliance official through Hedlund was not immediately successful.

Evans said the department has to be extremely careful in reviewing everything and

everybody associated with it because TCU is already on probation because of track and field rules violations. He also said the department has to ensure all its student-athletes are in compliance and takes on additional responsibility when it has to monitor spirit groups as well.

"If they do something wrong, they're part of our organization, somewhat," Evans said, "So even though they're not an athletic team, they're still part. If we're overseeing them, then we're going to be responsible, so that's why we have to educate them like we are our student-athletes — that these are things they can or cannot do."

**SOLUTIONS**

From page 9

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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**FUND**

From page 1

we doubled the stock market return was the determining factor in our win."

Last year's winner in that category was Purdue University.

"This was the first completely student-run financial portfolio in the country, and now there are around 190 student-managed funds in many universities, many of which have modeled themselves after TCU's original," Block said.

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## COLLEGE IS COMING TO A CLOSE...

Whether you have two weeks or two years, don't take your time at TCU for granted, a graduating senior tells us. See Darcie Dusek's column online.

### THE SKIFF VIEW

## TCU contributes to junk mail

No one really likes junk mail. E-mail, snail mail, you name it; everyone hates having to sort through piles of useless crap that only serve to irritate the reader. Buy this now, sign up here now, call this number ... it's all the same, and it's all ridiculous. So why is TCU exacerbating the problem? As reported by the Skiff two days ago, TCU administration provided student's e-mail addresses to K Reed and Company, a Dallas-based merchandising firm responsible for the promotion of the new Grand-Marc hall. So basically, they coughed up our contact information to professional spammers. In all fairness, it's likely that the firm also does a lot of other work that doesn't involve e-mail inundation, but in today's age, marketing seems to be all about over exposure and online communication. The project manager at the company, Julie Ratcliff, said that some of the given addresses belong to students who signed up for more information about the new

apartments. That's all well and good, but things should have stopped there. Don Mills, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said he thinks "no harm was done because TCU is in a partnership with the GrandMarc." Honestly, that shouldn't matter. If students didn't express an interest in the new apartments, either by its Web site or office, it is not readily apparent why they should be dealing with one more point-and-click. This may not seem like a big deal; it may even seem blown out of proportion. But how do we know that this action won't prove to be a gateway towards other more aggressive, yet less useful, marketing partnerships? Are we saying if TCU finds a way to buddy up to say, Red Bull, then it's still OK for administration to give away private information all willy-nilly? Or maybe I'll start spamming out to TCU all of my interests and plans. Oops, wait — someone already took care of that this month.

*Sports editor Travis Stewart for the editorial board.*

### NEWSREAL • NICHOLAS SAMBALUK



### SENIOR COLUMN

## Cartoonist gives thanks, 'grad-itude'

I love history. I love that it connects the past and the present because life is a kind of continuum. Last year was someone's graduation, this year is my graduation and next year will be someone else's.

Each day is the best or the worst ever to someone on earth, but it's easy to think only of our own big days. All the rest of the calendar is simply "the space in between" in our own eyes, but each one is someone else's big day.

I must admit that I sometimes stumble into the pitfall of overlooking other people's big days. Each one really is a gift from above and deserves recognition and appreciation.

With that in mind, I'd like to recognize some of the folks who make otherwise ordinary days very special.

Family comes first, and I think I speak for about everybody when I say the love and support — emotional as well as financial — of family has been an anchor through the years. For my own part, I am grateful to my Mom, Dad and younger brother Eric.

Friends, of course, make life worthwhile, and TCU is a friendly campus that will be easy to miss and to remember well. To these people, I'd like to offer sincere wishes of good luck for all they chose to do as they move on along their own life paths, and I continue on mine.

I'd like to offer personal thanks to many others as well. The history department is full of terrific people — from the front of classrooms through the rows of seats to the administrative offices.

Working at the Skiff has been one of the most rewarding joys I've had in college. I'd like to thank my editors, Stephanie Weaver, Jennifer Berry and Brian Chatman, and I want to also thank Robert Bohler for his vital work and professional advice.

I certainly hope you've seen — and enjoyed — my "NewsReal" cartoons on the Opinion page and my "Three Dimensions" cartoons on the Etc. page. The Skiff has had a terrific year, and being part of it has been a complete thrill for me.

There are many other people, too many to name, who merit "grad-itude." I'd like to thank all the people — students and teachers alike — whose dedication to learning has made TCU a great place to learn and a fun place to study. Congratulations on another great year!

*Skiff cartoonist Nicholas Sambaluk is a senior history major from Poolville. He will begin graduate studies at UNT this fall.*

## Media priorities need major shift

I turn on TV news every day, only to cringe and switch the channel in disgust. I am extremely insulted by the top stories of the hour being about Tom Cruise's new baby or another celebrity trial. I'm sorry, news channels, but that is just not breaking news no matter how urgent your anchors make it sound.

There is so much else going wrong in the world today that needs our attention — but so much of it is being ignored.

A good example is the small European country of Belarus. A year ago, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice referred to it as "the last remaining true dictatorship in the heart of Europe," and today, nothing has changed. In fact, nothing has changed since Alexander Lukashenko came to power in 1994.

For the last 12 years, he has been brutally suppressing all opposition and holding referendums to grant himself more powers. The two-term limit of elected president no longer applies to him because of one such referendum in 2004. There is virtually no freedom of speech within the country. And insulting the president

carries a prison-term punishment.

In March, the country held another presidential election, Lukashenko's third. The election was once again won by Lukashenko and once again hailed by the Western world as "fundamentally flawed." The only news coverage the country received during this time was when there were protesters on the streets who were in danger of clashing with the government police.

Once the government successfully clamped down on the protesters, the media lost all interest and went back to the more pressing stories, such as new developments in the Natalie Holloway disappearance.

Belarus was, for a short while, in the spotlight. We were shown photographs of protesters being dragged away and could read stories of police blockades throughout the capital. That was pretty exciting stuff, right?

But the protesters were jailed or beaten; the opposition was weakened and is no longer out on the streets demanding change. Belarus is still a dictatorship and whatever was wrong when the media talked about it in March is still wrong now. But as the news coverage faded, Lukashenko's regime is still

standing strong.

No matter how important a story is, the media have a lot of problems coming to grips with continuity, says assistant professor of political science Adam Schiffer.

"If there are no changes, it will be ignored," he said.

And Belarus doesn't make it easy for the world's media to cover it, either. Most foreign press representatives need a visa to enter Belarus. If the journalist happens to be from a country not required to have a visa, he or she still needs a license. Without a license, you can't report.

Yuri Zarakhovich of Time magazine learned this not long before the March elections. He wrote a story the Belarus government deemed unfavorable, and his license was revoked. And even though he is allowed to travel to Belarus, he says that if he is seen there, he will be sent out of the country because he is no longer allowed to report from it.

But instead of backing away from covering Belarus, journalists should only try harder because of examples such as this. If such action by a government in the "heart of Europe" is not news, then what is?

Schiffer says the idea of a beautiful white woman gone

missing is a lot more appealing for journalists today.

Nevermind that the politically motivated disappearances happen on a regular basis in Belarus, as reported by human rights watchdogs. Schiffer says disappearance cases such as Holloway's, or celebrity trials, are just more "sexy."

"It's just a really long episode of 'Law and Order,'" he says. The police searches and loud trials with unexpected verdicts are exciting, and the media are convinced that is what the public truly wants to see.

So I'm sorry, the 10 million people of Belarus, your suppression of freedoms and daily fight to live under a tyrant are not as exciting as Michael Jackson being accused of child molestation. And I am sorry, genocide victims of African countries whose killers are still at large. More important issues, such as O.J. Simpson's trial, took precedence.

And I'm sorry, every other nation, either war-torn or suppressed by illegitimate dictators, we will more than likely never know of your struggles. Angelina is about to have Brad's baby. Until that's over ... don't count on getting the world's attention.

*Copy desk chief Olga Bograd is a senior international communication major from Moscow.*

### SENIOR COLUMN

## Four years of changes, memories to remember

As the semester winds down and I realize it's nearly time to move into the real world, you can frequently see me with a dazed look on my face.

I don't know yet what I'll be doing after college. I have some job prospects, and I'm getting married. But when all is said and done, the future is a huge

blank, a huge question mark. For the first time in 17 years, I'll be out of school. For good.

I will never forget TCU. When I came here, I was a very different person. I think that is why my mother was hesitant to send me to a school that didn't require chapel or have a curfew or a dress code. And maybe she was right.

My whole belief system has changed. I look different; I dress different. I am marrying a guy I didn't give the time of day to when we met in high school.

And yet I'm sure that's not a bad thing. That is part of what

college is about — growing, changing, becoming. I will never forget the experiences I had here, the friends I've made and the professors who have influenced me.

When I think back on my college years, the things I remember most are the little things — all of the idiosyncrasies and memories that makes TCU the place it is here, now, today, in my mind. Next year it'll be a different place, and I'll be a different person.

So here are some of those little things I can't forget that made TCU special to me:

The look on my mom's face when she really understood that I lived in a coed dorm. A (male) friend came into the hallway in a towel and asked, "Do you know anything about the guy sleeping in the lounge?" Her face was priceless.

The TCU flower grant. When I applied here, everyone kept telling me TCU has a beautiful campus. Now I know why — the flowers are changed out practically every two weeks.

I will never forget the purple cabbages growing for a season near my dorm or the day of the Schieffer School of Journalism dedication, when garish flowers and trees were planted in the Moudy courtyard and then removed the next day. I have always wondered where the flowers go — do they get thrown away? Maybe they get recycled into our cafeteria food — that would certainly explain a lot.

The night my friends and I put on prom clothes and took pictures dancing in front of Frog Fountain on the spur of the moment.

Watching my professors' band play. Who knew a handful of profs could be so entertaining?

The ice storm freshman year. I lived in the Greek, and the streets and sidewalks hadn't been cleared. Pond Street Grill wasn't even open, so in order to get food, we had to walk up to Frog Bytes. A friend swears I saved her life during the storm by stepping out in front of a car when she slipped. And despite

the ice, my then-boyfriend and I walked all the way to Panera on University for food.

And, of course, who could live here without learning what it means to be a Texan. No, most Texans don't ride horses to school or wear cowboy hats day-in and day-out. But the saying "everything is bigger in Texas" is true — even if it only applies to open fields, egos and vehicles.

These four years have been worth the \$35,000 of student loans I'll have when I'm finished. I think.

These have been four good years.

So as opinion editor, I just want to thank you for the time you've spent reading the page, for considering the ideas on it and for participating by writing in. We couldn't have done it without you.

So to those who are graduating, congratulations. To those who aren't, make the most of what's left of your college days.

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

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## FACEOFF

From page 10

just limited to the mound; Conlon knows exactly how he works.

"I see myself as a fast ball aggressive, early in the count," Conlon said. "I mean I'll take a pitch, but I like to hit early in the count rather than at two strikes. I don't mind drawing walks and stuff, but I'd rather hit in the first two pitches than say at four or five."

Nothing may bring out the mental toughness of a batter or pitcher than a full count, however. Conlon said his take on the hurler is fluid when things change from a hitter's count (3-0) to a loaded one (3-2.)

"It just went from being really selective at 3-0, because I'm probably not going to swing, and then at 3-1, I'm still looking for my pitch," Conlon said. "If he makes a good pitch, I'll foul it off. I have to expand the zone, I have to have that mindset. I can't be as picky with the zone."

No matter what a hitter might be thinking, Arrieta said, there are clear parameters to what a pitcher should be throwing at certain counts.

"Well, on a 3-2 count, most of the time you have to throw something in the strike zone because you want to avoid walking guys as much as possible," Arrieta said. "As far as 0-2 counts, you want to throw a pitch outside of the strike

zone and you want to try and get a batter to chase it if at all possible."

But there's a difference between a pitcher working himself into a full count and a reliever being asked to battle his way out of one. Senior pitcher Shawn Ferguson, who has worked as both a closer and a starter this season, said his focus on batters has to be more impromptu than planned.

"Mine's so much more based on situations," Ferguson said. "I'll come in and I have a runner on second or third — especially with a runner on third — and there's less than two outs — I can't go right after him with a fastball. If I have a base open, I'll work my breaking ball more because I don't want to give into him."

Although relievers are commonly brought into tough scenarios, Conlon said, he still reads over the team's scouting reports before facing them.

"If they bring a guy in from the bullpen, I'll go look at the scouting report again, get an idea of what he's going to throw," Conlon said. "It's a good feeling when you know they got to the bullpen because usually your best pitches are starters ... so the chance of him screwing up are a lot greater than probably the starters."

Hitting coach Matt Siegel said regardless of the pitcher's role, each batter should focus more intrapersonally than interpersonally.

"There's very few pitchers we've seen this year that, personally, I would give enough credit to to say 'Hey, this guy's got such a good second pitch, and such command of that, that we have to sit on that pitch,'" Siegel said. "I think it's more important for hitters to stick with their strengths."

One universal strength for every hitter is that while each pitcher is unique, no one is a true inventor.

"It's important for hitters to have an idea what pitchers throw, but you're not going run into a guy that's going to throw something that you've never seen before," Siegel said. "I think it's more important to realize what a pitcher can throw for strikes. If a pitcher has two different breaking balls and he can't throw either one for strikes, then we don't need to worry about that."

Regardless of whether a pitcher is locating his throws well, Arrieta said, maintaining confidence is key to victory in the mental battle.

"Usually, you just got to keep your composure, because if your don't, things will really start to fall apart," Arrieta said. "There's a lot of stuff that can get into your head, as far as the batter and all of that stuff. Just got to stay on the mound and work with what you've got."

Take it from the expert: in baseball, you play with what you've been given, be that brawn ... or brains.

## BASEBALL

## Team proceeds with confidence

By CARLOS QUALLS  
Staff Reporter

The Horned Frog baseball team is finishing up its seven-game road trip on the right foot and with the right attitude.

The Frogs (25-17) will take on conference foe San Diego State in a weekend series starting tonight at 8 p.m. This series will be a rematch from earlier this month when the Aztecs beat the Frogs 9-7 in the Mountain West preseason tournament.

Despite that loss, sophomore pitcher Jake Arrieta said the team is coming into the series this weekend fully confident.

"Walks really hurt us against them last game," Arrieta said. "I don't think they beat us; we beat ourselves. If we cut down on our mistakes as much as possible, then there is no doubt in my mind we can win all three games this weekend."

The confidence coming from Arrieta and the rest of the team could stem from their recent hot streak. The Frogs have won 13 of their last 16 games, including their current streak of six wins out of seven games.

Senior outfielder Ryan Pack said the Frogs' early season struggles can be attributed to a sense of complacency

to begin the year.

"In the beginning we kind of just expected things to fall into our laps," Pack said. "We have a mental focus now that everyone on the team shares."

Pack said players are just starting to crack down individually on little areas that are important to the game.

"In the batter's box, batters became more focused on hitting a good pitch," Pack said. "Pitchers became more focused on throwing good strikes, and on defense we became more focused in deciding what we're going to do with the ball before we even get it. Our overall point of intensity has just picked up."

Sophomore pitcher Sam Demel said he knew things would turn around for the Frogs given the right amount of time.

"We had a lot of guys who needed to get their feet wet and realize the college game is a lot different than high school," Demel said. "It took time to gel, but we're where we want to be right now — on top of the Mountain West Conference."

Arrieta will take the mound for the Frogs in game one and will face Aztecs ace Justin Masterson. Masterson has 84 strikeouts this season and

leads the Aztecs with a 4.06 ERA. Arrieta said he and the Frogs are ready for the challenge Masterson will present.

"We know we're facing a pretty good pitcher," Arrieta said. "The key will be sticking to our routine and me going out there and doing my job on the mound."

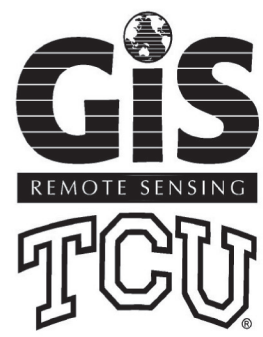
The Frogs stuck to the routine last game, pounding out 17 hits and 16 runs against Texas at Arlington. Sophomore shortstop Bryan Kervin said the team has hit a groove and is doing the things it wasn't doing early this season.

"We're executing bunts, scoring with runners on second and third and scoring a lot with two outs," Kervin said. "It's a big turnaround from what we were doing prior to this run."

Demel said the team just has to continue on with the same mind-set, intensity and approach to the game for this weekend series and the games beyond the weekend in order to continue winning.

"We just have to keep playing the game one pitch at a time and not start thinking too far ahead," Demel said. "Let whatever happens to just take its course. We have to take it day by day, game by game and pitch by pitch."

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Fri, April 28

**Akeelah and the Bee** PG- 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50  
**Ice Age: The Meltdown** PG-12:05, 2:05, 4:05, 6:05, 8:05, 10:05  
**RV** PG-12:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30, midnight  
**Scary Movie 4** PG13- 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10  
**Silent Hill R-** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 12:25am  
**The Sentinel** PG13- 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45

Sat, April 29

**Akeelah and the Bee** PG- 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50  
**Ice Age: The Meltdown** PG-12:05, 2:05, 4:05, 6:05, 8:05, 10:05  
**Mavericks G-** 4:30  
**Rocky Horror R-** midnight  
**RV** PG-12:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30, midnight  
**Scary Movie 4** PG13- 12:10, 2:10, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20  
**Silent Hill R-** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 12:25am  
**The Sentinel** PG13- 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45

Sun, April 30

**Akeelah and the Bee** PG- 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50  
**Ice Age: The Meltdown** PG-12:05, 2:05, 4:05  
**RV** PG-12:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30  
**Scary Movie 4** PG13- 12:10, 2:10, 4:10  
**Silent Hill R-** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00  
**The Sentinel** PG13- 12:00, 2:25  
**WWE Backlash** PG13- 7:00

Mon, May 1

**Akeelah and the Bee** PG- 7:05, 9:50  
**Ice Age: The Meltdown** PG- 7:10, 9:20  
**Mavericks G-** 7:00 (Monday only)  
**RV** PG-7:00, 9:30  
**Scary Movie 4** PG13- 12:10, 2:10  
**The Sentinel** PG13- 7:15, 9:45

Tues, May 2 - Thurs, May 4

**Akeelah and the Bee** PG- 7:05, 9:25  
**Mavericks G-** 7:00 (Wednesday only)  
**Ice Age: The Meltdown** PG- 7:10, 9:20 (Tuesday and Thursday only)  
**RV** PG-7:00, 9:30  
**Scary Movie 4** PG13- 7:20, 9:40  
**Silent Hill R-** 7:00, 9:35  
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# White teens accused of sexually assaulting Hispanic male

By JUAN A. LOZANO  
Associated Press

SPRING, Texas (AP) — Two white teenagers severely beat and sodomized a Hispanic 16-year-old boy who they believed had tried to kiss a Hispanic 12-year-old girl at a party, authorities said.

The attackers forced the boy out of the Saturday night house party, beat him and sodomized him with a plastic pipe, shouting anti-Hispanic epithets, said sheriff's Lt. John Martin.

He was in critical condition Thursday, five days after the attack. A police officer said investigators believe the

attack was prompted by the age gap between the beating victim and the younger girl.

Harris County prosecutor Mike Trent said the attackers also cut the victim with a knife. They then poured bleach over the boy, apparently to destroy DNA evidence, and left him for dead, authorities said. He was not discovered until Sunday, 12 hours after the attack.

The victim, whose name was not released, suffered severe internal injuries, cuts on his chest and head injuries.

"It's about 50-50 whether he lives or dies at this point,"

Trent said.

Investigators said no adults were supervising the party, where they found evidence of the use of marijuana and the sedative Xanax.

Keith Robert Turner, 17, and David Henry Tuck, 18, were charged with aggravated sexual assault, which carries a maximum of five years to life in prison, investigators said. Prosecutors were considering whether to add hate-crime charges.

"Whether it is one or isn't a hate crime, and it may be, that will make no difference here," Trent said. "This is already a first-degree felony

and it can't be elevated any higher. There's nowhere to go beyond this, unless the victim dies."

If the boy dies and it is ruled a hate crime, Tuck could face the death penalty, authorities said. Turner would be too young to face execution.

Next-door neighbor Nancy Benavides said teens frequent the house where the attack took place but they were never loud. She said she didn't hear anything unusual Saturday night, including the attack.

"I feel bad. I wish I would have been able to hear

something so we could have helped," she said.

"The two suspects were being mean and vicious and looking for any excuse to stomp somebody," he said.

Denholm said the 12-year-old girl and her older brother witnessed the attack, but made no effort to stop it.

Turner was jailed on \$100,000 bail and was waiting to make his initial court appearance. Tuck's bail was initially set at \$20,000, but it was revoked Thursday. He was being held in the Harris County Jail.

Charles Hinton, Tuck's attorney, did not return a tele-

phone call Thursday seeking comment. It was not immediately known if Turner had an attorney.

Spring is a middle-class, largely white suburb of 36,000 residents, about 10 miles north of the Houston city line. The town's population is about 18 percent Hispanic.



Tuck

Turner



SXC.HU

# House approves \$1 cigarette tax; prices to raise early September

By APRIL CASTRO  
Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — A pack-a-day will cost Texas smokers an extra \$365 a year under a cigarette tax increase approved in the House on Thursday.

The higher tax, which will kick in Sept. 1, is expected to generate \$680 million. That money would be used to offset a portion of school property tax cuts that are part of Gov. Rick Perry's plan to revamp the way Texas funds public education.

The plan, which also includes an expanded business tax, is part of Perry's answer to a Texas Supreme Court ruling that declared the state's school funding system unconstitutional and ordered it fixed by June 1. Lawmakers are in the second week of a 30-day special legislative session to tackle the issue.

Perry has said that his proposal would reduce school property taxes by one-third, although the House version does not prescribe enough money to get to

that level. House Speaker Tom Cradick said Thursday that the state has enough surplus money to get the full property tax cut and still give teachers a \$2,000 pay raise. Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who leads the Senate, has doubted publicly whether the state would have enough money to do both.

Before it can become law, the measure must be approved by the Senate. If the Senate agrees, the new tax will be added to the 41-cent tax smokers already pay in Texas.

With an 82-57 vote, Republican Rep. Peggy Hamric, who wrote the legislation, fought efforts to reduce the increase.

Critics argued that Texas smokers would cross state lines to buy cheaper cigarettes, or buy them online to avoid the tax.

At \$1.41, Texas' taxes on cigarettes would be significantly higher than surrounding states — almost twice as high as New Mexico's 91-cent levy. A carton

there would be about \$9.68 cheaper.

"A lot of people think if you raise the price high enough, people are just going to quit smoking. I'm not one of those," said Rep. Warren Chisum, a Pampa Republican who tried unsuccessfully to reduce the tax increase to 65 cents a pack. "They just get them from another source."


Perry has argued that the higher tax would deter people from smoking, saving the state additional money in health-care costs related to smoking. Texas currently spends almost \$1.5 billion a year in Medicaid funding on health-care costs caused by tobacco, according to some estimates.

"If the choice is between taxing property or taxing poison," he said, "then I say let's tax cigarettes."

Some studies show that the new tax will persuade 143,300 adult smokers to quit and decrease youth smoking by almost 19 percent.

**Ryan A. Thomas**

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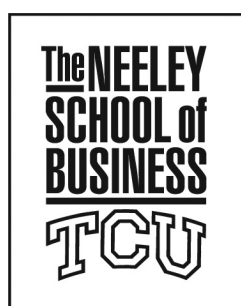
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# Habitat program helps families afford houses

*Potential homeowners put in long hours to get out of public housing*

RYAN WILCOX  
Staff Reporter

Gwen and Jonna Thompson didn't know if they could afford another mortgage, so a Habitat for Humanity home was not just a home. It was an answer to prayer.

Gwen Thompson, a Fort Worth resident who became a Habitat for Humanity homeowner in 2001, said Habitat for Humanity provided an opportunity for a fresh start.

"We needed affordable decent housing, and Habitat gave it to us," Thompson said, "and we are very grateful for it."

Thompson said the house was built by a group of volunteers from Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Bedford.

Diane Wolfe, the media relations representative for Trinity Habitat for Humanity, said most of the families needing assistance are working

with Habitat for Humanity for the first time.

"We bridge the gap between public housing and rental assistance options," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said, in 2005, Habitat for Humanity purchased property in Mosier Valley, situated in northeast Tarrant County, that will allow them to build as many as 28 homes in the future.

Wolfe said Habitat for Humanity helps the Fort Worth Housing Authority move families out of public housing.

Rosa Perez, payroll specialist in the TCU human resources department, said her Habitat for Humanity home was built by American Airlines pilots, who began construction Oct. 16, 2003.

"I'm so happy with this home," Perez said. "The volunteers are such blessings — that all these people come to help you."

Perez said it was a joy to be able to participate in the build with her family. She said she has three stepsons, ages 15 to 19, and a 2-year-old

daughter, who stays at home with her fiancée during the day.

Perez said her family moved in Dec. 19, 2003.

"Everybody goes out and volunteers and helps out, and it's such a great feeling," Perez said.

Perez said working on the site gave her useful skills, such as how to install a window or hammer a nail.

Wolfe said new homeowners sell surplus building materials at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which sells donated building materials as a way to complete their sweat-equity hours, which help Habitat for Humanity cover the costs of building a home.

"We understand that in order to meet the need that exists, we are going to have to be creative, and the ReStore is one way we do that," Wolfe said.

ReStore Director Cody Hamilton said homeowners are required to work 30 sweat-equity hours in the ReStore as part of the 300 total required by Habitat for Humanity.

Hamilton said the homeowners are a big help to the ReStore staff.

"We have a really small staff, so we rely on the homeowners," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said the homeowners typically do manual labor such as stocking shelves. Homeowners can bring up to three family members to complete the work.

Perez, who worked at the ReStore with her stepson, said she enjoyed the experience because it allowed her to give back.

Thompson said working toward the required sweat equity hours was not a burden.

"It was fun, and it was productive because it was going toward a home that would soon be our own," Thompson said.

Matt Owens, FrogHouse student fundraising director, said FrogHouse, a class of 2007 project in conjunction with Habitat, gathered donations from students, parents and corporate sponsors such as Home Depot and Lowe's, which cost \$51,500.

Wolfe said everyone can identify with Habitat for Humanity's mission.

"We all understand that everybody needs a place to call home," Wolfe said. "Housing is a basic human need; you can't do without it."

**TRINITY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Founded in 1989, Trinity Habitat for Humanity has built 265 homes to date in Tarrant and Johnson counties.

Habitat for Humanity averages about 30 homes a year and two have been completed in 2006, while 10 are in progress. There are plans to build 34 homes in 2006.

In the 2004 and 2005, Habitat for Humanity built 55 homes.

To qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home a family's income has to be 30 percent to 60 percent of the their area's average.

The family's income must be sufficient to keep the housing costs affordable, generally 33 percent or less of household incomes.



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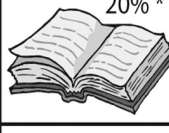
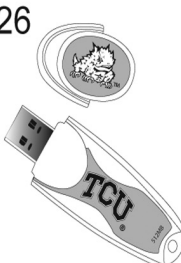


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		1	2 <b>Test Day?!!</b> We sell the scantrons. We sell pencils. We don't sell the answers (lol).	3 Final Day of Class!	4 <b>LANCÔME PARIS</b> <i>Beauty tip</i> - How can I keep my eyeliner from smearing?	5 Lancome says to use a Le Stylo Waterproof long lasting eyeliner or Artliner Precision Point Eyeliner for long wear.	6 <b>Gift Ideas!</b> Graduation is a week away! Purchase that diploma frame today!
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28 <b>STORE CLOSED</b>	29 <b>STORE CLOSED</b> 	30 <b>Buyback</b> Ain't nothing like cash-cold, hard cash.	31 <b>My Life In and Out of the Rough</b> John Daly 20% * 	<b>Did you know?</b> We are buying the Campbell Biology textbook @ \$68.00 new and \$51.00 used. ... Now! + We now honor the Barnes & Noble Reader's Advantage card. Start saving today! <small>(Discount applies only to trade books and discount options can't be combined.)</small>			

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## PC to host garage sale

By JACQUILEE KILLEEN  
Staff Reporter

It's time to empty those piggy banks and start shopping today at Programming Council's garage sale in front of Frog Fountain.

Kit Lipscomb, a member of Programming Council, said the organization will host Frog Market in an effort to make it TCU's largest garage sale with live music and free food.

The event is open to anyone who would like to come and will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., said Lipscomb, a sophomore international communication and Spanish major.

Lipscomb said 21 applications have been turned in by students and faculty members. Paintings, cultural items, shoes and handbags are just a few of the items that will be up for sale.

Elaine Martinez, who works in Financial Services, is participating in the Frog Market to gain exposure for her products and personal business.

"At the event, I will be sell-

ing jewelry made from either stones or beads and Mary Kay products," Martinez said.

Daisy Delgado, a member of Sigma Lambda Alpha, said her sorority is anticipating being involved in this event.

"Last semester we had a rummage sale downtown to raise money for our sorority and we hope we can do the same at the TCU garage sale," said the sophomore social work major.

Delgado also said Frog Market will be beneficial because her sorority will be able to get name recognition and spend quality time with the TCU community.

Lipscomb said food and entertainment will be available for participants, as well as students who don't necessarily want to shop at the garage sale.

"The live music by Baby Woodstock and the free food, catered by Buffalo Wild Wings, is enough of an incentive to come to this event," Lipscomb said.

## Multilingual skills 'très bien,' students say

By BETSY RAPIER  
Staff Reporter

Have you ever said: "I'm never going to use this in the real world?" Some classes might give you that impression, but Bonnie Frederick, chairwoman of the Spanish department at TCU, said she believes foreign language classes will be useful for a lifetime.

In the increasingly global society, it is becoming more important and necessary for people to know more than one language, Frederick said. In Texas, 3.4 million people speak Spanish to some degree,

according to the IMAC Spanish Language Programs Web site.

Foreign language classes teach not only the language, but also cultural sensitivity and analytical thinking for future use of the language. According to the TCU Factbook, the number of undergraduate students enrolled in foreign language classes has grown from 6,933 in 2004 to 7,154 in 2005.

Frederick said there are three reasons why students are becoming interested in foreign language studies: parents are encouraging them to take language classes, students are

becoming more aware of their importance in the global society and graduates/friends tell students of the usefulness of knowing another language.

Sara Rozzell, a senior math major and Spanish minor, said, "My knowledge of Spanish can really help me, especially teaching in Texas, to communicate with Spanish-speaking parents."

Erin Haynes, a senior French major, said she wanted to be fluent in another language and knows it's an important skill that employers recognize.

As students graduate and

grow older, they travel abroad for business or vacation, making their language studies both practical and personal. Frederick said more fulfillment comes out of a trip when the travelers are able to enjoy talking with the native speakers.

Haynes said once she is able to travel, she can use her skill of being fluent in two languages to be able to get around.

Frederick said knowledge of another language is useful, for professional reasons, but also because it provides a lifetime of pleasure.

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES FUNDING BOARD

- Make up: 6 members, 1 assistant director, 1 director

- Past semesters gave away \$25,000

- 56 student groups, organizations and sports clubs applied

- Total money requested this semester: \$124,508.32

• Total amount allocated this semester: \$38,250

#### AFB Final Allocations Fall 2006

Name of Group	Amount Allocated
AED - National Prehealth	N/A
Professions Honor Society	\$570.00
Air Force ROTC	\$550.00
African Heritage Organization	\$210.00
Alpha Phi Omega	\$1,040.00
Army ROTC	\$1,300.00
Asian Student Association	\$500.00
Athletic Training Students Association	\$410.00
Baptist Student ministries	\$1,020.00
Catholic community	\$1,494.25
Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship	\$1,500.00
Delta Sigma I	\$1,000.00

Diamond Darlings	\$300.00	Phi Omicron Upsilon Honor Society	\$760.00
E business association	\$800.00	SMCA	\$560.00
Eta Iota Sigma (HIS)	\$150.00	Senseless Acts of Comedy	\$800.00
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$550.00	Showgirls	\$1,400.00
Financial Management Association	\$210.00	Sigma Lambda Alpha Sorority, Inc.	\$650.00
Frogs for Fair Trade	\$1,000.00	Society of Physics Students	\$600.00
Gay Straight Alliance	\$300.00	Society of Women Engineers	\$375.00
Hillel Jewish Student Organization	\$125.00	Sociology Society	\$80.00
Hyper Frogs	\$210.00	Student Filmmakers Association	\$1,660.00
Interior Design Association	\$525.00	Students in Free Enterprise	\$500.00
International Student Association	\$1,000.00	Student Nurse Association	\$400.00
Kappa Lambda Delta Sorority	\$1,087.50	Student Organization for Supply Chain Studies	\$700.00
LEAPS Executive Committee	\$1,000.00	Theatre Education Organization	\$100.00
Muslim Student Association	\$113.25	Up 'Till Dawn	\$560.00
NAACP	\$710.00	World Politics Club	\$1,150.00
National Association of Social Workers at TCU	\$550.00	Sports Clubs	\$9,220.00
Peace Action	\$500.00	<b>Total Allocated</b>	<b>\$38,250.00</b>



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# EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

## Documented age enriches golden years

By BRE'ANNA EMMITT  
Staff Reporter

She was bundle of joy, arriving into the world on the 4th of March. She was perfect and healthy. The second daughter of her parents, baby Annie was exactly what parents hope for.

One-hundred and eleven years ago.

Today, Anne Langston Christopher is the 39th oldest documented person in the world and the great-grandmother of my husband. What's more, she's still healthy.

Christopher was born on a plantation in South Carolina 30 years after the Civil War. She was 17 when the Titanic sunk and in her 30s and 40s during the Great Depression.

She has lived through 43 percent of American history. "You could write a book on her," said her 84-year-old daughter and only-surviving child, Marion Emmitt.

Before Christopher married and started her family, she did what most young women her age never dreamed of: Going to college.

Christopher attended Limestone College in South Carolina and graduated in 1920 with a degree in education.

"That wasn't done back in that time," Emmitt said. "That was a new thing. She was a person beyond her generation."

Christopher agrees with that point.

"I reckon I was a pioneer when I went to college," Christopher said.

Emmitt said her mother often talks about her college years.

"You know, growing up, I didn't pay much attention to it," Emmitt said. "But now I understand it. Her and her college roommate had a lot of fun and played around. She loved her roommate; she even named me after her."

Emmitt paused to laugh about what she was going to say next.

"They weren't prim and proper like the other girls," she giggled. "I think that's why she gets along with the young generations now. Nothing really shocks her. She just goes with the flow."

Christopher's independent side sometimes interrupts her easy-going mentality, however.

When she was 108, she refused to move into assisted living, said her grandson, Robert Emmitt. She changed her mind when she realized all the attention she was getting.

Christopher has two granddaughters who visit her regularly. When she wants to see the rest of her family in Texas, she just hops on a flight from Atlanta. She did that six years ago.

My husband, Christopher Emmitt, said his family took her to visit a Texas history museum, which did not peak her interest.

"She was not impressed at all," he said. "She grew up with everything there and wondered what the big deal was."

After the museum, we took her to a hamburger joint and she insisted on leaving the tip. She put two pennies on the table. We just smiled and left a few dollars when she wasn't looking."

Hamburgers may not be on the list of life-prolonging foods, but, for Christopher, it doesn't matter.

"She eats good," said Esther Posey, administrative assistant of the Winthrop West Senior Living community. "She loves fried chicken. Boy, does she like that. And she lets you know when she's hungry."

Along with fattening foods, Christopher has enjoyed other unhealthy habits.

"She smoked for years after we all grew up," Marion Emmitt said. "But she quit when she was 96."

Christopher said she doesn't know the secrets to a long life.

"I guess the Lord's good to me. I eat well and sleep well. That's two things," Christopher told The Associated Press last month.

"And she's not on any medi-



Ann Christopher smiles as Winthrop West Executive Director David Duke presents her with a birthday cake for her 111th birthday. COURTESY OF TERESA LA FUZE

cation," Emmitt said. "She just takes a multivitamin every day. She calls that her medicine."

At the assisted-living community, Posey said, Christopher sleeps a lot, enjoys life and stays positive.

"She's a sweet lady and very alert," Posey said. "She never forgets anything you tell her. That little thing is as sharp as a button."

Posey said she believes Christopher's schedule just depends on how sleepy she is.

"She used to play balloon volleyball on Tuesdays at activity time," Posey said. "But lately, it's been really cute to wake her up because she looks at you and just says she believes

she'll keep napping."

Christopher also keeps herself looking as pretty as possible, her daughter said.

"She always keeps her wig on her head when she goes to the dining room," Emmitt said. "She puts on her lipstick and rouge every day."

Thirty years ago, Christopher chose her pallbearers and the preacher who would conduct the funeral. But Christopher said they've all died and she's going to have to find new ones.

And she just keeps going on.

"She wonders sometimes why she's still here," Emmitt said. "She jokes that the Lord forgot about her. But she

knows God's in control. She has such a positive emotional outlook on life. And she has a deep abiding faith. She just always knew the Lord would work everything out."

Christopher's granddaughter, who lives close to her, agrees that it's her worry-free mind that keeps "Gran" living so long.

"As a family, we've always said that she's living so long because she never worries about things," said her granddaughter Harriet Brock. "She doesn't know what the word 'stress' means. Not that she hasn't had hard times in her life, but she deals with them well and just knows that everything's going to be OK."

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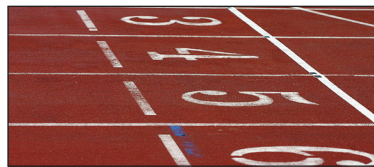
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## THIS WEEKEND IN SPORTS

**FRIDAY:** Baseball @ SDSU; Men's Golf @ MWCC; Women's tennis @ MWCC; Track @ Penn Relays  
**SATURDAY:** Baseball @ SDSU; Men's Golf @ MWCC; Women's tennis @ MWCC; Track @ Penn Relays, Rice Invitational; **SUNDAY:** Baseball @ SDSU



# FACEOFF

Pitchers and hitters have to rely on their mind more than power

BY TRAVIS STEWART | PHOTOS BY STEPHEN SPILLMAN

The scenario is classic: full count, bases loaded, two outs, bottom of the ninth.

The pitcher glances at the catcher and nods his head from behind the glove he holds clasped to his face. The hitter then glances over at the first base coach, who gives him a series of quick signals before the throw comes. The man on the mound confidently cocks his arm and blazes the ball right down the gut — seconds before the batter starts into his swing, powerfully ripping his bat through the zone, waiting for the contact to come.

And then, in that exact moment, one of the two comes to the sudden realization that he guessed wrong ... and the other one guessed right.

Yes, baseball is a sport predicated on physicality, but the speed of a pitch is wasted if the thrower doesn't know

when to throw it; even the strength behind the swing is useless if the hitter reads the pitch incorrectly.

So in baseball, a sport born of tobacco-chewing and brawn, apparently mind still reigns over matter.

The relationship between opposing pitchers and hitters still has an undeniable physical nature — can he throw faster than I can swing? — but the heart of the matter still lies in one mind pitted against another.

Sophomore pitcher Sam Demel said the proper mindset of a pitcher can be the difference between an out and a run.

"If you take that mound and you think 'Man, this guy's really crushing the ball right now; he's a really good hitter,' you're going to hang something to him," Demel said. "If your scared to throw to the guy, he's going to beat you. It's as easy as that."

But statistics are undeniable — some hitters are more proven than others, such as BYU's Ben Saylor, who is batting .327 with 12 home runs and 39 RBIs. TCU sophomore pitcher Jake Arrieta said his approach to dangerous batters is anything but timid.

"I try to take the same approach with every hitter, but especially when guys that come up that you know are good hitters and have a lot of pop in their bat, you try and go after them a little harder," Arrieta said. "Especially against BYU — Ben Saylor, their clean-up hitter, is a real good left-handed hitter. I just try to stay away from them, throw fast balls outside as much as I can ... because you know on those guys, if you leave it over the plate, they're going to hit it pretty hard."

But baseball is not a game of forgive-and-forget. Since most starters will see each batter at least twice,

Demel said, he keeps a running mental catalogue during games of what each hitter's style is.

"When I start, my first time through the order, I throw my fastball," Demel said. "I say 'OK, who can hit this' and then make a mental note through the lineup ... 'OK, first at-bat, that guy caught up to my fast ball,' so next at-bat, I try a slider and mix it up a bit more and work off of a different pitch. You try and learn the hitter, the first at-bat and try to attack his weaknesses the second and third at-bat."

But hitters are no dummies either — junior outfielder Keith Conlon said batters take the effort to remember things as well.

"If I see him my first at-bat and hit a fast ball for a base hit and I hit it hard, then the next at bat I'll go up there and look for an off-speed pitch ... because I probably won't see it again

because I've already done something with it," Conlon said. "It just changes to what I did that at-bat ... if I got out on that pitch, I might look for it again because he got me out on it."

But as in all things in life, sometimes plans fly out the window. When that happens, Demel said, every pitcher has to fall back on what will work best in the current scenario.

"It depends. On a right-handed hitter in a key situation, if I'm looking at it and I need a strike out, I'm going to throw a slider," Demel said. "Left-handed hitter, key situation and I need a strike out, I'm going to bust them hard in and I'm going to change-up away."

Every pitcher is unique however, and Arrieta said each can be differentiated on what his strong points are.

"It also depends on what kind of pitcher you are, if you're a power guy or a finesse guy," Arrieta said. "Say if you're a power guy, your fast ball or your slider may be your out-pitch, but for more of a finesse guy, such as left-handed pitchers, (you'll) probably use the change-ups."

But singular approach styles aren't See **FACEOFF**, page 4

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