

News

KTCU REVAMPS: Radio station's specialty programs and student focus aim to reach campus Read It Thursday.



Features You know they are coming and there is nothing you can do

about it. "Snakes" are inside

PAGE 5.



Sports

With athletic scandals throughout the nation, find out what TCU media relations is doing to sustain the positive image of the athletic department PAGE 6.



WEDNESDAY

August 23, 2006 Vol. 104 Issue 2

Background checks considered after Rec Center incident

By ANDREW CHAVEZ Staff Reporter

Administrators at the University Recreation Center are re-evaluating their policy on community membership after a 35-year-old accused pedophile was detained at the facility by TCU Police for violating his bond, a TCU Police detective said.

Ruben Edwards Jr. was detained on Aug. 8 after a complaint from a Rec Center staff member about his suspicious activity in the pool area, said TCU Police detective Sgt. Kelly Ham.

The staff member was also suspicious of Edwards because of an ankle monitor he was wearing, said Rec Cen-

ter director Steve Kintigh. The monitor ing the summer when all operating arrested on Aug. 1, 2005 for exposing something we're going to look at." from behind the front desk, he said.

His bond conditions prohibited him 100 feet of children, Ham said.

During the fall and spring semesters, children under 16 are only allowed in the facility from 6 p.m. on Friday until the facility

closes on Sunday. The Rec Center pool is occupied almost exclusively by children dur-

most likely went unnoticed by staff hours are family hours. In addition himself to a young female on June members because it was not visible to members' children, there are also children from various on-campus summer programs, Kintigh said.

> "If we had seen an ankle bracelet from being within we might have said, 'Maybe we need to take a look at this," Kintigh said.

> > Edwards got access to the facilities by buying a monthly community membership, said Mary Ellen Milam, associate director at the Rec Center. "We had a complaint," TCU Police

> > did some investigating and he was issued a bench warrant immediately."

> > detective Vicki Lawson said, "and we

18, 2005, Lawson said.

He will go to trial in the 1st Criminal third week in September, said Page sidered an invasion of privacy by some Simpson, a prosecutor in the Tarrant members. He said such measures are County District Attorney's Office.

He is now being held without bond at the Tarrant County Jail, according to jail documents.

The Rec Center staff is "certainly concerned about the incident," Kintigh said, and is currently looking into policy changes to prevent similar incidents.

"As a rule we don't require a pic-Edwards was on bond after being ture ID," Kintigh said, "and that is

He said background checks are also being considered.

Background checks are cost prohibi-District Court, most likely during the tive, Kintigh said, and might be conalso rather unprecedented in a university setting and going back to perform checks on current members would be burdensome.

> The 1996 Megan's Law requires all states to provide a publicly accessible online database with names and photos of convicted sex offenders. However, Edwards was not in the database See **EDWARDS**, page 2

Political issues causing rift within church, leaders say

By MICHELLE THOMAS $Staff\ Reporter$

Divisions in the Episcopal Church regarding the inclusion of female leadership and gay and lesbian clergy are beginning to hit home in Fort Worth.

The new presiding bishop-elect of the United States, Katharine Jefferts Schori, aside from being female, is a strong supporter of gay and lesbian ordination and the blessing of samesex couples in active relationships.

Jack Iker, bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, is seeking alternative leadership after Schori's election in June.



The Diocese of Fort Worth is one of three conservative dioceses in the United States that do not license female priests. With 56 congregations and 19,000 communicants in the 24-county diocese, the issue is growing in urgency.

"We would really like to just go to church and worship," Suzanne Gill, director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Worth, said, "but we have come to the point where we cannot ignore the politics."

Along with churches in the Fort Worth Diocese, Gill said that students at TCU will be taught traditional, sound theology.

"Historic faith will continue to be taught and exemplified at TCU," Gill said.

TCU's Episcopal Student Association, Canterbury House, led by Father Jonathan Ogujiofor, will begin meeting at TCU Thursday nights. "Canterbury House is alive and well on

campus," Ogujiofor said.

"I want Episcopal students to come and enjoy fellowship and make friends," he said. "I don't want them to have to deal with the conflict."

The Rev. Angela Kaufman, the minister to the university, said that the ultimate hope is to find a way to compromise, rather than divide the church.

"As a woman in church leadership," Kaufman said, "I don't think that gender, race, class or background should prohibit people from using their God-given gifts."

Schori will be inducted as the new presiding See **RELIGION**, page 2

The archbishop called a meeting for Sept. 19-22 at the Camp Allen Retreat and Conference Center outside of Navasota, Texas, to discuss growing tensions. Twenty bishops from the American church and others in the Anglican Communion are expected to attend and give response.

For more information about Canterbury House, contact Father Jonathan at j.ogujiofor@tcu.edu.

All jacked up







JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF / Staff Photographer

Dirt flies as the TCU construction continues throughout the 2006 school year. (Top and bottom right) Sight of construction in front of the Student Center. (Bottom left) Rendering of residents halls looking toward University Union.

${\it Official: construction}$ aimed to help learning

Bv MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE Staff Reporter

Students can expect a whole new campus to develop over the next two years as TCU's \$100 million Vision in Action project moves forward, turning the university into a walking campus, according to the TCU Web site.

Construction around campus will be occupying most of the Main Campus over the next two years, as a new student union and four dormitories are constructed in front of the Student Center, said Don Mills, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

Chris Reed, a sophomore business major,

said he was annoved with the construction in front of the Student Center.

"It's not even that it's ugly — it's a pain to get around," he said.

Many students have begun coining the phrase "Texas Construction University" said John Householder, director of Admissions Operations, at the university's opening lun-

The increasing size of TCU will not affect enrollment, said Mills, adding that he hopes the construction will make the university more conducive to student learning. Since campus will be more traversable by foot, students will be better able to interact with faculty and other students.

See CAMPUS, page 2

Organization recognizes university for contributions

By JOANNA BERNAL Staff Reporter

TCU made history in the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce when it became the first academic institution to win the Spirit of Enterprise Award in the 30 years of the award's existence.

The Spirit of Enterprise Award recognizes local businesses for their contributions to the development of the city of Fort Worth, said Larry Lauer, vice chancellor for marketing and communication.

"Overall, TCU has become more aware that being a part of a great city helps make the university a greater university and vice versa," Lauer said. "We've been working on that partnership, and it's been recognized in this award."

The MBA program was ranked 18th among the nation's regional programs, one of the reasons TCU was selected for this award Lauer said.

Dan Short, dean of the School of Business, said he believes the award improved TCU's image.

"We are definitely a hot school in Fort Worth," said Short. "I suppose that anything that enhances our credibility in Fort Worth would make us hotter."

The chamber also noted the School of Business because they work with them through internships, said Marilyn Gilbert, executive vice president of marketing for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

TCU's arts programs were also noted in the chamber newsletter.

'Virtually every major arts organization in the city started at TCU at one time or another." Lauer said.

The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the Latin American Music Festival in April were noted in particular.

Other programs mentioned are the School of Education's laboratory schools, KinderFrogs and Starpoint School. TCU's other academic programs, professors and leadership programs were also recognized.

One of the major contributions the chamber notes is the plan to improve Berry Street, Gilbert said.

She added that the \$200 million improvements to TCU itself also contribute to the recognition.

Faculty say professor leaves religious legacy

By LAUREN PICK $Staff\ Reporter$

Former students and co-workers remember Kenneth Lawrence, department and TCU professor emeritus, as a good friend.

Tuesday, Aug. 15.

acquaintances, but rather a lot of David Grant, professor and current finding religious meaning in it. friends," said Josh Long, a student of Lawrence's.

Lawrence came to TCU in 1972 former chairman of the religion and later served as department chair for 16 years. During his tenure, the faculty of the religion Lawrence died unexpectedly on department became more diverse, and additional focus was put on "Dr. Lawrence didn't have many the academic study of religion, said

chair of the religion department.

'We wouldn't be who we are today without him," Grant said. "His emphasis on the study of religion and the quality of faculty are all part of his legacy.'

student of Lawrence's, said Lawrence was most passionate about art and

Known as "Lorenzo" among friends, Lawrence was an avid traveler who visited several countries, most frequently Italy, said Kaufman, who attended one of his trips to Italy.

"Going on a trip is one thing," The Rev. Angela Kaufman, a former Kaufman said, "Going with Ken Lawrence is another. You see the

See **PROFESSOR**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Isolated T-Storms, 98/77 TOMORROW: Isolated T-Storms, 98/77 FRIDAY: Partly Cloudy, 98/77

FUN FACT OF THE DAY

Las Vegas county government says starting next week, its marriage license bureau will no longer be open 24/7. Due to budget constraints, to-be brides and grooms will only be able to apply between 8 a.m. and midnight. -The Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

FEATURES: "Snakes" is suprisingly good, page 5

OPINION: Chemo should be optional, page 3 SPORTS: Athletes receive media training, page 6 **CONTACT US**

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

EDWARDS

because he does not have a reported conviction for a sex available to anyone 18 years or crime yet, Simpson said.

All university staff members and volunteers who have contact with TCU students are subject to background checks, said Jacqulyn Curry, employment coordinator in the Human Resources department.

es and department policy prohibits performing those checks on nonemployees and requires consent from employees before the check is performed.

odist University also sell community memberships to their held without bail. recreation centers. Like TCU, UTA does not require a photo nal trespass warning by TCU ID, said Allyson Weitz, an asso- Police on Aug. 8 and Lawson ciate director at UTA. However, SMU does require a photo ID, back on the campus.

said SMU director Judith Banes. Neither facility runs background checks on their members.

Community memberships are older whether or not they have an affiliation with the university. As of a May 15 report, there were 103 members enrolled at the \$600 yearly rate and 114 members on the \$65 month-tomonth plan, Milam said.

Edwards had his month-Those background checks ly membership for less than are paid for by Human Resourc- a week before the incident, Kintigh said, and his membership was immediately canceled after the Aug. 8 incident.

TCU Police turned Edwards over to the Tarrant County The University of Texas at Fugitive Squadron who took Arlington and Southern Meth- him to the Tarrant County Jail where he is currently being

Edwards was issued a crimisaid he will not be allowed

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RELIGION From page 1

bishop at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Nov. 4. Gill said the Fort Worth Diocese and its supporters hope that the conflict will be resolved before this date so that further and permanent action will not have to be taken.

accept the leadership of Schori," Gill said, "we are seeking another relationship with an archbishop to give our bishop someone he has a similar faith and practice with."

Gill said that Iker is conis causing a compromise in Hampshire. the doctrinal beliefs of the church.

sexual activity. America has tion in response to Robinson's accepted this standard and it ordination. has begun creeping into the church," Gill said.

Schieffer School of Journalism and member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, said these divisions are not new.

"The conflict between the "Because we are not able to U.S. church and the Anglican Communion is deep rooted in sibility for their actions and our history," Newsom said.

Conservative churches in by the American church in cerned that the increasing of the first openly gay bishshift toward liberal leadership op, V. Gene Robinson, of New

ing the new dorms will be

two open walkways that will

extend along the new resi-

dence halls to the new stu-

dent union. The new dorms

will house 315 students in

addition to those already liv-

ing on campus, according to

will also allow for the new

students living on campus,

but by everyone who comes to

The walk-friendly campus

the TCU Web site.

"Scripture prohibits homo- sought alternative jurisdic-

Gill said that Anglican churches in other parts of Doug Newsom, director the world are concerned of graduate studies in the about the American branch's

> "It appears that the American church does not care about the opinions of the world church," Gill said. "They are not taking responthe effects it has on others."

Iker has requested new the Anglican Communion leadership for the Diocese of objected to decisions made Fort Worth and is awaiting response from the Most Rev. 2003, after the confirmation Dr. Rowan Williams, archbishop of Canterbury. Iker is asking that the archbishop assign someone else to a Individual parishes in position of leadership over Southeast Asia and Africa the Diocese of Fort Worth.

square feet, as opposed to the with the plan "to bring the current student center, which academic programs and the is 83,000 square feet. Flank- residential programs togeth-

> Worth Star-Telegram article. Mills said he believes that if students are encouraged to stay on campus, they will "be doing quite a bit more of student learning because the longer you stay on campus, you learn more about diversity, you learn how to work in groups."

er," Don Mills said in a Fort

Mills added that he hopes the new facilities will allow TCU to have "programs that cost nothing, to encourage the university. This coincides student learning."

PROFESSOR

country through his eyes." After his retirement in 2001. Lawrence continued to take students overseas and also taught the Honors' Program colloquia course, Nature of Values, Grant said.

Lawrence was scheduled to teach the Nature of Values class this semester, as well as a liberal arts course for the graduate program, said Peggy Watson, director of the Honors Program.

"That class was known as one of the best classes TCU offers," Watson said. "He was definitely missed on the first day of class."

Nature of Values was not a religion class, but rather an indepth study of the values found in visual art, Watson said.

Listening to Lawrence share his adventures gave more color to what his students were learning, said Long, a senior finance and accounting major.

"His death was very surprising," said Long, president of the Honors Cabinet. "It is a loss to all the students that didn't have him."

Lawrence also played a key role in the community at University Christian Church, said Kay Higgins, associate dean of Student Development and fellow member of UCC.

Two of his more prominent involvements with UCC included his roles in the artwork of the church and in originating one of the church's annual festivals, Higgins said.

Bobby Hawley, former teaching assistant for Lawrence and member of UCC, said, "The response in the congregation to Ken's death was overwhelming; it was the largest funeral I've seen in this sanctuary."

CAMPUS

The construction of the new union will allow for the current student center to be renovated into an academic building.

In comparison, the new student union will have 130,000



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Tuesday, August 22

Merchants Fair 11:00AM-2:00PM ~ SC Lounge

Back to School with Mr. Belding 6:00pm ~ SC Ballroom

<u>Wednesday, August 23</u>

Sociology Society Meet & Greet

5:00pm-6:00pm

Disciples on Campus Cookout

5:00рм-7:00рм ~ Sadler Lawn

Delta Sigma Theta & Sigma Lambda Alpha Block Party $7:00_{PM}$

Prime Time Praise 7:00pm ~ SC Lounge

Thursday, August 24 Frogpalooza

5:00pm-7:00pm ~ Sadler Lawn

TropiAKAI Luau

7:00PM ~ Rec Center

Catholic Mass & Free Meal 5:15_{PM} ~ Reed Hall 214

Friday, August 25 Construction

Celebration with Live Music

Noon ~ Main Campus

Movie Night

9:00pm ~ Foster-Waits Lawn Showing V for Vendetta

Saturday, August 26

Meet the Frogs 11:00AM ~ Amon Carter Stadium

Wednesday, August 30

Activities Fair 4:00pm-7:00pm ~ Rec

Center

Sophomore Splash 5:00pm-8:00pm ~ Rec Center Pool

Intercultural Student Welcome

8:00pm-11:00pm ~ Rec Center Pool

Thursday, August 31
Church Fair 11:30AM-1:30PM ~ Sadler Lawn

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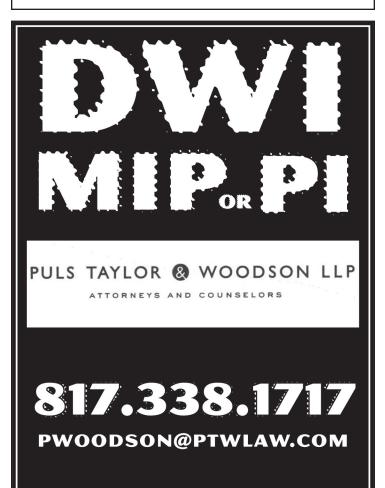
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NO SURVIVORS

A Russian passenger jet crashed in eastern Ukraine yesterday, killing at least 170 people, including 45 children. The cause of the crash is unclear.

THE SKIFF VIEW

Students deserve better construction plan

he construction going on throughout TCU, despite its good intentions, is a hassle for current students. Terrible parking has become worse and walkways across campus have been detoured or cut off completely. "Texas Construction University" is an apt nickname many students have adopted for our school.

Upon completion, the more than \$100 million main campus overhaul will be a fantastic sight to see: arcade walkways, amphitheaters and a five-story bell tower. In its current state, however, the main campus looks like some ugly mining expedi-

Imagine if TCU had decided to take twice as long for the entire renovation, but built individual buildings much quicker. Current students could have benefitted from at least some of the planned build-

Or perhaps the entire process could have been built in three simple phases, much like the Berry Street renovation. At any given time at least part of our main campus

would have remained in tact while the other was restricted to Caterpillars and hole-

Freshmen who visited TCU prior to enrolling are no doubt shocked to find much of what they saw last year is entirely different. A bulldozer sits where Frog Fountain once stood. Freshman students' first two years will be marred by memories of navigating orange fencing, squinting through dusty wind kicked up by earth-movers, and listening to the banging of metal on metal. Seniors might remember their last year as "the year TCU disappeared."

Construction will always be a headache for all parties involved, but TCU's Vision in Action committee should have voted to build our new campus in smaller bites, rather than one large cumbersome chunk.

While spending so much time (and money) focusing on TCU's future students, it would seem many administrators have forgotten about those already here.

News editor John-Laurent Tronche for the editorial board

BY ROLF NELSON



COMMENTARY

Facebook hinders the art of flirting

I recently noticed a disturbing trend among the college-age crowd. This trend is that, due to the proliferation of Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace, the national pastime of flirting as we know it, has become a dras-



tically under performed sport. So much so, in fact, I would say it is becoming less like the Super Bowl and more like Backgammon. "This is preposterous!" you

might say. Well, let's review flirting as it once was. A guy goes with his buddies to a party and meets a few more of his friends who, in turn, introduce him to their friends. But alas,

The party seems to be winding down as he finishes his last drink and then, it happens. Out of the corner of his eye, he sees her; she sees him. Time seems to stand still as the two of them make their way across the room.

They converse on a variety of topics, many of which they seem to have in common. Finally, it's time to head home, and tension mounts Soon, the guy casually states, "So hey ... um, I'm heading home ... but are you on Facebook? I'll Facebook you!"

What the heck? Two completely single people just spent the last half hour discussing their equal loves for Star Wars and coin-collecting, and all the guy can do is relegate himself to requesting an Internet friendship so he can grovel over the 137 photos of her in her last semester's "Trip to Spain" photo album? Forgive me for sounding frank, but you better get those

Now obviously this type of occurrence doesn't happen all the time. Of course, there are still the avid "digit-getters," the occasional hookups as well as the ill-advised one-night

Now, I must state that, as a devoted "Facebooker" myself, I am not bashing these online communication sites. With the hectic schedules people face these days, Web sites such as these are needed to stay in contact with one another, as well as to provide a quick diversion from our busy college lives.

Not all conversations are meant to lead to a romantic courtship. Many times these Web sites can help a student get to know someone better before taking that first big step of asking for a phone number. But at the same time, you shouldn't let someone who could potentially turn out to be really special be subjected to a semester of "pokes" and "What's up?" messages while you work up the courage to ask what should've been asked the first night.

For a large part, it seems that many guys (and a few girls) have sadly demoted themselves to becoming mere bench warmers in the "game of love," while a starting position patiently awaits their arrival. To that I say: So what if you get shot down? It happens to me ... um ... I mean my friends, all the time. Also, just because of the simple fact that girls outnumber guys at TCU, and most colleges, almost 2 to 1, guys, you really have nothing to lose (sorry,

So, the next time you hear "last call" at the bar and that conversation of model airplanebuilding starts to wind down, take a chance. Get the digits.

> Glenton Richards is a senior radio-TVfilm major from Carrollton, Texas

Chemo should be option for patient, not order

Drained. Aching. Weak. Nauseated. Sixteen-year-old Abraham Cherrix of Chincoteague, Va. is no stranger to struggle. But struggle shouldn't be necessary to obtain the right to make decisions about one's own physical health and well-being.

Abraham endured several bouts of chemotherapy last fall after being diagnosed with cancer of the lymph system, or Hodgkin's disease. The treatments left him exhausted and frail, his 5'11" body dropping from 156 pounds to a meager 122. Chemo took so much out of him that his father sometimes had to carry him.

After three months of treatment, his cancer went into remission. But not for good. When his cancer returned this February, Abraham, with the support of his parents, declined both chemo and radiation. Instead, he opted for an alternative form of treatments based on herbs and an organic diet. But his decision did not find favor in the eyes of the Accomack County Department of Social Services. who accused Abraham's parents of medical neglect.

While both Abraham and his parents adamantly opposed chemo for its damaging effects, a juvenile court judge granted Social Services joint custody of Abraham and ordered that his parents take him to Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va., and comply with any and all treatments that the hospital considered necessary.

No one should be subjected to medical treatments against their will, especially ones with such cataclysmic effects.

"It nearly killed me," Abraham said of his chemotherapy last fall.

Even with successful chemotherapy, it is not likely that a patient with Hodgkin's will live much longer than five years after being diagnosed with the disease. Abraham should rightfully be allowed to determine in what state he will spend the remainder of his life, no matter the length, and with what method he will battle his ailment, no questions asked. Abraham is fully capable of making his own decisions. He is, after all, the one immediately affected by them.

"I did my research," Abraham said. "I believe alternative medicine is the cure." While it may be true that he is legally a minor, it is also true that a 16-year-old

who commits murder can be tried as an adult. A 16-year-old cancer patient should be legally treated as one as well. And even if he is not old enough to legally take charge of his own medical

choices, his parents, who are his legal guardians, advocated his stance completely. It is not medical neglect to support a patient seeking the therapy of his choice. "Stress is one of the worst things you

can deal with when you have cancer," said Abraham's mother, Rose Cherrix.

Stress is exactly what the legal battles Abraham has had to face have inflicted on him.

He unfortunately, however, is not the first teenager afflicted with cancer that has been forced to undergo legal conflict for the right to choose a treatment.

Katie Wernecke of Corpus Christi, Texas, then 13, was sent by court order into foster care to receive chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease last year. Her parents were opposed to the treatments.

"This is not a case about what treatment is best," said John Stepanovich, spokesman for the Cherrix family. "It's a case about who gets to decide.'

Abraham's wishes should always have been the highest priority.

Fortunately, Abraham's court ordeal ended in victory. Legal representation for the Cherrix family and social services officials reached an agreement a week ago: he will be permitted to treat his cancer with alternative medicine by a board-certified oncologist of his choice, while also undergoing hormone therapy and radiation in small doses.

While Abraham did eventually win the right to choose his treatment, the battle was one he should never have had to

> Opinion editor Jordan Cohen is a sophomore English major from Lewisville, NC.

'Talladega Nights' uses exaggerated Southern humor to poke fun at social issues: religion, drugs, marriage, homosexuality

I hesitate to wring too much sociological meaning out of "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby." I hesitate — and now I plow ahead.

The movie, which stars Will Ferrell as Ricky Bobby, a not-verybright, obnoxious but still likeable race car driver, is by far the most popular movie in America. A juvenile, cliche-ridden, pottymouthed spoof set in the world of big-time, big-money stock car racing, has earned around \$100 million in box office receipts in just 12 days. It was made with the approval of, and in collaboration with, NASCAR and includes the participation of many of its multimillion-dollar corporate sponsors.

The movie is also immensely enjoyable, accepting its modest aspirations: getting people to laugh at oafish stereotypes in comic scenes stitched between high-energy racing sequences. I've seen it twice, and I laughed through it both times along with everyone else in the theater.

Yes, over-analyzing comedy is fraught with risk, but there's something else going on in this unapologetically mainstream, over-the-top farce — something sociological and political but not ideological.

An underlying assumption of "Talladega Nights" is both simple and, in a way, subversive. It's saying that Americans really are not so polarized and angry at each other as the shills and mythmakers of the extreme right and left would have us believe. If we were, we'd have to be appalled by the wild comic exaggerations the movie constructs around hot-button issues that supposedly have us at each other's throats. Instead, millions of us are getting together and laughing at them:

Responsible parenting? Ricky Bobby and his wife, Carley (Leslie Bibb), encourage and approve of the shockingly profane, undisciplined behavior of their young sons, Walker and Texas Ranger (TR for short). In one scene, as the boys verbally abuse Carley's aging father, TR explains, "I'm all jacked up on Moun-

Holy matrimony? Carley, "my red-hot smokin' wife," as Ricky calls her, is a sexually charged gold-digger who deserts her husband at the first sign of financial trouble. Within hours, she has taken up with Ricky's best friend and fellow driver, Cal (John C. Reilly), and drives a wedge between them.

Illegal drugs? The film is littered with casual references to cocaine, marijuana and alcohol. Ricky's irresponsible and mostly

absent father, Reese Bobby (Gary Cole), uses drugs, sells drugs and shares drug stories with kids. Although hardly admirable, Reese is undeniably appealing.

Religion? In a hallucinatory panic after a crash, Bobby runs around the race track in his underpants screaming, "Help me Jesus! Help me Jewish god! Help me Allah! Help me Tom

Arguably, the movie's funniest scene is set around the family dinner table, with Ricky saying grace. He dedicates it to the "Dear Lord baby Jesus" and the "tiny infant Jesus," then explains at length why he prefers "the Christmas Jesus" to the bearded Jesus, teenage Jesus or grown-up Jesus. Cal says he pictures Jesus on stage as a member of Lynyrd Skynyrd and sees himself in the crowd "totally hammered." Ricky notes that a sponsorship deal requires him to mention POWERade, the official sports beverage of NASCAR, in every grace. An exasperated Carley finally screams, "Ricky! Finish the damn grace!"

Homosexuality? Here, "Talladega Nights" defies what you might well expect from a film set in the Southern-based, macho culture of stock car racing: There are no swishy gags, no effeminate portrayals, no "fag" jokes.

The gay character Jean Girard (Sacha Baron Cohen) is a champion driver from France who comes to the United States specifically to challenge Ricky Bobby's dominance of the NASCAR circuit. He's funny, not because he's gay, but because Cohen's fake French accent is bad to the point of incomprehensibility. He's funny because he spouts ludicrous non-sequiturs, such as saying he and his husband want what all couples want: to retire to Stockholm and invent a currency for dogs and cats.

Girard is no patsy. He proves himself to be a fearless, winning NASCAR driver. His voice and image are used in arcade video driving games. Kids run around wearing jerseys with the Jean Girard logo on them.

What to make of all this? When a movie sanctioned by the marketing geniuses of NASCAR and embraced by moviegoers in all regions of the country uses comedy to neutralize the stereotypes of rural, family, religious and Southern culture, it becomes a lot harder for urban Northerners to take such notions too seriously. Redneck humor has long trafficked in self-mockery, and "Talladega Nights" constructs an even bigger comedic tent.

Eric Mink is commentary editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Editorial Policy

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 five-person

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letters, columns and cartoons represent the opinion of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

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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.

• Garnish with a strawberry and a sprig of mint — **Associated Press**

STRAWBERRY MOJITOS

unnecessary nudity and the out of place, although entertaining, cursing. The predictability of everything just

the intention of being predictable in

every way possible — the cliché passenger list, the corny dialogue, the

www.moviepublicity.com

So, if you're up for one hour and

is not for you. You will be sorely disappointed.

makes it all the more entertaining. 46 minutes of absurd and ridiculous entertainment, then absolutely go

see "Snakes on a Plane."

arrive safely at LAX, where plenty Genevieve Nesom, 15, called it But if you want a terrifying movie But really, could you expect anythat keeps you guessing, "Snakes"

By RICH COPLEY

The only innovation of "Snakes

All the airline disaster clichés it presents have been done and have been brilliantly lampooned in "Airplane" (1980). Same goes

same old archetypes we've been seeing for years. No, if it wasn't for the snakes on the plane, most of us, including

Samuel L. Jackson, wouldn't have given a rip about this movie. But we have the snakes and to director David R. Ellis' credit, he has seized the opportunity afforded him by the title, Mr. Jackson and a ripping little thrill ride to end for anything else from a movie your money.

"What were you expecting?" one guy asked his friend in the restroom after Thursday night's screening. "Character develop-

Well, there is a bit of a plot. Surfer dude Sean (Nathan Phillips) accidentally spies gangster Eddie Kim (Byron Lawson) carrying out a brutal murder of a Los

Angeles prosecutor in Hawaii. Police and Kim both find Sean,

Kim concocts a plot to release a load of exotic, deadly snakes onto the plane and utilize a pheromone to make them high-

If you're already seeing plot holes in this, trust us, there are loads. Even a character observes that releasing snakes on the plane would be no guarantee Sean would die. That character, by the

This may be one of the most self-aware movies in quite a while. It knew it needed to get to the action quick. It knew it needed to be graphic, but not too graphic. It knew that a cheesy line would probably get as many laughs as groans. It knew that bad was sort of its standard. "Snakes" actually seizes opportunities to appeal to the lowest common denominator, like some of the body parts the snakes attack.

And while that may bug some film-goers, they probably weren't going to go to a movie called "Snakes on a Plane" anyway. There are moments it's so bad it's good. It's mugging to the camera, saying "C'mon, let's have some fun."

Already, people are talking

about what you get. But in a perverse way, you get more.

Picture Show" (1975). You can see

that, because part of the fun of

"Snakes" is the ridiculous and the

awful. Dr. Frank-N-Furter would

from "Snakes on a Plane," that's

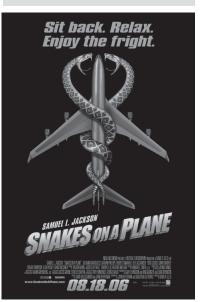
If you weren't expecting much

SNAKES ON A PLANE

approve.

Starring: Samuel L. Jackson Directed by: David Ellis Rated: R

Running time: 105 minutes



Features
Wednesday August 23 2006





"Snakes" likely to become the next modern day cult classic

By ALY FLEET

Staff Reporter "Snakes on a Plane," in a word, was ridiculous. Just as I fully expected, every snake attack, death and

was laughable. Somehow though, the audience at my showing got the wrong impres-

line of expletive-littered dialogue

sion from previews. "I'm hoping it will be scary," 18-

year-old Vanessa Recendiz said before

the film began. "If not, I want a refund." same thing.

"I want lots of scary stuff."

I guess they didn't get the hilarious phone call from Samuel L. Jackson yelling "Hey, Aly. Go see my movie August 18th."

"Snakes" centers around a laid-back surfer named Sean (Nathan Phillips) who witnesses a murder. FBI agent Flynn (Jackson) convinces Sean to testify against the murderer, and the two must take a five-hour flight to attend the trial.

For the first 45 minutes, everything Stacy Dickerson, 40, said the is meticulously set up to cause com-

plete chaos later in the story line. We meet the passengers: a first-time flier, two young boys, a baby, a flight attendant on her last flight, a rapper with obsessive-compulsive disorder, a rich girl with a lap dog, and newlyweds.

the oxygen mask compartments, barf bags and, of course, the toilet making for some very entertaining, yet somewhat disgusting deaths.

When everything is in place to go

Snakes come from everywhere —

wrong, it does.

People begin dying left and right. And the ways they die? Absolutely

"Snakes" slithers into theaters and succeeds

After a year of buildup,

I have to say that

my expectations"

the movie exceeded

-Brian Finkelstein

By MATT MABE Staff Reporter

Not since "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka" came out in 1988 has there been such an enthralling movie title as "Snakes on a Plane."

The film received huge Internet buzz when its title was first uttered in the media world.

The Internet frenzy then exploded when everyone heard Samuel L. Jack-

son had been cast in the lead role. Bloggers from all over the globe

showed tremendous interest in the film. My personal favorite being snakesonablog.com, which is a blog run by Brian Finkelstein.

Finklestein was invited to the premiere by New Line Cinema, which was held at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

Sensing they had

a stinker on their hands, New Line Cinema had several co-pilot of the plane, played by David new scenes added to bump the film up from a "PG-13" to an "R" rating.

Receiving an "R" rating on a movie can potentially be box-office suicide because, while it may make the film appear to be more edgy, it alienates younger audiences.

"After nearly a year of buildup, I have to say that the movie exceeded my expectations," Finkelstein wrote on his blog. "It had snakes, it had planes, it had Sam Jackson, it had swearing.

It had, in short, everything we were

looking for." "Snakes" made a modest \$15.2 million in the North American box office, which is seen as a disappointment since the film was expected to make the \$22 million range by New Line Cinema.

The flick still managed to be the No. 1 film in its opening weekend, according to the weekend box office numbers on boxofficemojo.com.

The film actually is not all that bad. Its diverse cast is definitely a plus,

which includes an Oscar nominee, an Emmy winner and even a former Power Ranger.

Julianna Margulies ("ER") does a great job as one of the flight attendants, and Jackson reprises his usual role of the loud, tough officer who saves the day.

Comedic relief is provided by the

Koechner ("Anchorman"), and Kenan Thompson, who plays a passenger ("Kenan and Kel").

The film is B-movie campiness at its best. Anywhere you can think of someone getting bit by a snake, and I mean anywhere, passengers seem to get bit there.

This movie packs enough screaming and gory snake attacks to make even Steve Irwin cringe. There's even a gratuitous sex scene in the lavatory of the plane. Honestly, what else can you ask for?

"Snakes" bites yet surprisingly pleases audiences

thing more?

where they get bit.

McClatchy Newspapers

on a Plane" is in the title.

for the cop drama. They are the

a legion of loyal-beyond-reason Internet bloggers to put together the summer. If you're looking called "Snakes on a Plane," save

ment? A plot?"

and he is eventually put on a plane to Los Angeles to testify against Kim. Escorting him is the coolest FBI agent in the land,

played, of course, by Jackson.

Just a hint – the first fatalities on

the flight are a couple about to join

the "mile-high" club. Take a guess

After an hour of snake onslaught,

the film neatly — and quickly —

wraps up. The remaining passengers

The film was obviously made with

of anti-venom awaits them.

"incredibly predictable."

ly aggressive.

way, gets it.

Nobody's trying to win an

Oscar here.

about "Snakes" becoming a midnight movie staple, with audiences performing it in front of the screen, a la "The Rocky Horror





TODAY IN SPORTS

In **1999**, former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura was sworn in as Minnesota's 37th governor. In **1920**, the National Negro Baseball League was organized. — The Associated Press

More athletes get media training to protect team image

By ALEX ZOBEL $Staff\ Reporter$

Recently reported scandals involving student-athletes at Duke and Northwestern reminded TCU administrators that the Internet is a venue for publicizing information that could damage the university's reputation.

Three Duke lacrosse players were accused of sexually assaulting an exotic dancer during a team-sponsored party March 13, and two months later, images found on Webshots, a photo sharing Web site, exposed hazing rituals of the Northwestern University women's soccer team.

Due to the prominence of social networking Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace, these incidents have grabbed the attention of TCU administrators.

"There's no policy against having an account on Facebook or MySpace, but coaches and operations directors monitor it," said Mark Cohen, director of athletics media relations at TCU. "We have a duty to make sure there's nothing that's embarrassing or putting students in personal danger."

While Cohen said social networking Web sites are a liability, he also said he opposes banning them, as many schools have done, on the grounds that it would be unfair to disrupt the lives of student athletes.

"Besides being a full time student, they're out there practicing and playing at the highest level of collegiate athletics," Cohen said. "They have to have time to study and be a regular person."

Rather than imposing strict rules, the athletic department has focused on providing student athletes with training on dealing with the media, Cohen said.

In 2000, TCU hired a company called The Speaking Specialists, a husband and wife operation consisting of media veterans Randy Minkoff and Sue Castorino, who travel the country training professional and collegiate sports teams in public speaking, interviewing and conducting themselves in front of reporters.

Every year, sports become a bigger part of TCU's identity, and the media coverage of university athletics is becoming more important to admissions, sponsorship, recruiting and the school's community.

"I think schools finally came to the realization that these student-athletes are representing the school and are usually the best recruiters, not only for the university but for their individual teams," Minkoff said.

The enormous amount of publicity the Duke and Northwestern scandals have received emphasizes the importance in having student athletes that are responsible and aware of the media.

"It has made school administrations realize that it is beyond just being interviewed," Minkoff said. "If you put something on MySpace or Facebook, it's like talking to a reporter. It's public information and it has implications."

All-League player shares his secret: 'pitch until my arm falls off"

By BILLY WESSELS Staff Reporter

How does it feel to make the Texas Collegiate League All-League team?

That was a lot of fun. I was going in, I wanted to make the all-star team again. Up until the all-star break, I was kind of throwing well when it dawned on me that I was in the top two or three. Coming down to the wire, I got calls from the ladies running the league saying, "Yeah, you are in the hunt for pitcher of the year." That's when I really kicked it in, when I really wanted it. Not so much for me, but for Weatherford and Coach Lightfoot. He'd been really good to me over the last three years. And for the town and TCU. We had an awesome season, but I don't feel we really got the recognition that I thought we should have had.

What is it like playing for your school and representing TCU?

It's unreal, completely different than anything else. In Little League, you are pretty much playing for yourself and your parents. Last year was weird coming here. I had so much invested in Weatherford, I just kind of felt like a new fish in the pond. Coming back this year and losing to Oklahoma last year in the regional, we have so much we want to get done, and are relentless to get done this year. We are going to have most of our starters back pretty much. We want to get it

Why did you choose TCU

when you transferred from Weatherford College?

Pretty much, I didn't want to choose it by baseball-wise, I wanted to go for education, and I sat down and was like, "If my baseball career ended right now, what school would I like to go to?" Out of all the schools in Texas, TCU was pretty much right at the top of the list. I love Fort Worth, I love Weatherford and it's 20 minutes from Weatherford. I wasn't a real big fan of huge schools, and it just fit in perfectly.

When and why did you start playing baseball?

I started playing when I was about three. In Australia, there's nothing else to do. Very little electricity, no TV. You can't really do anything, so I just played sports. Out of all the sports, I just took a liking to baseball. I started playing that and never stopped.

Who is your baseball role

My role model has always been Bo Jackson. Growing up, I didn't know what the NFL was. I didn't know what Major League Baseball was until we came over here, but you always heard about the Oakland Raiders. From hearing about Raiders and how Bo Jackson was the superman of two sports, I always took a liking to him. I've read his autobiography probably close to 50 times. He has always fascinated me.

What has been your favorite playing moment?

Probably the conference



Senior Donald Furrow pitches against Dallas Baptist on Feb. 28 at Lupton Stadium.

championship. All of us last study his weaknesses while he year expected to go a lot further than what we did. Coming here, I knew everyone on the team before I even played here. It just made it a real easy fit. All the guys, I really love every

How does it feel to strike out a batter?

single one of them. It is good to

accomplish this together.

It's just a different feeling. Up until this year, I never really considered myself a pitcher. I came to college to play outfield and ended up being a pitcher. I had always just gotten up there and just let people get themselves out. Once I figured out how to command at least two pitches, you can pick a batter apart. You is in the on-deck circle and, up in the box, you just pick him apart. You can throw anything you want and you know you are going to get him out. It is a whole new kind of confidence.

Where do you hope baseball takes you?

My plan is to pitch until my arm falls off. When that happens, I am ambidextrous so I can throw right-handed, too, and do softball after that, throwing right-handed. If I had to have Tommy John (surgery) on my right arm, I would give it up and get a real job. But I am going to try to play baseball and softball until I can't throw or can't walk anymore.

Cowboys impress even without Owens

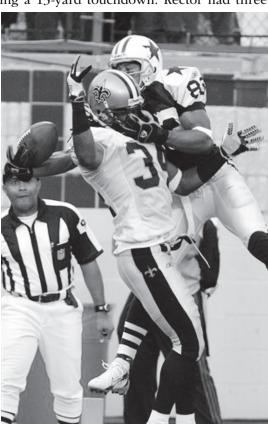
 $AP\ Sports\ Writer$

Not having Terrell Owens the last few weeks actually has been good for the Dallas Cowboys. Don't get the wrong idea. The Cowboys would much rather have their new lead receiver on the field.

But his absence has forced more balls to be thrown to unproven players fighting for backup jobs, and that's helped coaches sort through one of the team's biggest concerns of the preseason.

Undrafted rookie Sam Hurd and returning practice squad member Jamaica Rector have taken the most advantage. After earning playing time in practice last week, both fit in well with the starters in a 30-7 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Monday night.

Hurd caught three passes for 30 yards, including a 13-yard touchdown. Rector had three



Cowboys wide receiver Terry Glenn reaches past Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie to score a touchdown pass from Cowboys quarterback Drew Bledsoe, Monday, during their preseason football game in Shreveport, La.

catches for 32 yards, all on that same scoring drive, including a 5-varder on third-and-4 from the 23 that he caught, despite his defender being flagged for pass interference.

"I'm excited about the way they have played," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "It makes me feel good about me not breaking my neck to find another receiver."

Owens missed much of training camp because of a hamstring injury that may need further evaluation this week. Projected No. 3 receiver Patrick Crayton has also been out with an injury. Players will resume practice at team headquarters.

It's uncertain whether Owens will join the club then or for the next preseason game, Saturday night at home against San Francisco. Coach Bill Parcells was in no mood to discuss T.O. after the Saints game.

"I'm tired of talking about it, I really am," Parcells said. "Let's talk about the guys who were here and played."

Terry Glenn was the most spectacular with a one-handed touchdown catch around his defender's head that should remind everyone Owens won't be Dallas' only game-breaking threat. He finished with 71 yards on four catches, showing no signs of problems with blisters that plagued him in training camp.

Terrence Copper also had two catches for 32 yards, and Miles Austin, another undrafted rookie, caught a 48-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Tony Romo.

Presuming Crayton holds his job, Hurd is the likely front-runner for the fourth spot because he's learned the routes for all three receiving positions. He often works with Owens after practice and has made enough plays on the practice field for Bledsoe to trust him in the game.

Coaches seem eager for Rector to succeed, too. They appreciate his hard work, especially in the weight room. He half-jokingly calls that a must because, "I'm the smallest dude on the team."

"I kind of try to balance things out with my strength," said Rector, who is 5-foot-10, 186 pounds.

Rector's status could depend on whether the Cowboys keep five or six receivers. It also depends on whether Skyler Green is among them since Parcells considers him strictly a kick returner. The fourth-round pick had 37 yards on four punt returns Monday night, most on a 22-yarder, and took his only kickoff 13 yards.

Running back tops fantasy football list, majority of receivers

By JERRY FAULL The Seattle Times

I've always been a taketwo-running-backs-withmy-first-two-picks kind of fantasy-football drafter.

At least that's always the plan going in. But I've changed my outlook this year, as the crop of first-tier wide receivers is more appealing to me than the crop of second-tier running backs.

Here are my top 25 passcatchers, with Nos. 1 through 7 making up the first tier:

1. Steve Smith, Panthers: No reason to think he can't repeat remarkable 2005, especially with newly acquired Keyshawn Johnson drawing away coverage.

2. Torry Holt, Rams: In the past three seasons, no receiver has more catches (313), yards (4,399) or 100-yard games (23); very safe pick, as he has played in 110 of a possible 112 regular-season games in his seven-year career.

3. Chad Johnson, Bengals: Carson Palmer's health makes Johnson a bit of a question mark, but not enough of one to fall too far on draft day.

4. Marvin Harrison, Colts: Likely to lead league in touchdowns (at least 12) as quarterback Peyton Manning's top red-zone target once again.

5. Larry Fitzgerald, Cardinals: He'll be the man in the red zone, and it won't be long before Fitzgerald, who turns 23 on Aug. 31, is the best receiver in the league.

6. Randy Moss, Raiders: Could easily return to top-WR status if health and new QB Aaron Brooks hold up.

Draft at your own risk, although Dallas and coach Bill Parcells. could stifle him a bit.

9. Anquan Boldin, Cardi- score more than seven TDs. nals: Probably better than 20. Donte' Stallworth, Saints: downs put him just below.

Durable, dependable and Brees throwing to him. great near the end zone.

his rookie year.

13. Santana Moss, Redskins: Antwaan Randle El.

break out big.

15. Darrell Jackson, few spots.

16. Andre Johnson, Texans: mix and QB David Carr more powered attack. seasoned, this season presents Johnson's best shot to

17. Derrick Mason, Ravens: Playing again with QB Steve McNair — they were teammates with the Titans — should allow

move into the elite.

him to score more than the three 7. Terrell Owens, Cowboys: TDs of last season.

18. Donald Driver, Packers: I'm betting he's on his best QB Brett Favre will look his way behavior in his first season with a lot, but constant double-teams

8. Chris Chambers, Dol- 19. Deion Branch, Patriots: phins: As Miami's only legiti- Expect him to surpass 1,000 mate WR threat, he will hook yards for the first time, but New up with new QB Daunte Cul- England's spread-it-around passpepper for a lot of big gains. ing game won't allow him to

Chambers talent-wise, but past Finally showed more than health issues and lack of touch- glimpses in 2005 of what many had expected, and now he'll 10. Hines Ward, Steelers: have the ultra-accurate Drew

21. Javon Walker, Broncos: A 11. Plaxico Burress, Giants: risk because he's coming off a QB Eli Manning just about season in which he played just always looks for Burress first. one game after blowing out a 12. Reggie Wayne, Colts: knee. But if he's at full strength, Hasn't missed a game since you're getting No. 1-WR talent from your No. 2.

22. Joey Galloway, Bucca-Hard to believe he'll surpass neers: He's 34 years old, but 1,400 yards again with addi- don't let that scare you too tions of Brandon Lloyd and much because his speed is still there.

14. Roy Williams, Lions: A 23. Joe Horn, Saints: His best TD machine when healthy, years are behind him, but he's Williams has the talent to still capable of some monster games.

24. T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Seahawks: Continuing knee Bengals: Palmer's health is problem knocks him down a also key to success of Cincin-

nati's No. 2. 25. Nate Burleson, Seahawks: With WR Eric Moulds in the He should fit in nicely in high-

Correction

n Tuesday's Cory Rodgers story titled Alum, NFL rookie gets rocky start," he photo of Rodgers in an intrasquad ractice with Green Bay Packers was attributed to Stephen Spillman/Staff Photographer. The photo was actually courtesy of Green Bay Packers.





FAMOUS QUOTE

"Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more."

- Mark Twain

TODAY IN HISTORY

1913: Automobiles were legally allowed to enter Yosemite National Park, Calif., for the first time, making a huge

change in the national park system.

Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson

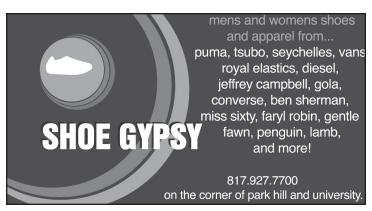


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HARD

Directions

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

> See Thursday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Tuesday's Solutions

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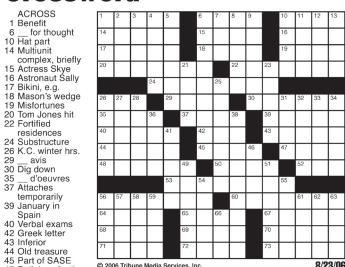
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Crossword



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45 Part of SASE 47 Religious faction 48 Theatrical works 50 Island garlands 52 Ordinal ending 9 Claim as a right Tuesday's Puzzle Solver 10 Man from 11 Streamlet 12 Inactive 13 Disorderly

formally 64 This place 65 Muse of history 67 Plumed wader 21 Hurry-up 68 Author Haley 69 Younger acronym 23 Superman's Saarinen 70 Poker action 25 Fireplace

72 Arrest73 Criticize strongly **DOWN** Large number

53 Ecstatic 56 Auto frame

60 Rescinds

1

2 Carry 3 Organic compound 4 Off-the-cuff 6 Farms for fry

7 Exclamation of

tones 27 More achy 28 Musical

syllables 31 Son of Seth 32 Small flycatcher 33 Put up 34 Bridge position 36 Actor Pickins 38 Product display

26 Combination of

49 Cake servings area
41 Wound surfaces
46 High-pitched
flute

57 Pinned down

air purifier

It's simple. Look for the

51 Outstanding! 54 Dot on a map 55 Permitted by 56 Landlocked African nation

58 Vicinity 59 Lolita-ish 61 Met highlight 62 More or __ 63 Proofer's save 66 Rage

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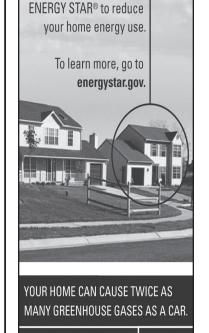


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