



NEWS
Find out how TCU students feel about the new residence halls.
MONDAY



FEATURES
A gallery run by a family of gymnasts leaps into a new home.
PAGE 5



SPORTS
The volleyball team heads to hurricane country.
PAGE 8



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Woman reports nearby assault, bites suspect to escape

By MEGAN MOWERY and DAVID SPENCER
Staff Reporters

A crime alert was issued Monday by the TCU Police to inform students of a non-student female who was assaulted Aug. 18 two blocks from campus.

While returning to her apartment about 2 a.m., the

victim was attacked by three males suspects as she was getting out of her vehicle, according to the campus-wide crime alert sent by TCU Police Sgt. Kelly Ham. One of the suspects is identified as a Hispanic male in his mid-twenties, while the others remain unidentified, according to the crime alert.

According to the crime alert, two of the suspects grabbed the victim's legs in attempt to throw her into their vehicle while the other covered her mouth. The victim was able to scare the suspects away by biting the hand over her mouth and kicking another suspect in the face while scream-

ing loudly, according to the crime alert.

"The case has now been turned over to the Fort Worth Police Department," Ham said. "As of noon, this is the only information available."

In order to prevent attacks such as these, Ham said students should not walk or jog alone or enter residence-

es alone if anything seems suspicious and refrain from exiting a vehicle without being aware of their surroundings.

The crime alert stated the victim received only minor injuries during the attack, while the suspects escaped in a vehicle identified as newer type black Tahoe.

FOR YOUR INFO

Have information?

Students are asked to call either 911 or the campus police at 257-7777 if they notice any suspicious behavior

THE RANKING GAME

College rankings not all they're cracked up to be; some universities refuse to participate in surveys

From wire and staff reports

It's the toughest time of the year for Lloyd Thacker to stand in a supermarket line. Thacker will be spending a lot of time looking at the publication he has dedicated himself to resisting.

U.S. News & World Report's annual college rankings hit news racks Monday — TCU came in at No. 108 along with the University of New Hampshire, Drexel University and the University of Oklahoma. Last year the university came in at No. 96.

Thacker, who directs the Oregon-based Education Conservancy, has led the growing nationwide opposition to the 24-year-old U.S. News rankings, which he sees as the epitome of commercialized higher education. Colleges should not be ranked based on a uniform scale, he said.

"It has distorted and skewed how (college) admissions are perceived," said Thacker, a former college counselor. "Their impact far exceeds their educational relevance."

MORE ONLINE



The editor of U.S. News & World Report responds online at dailyskiff.com.

A Disputed List

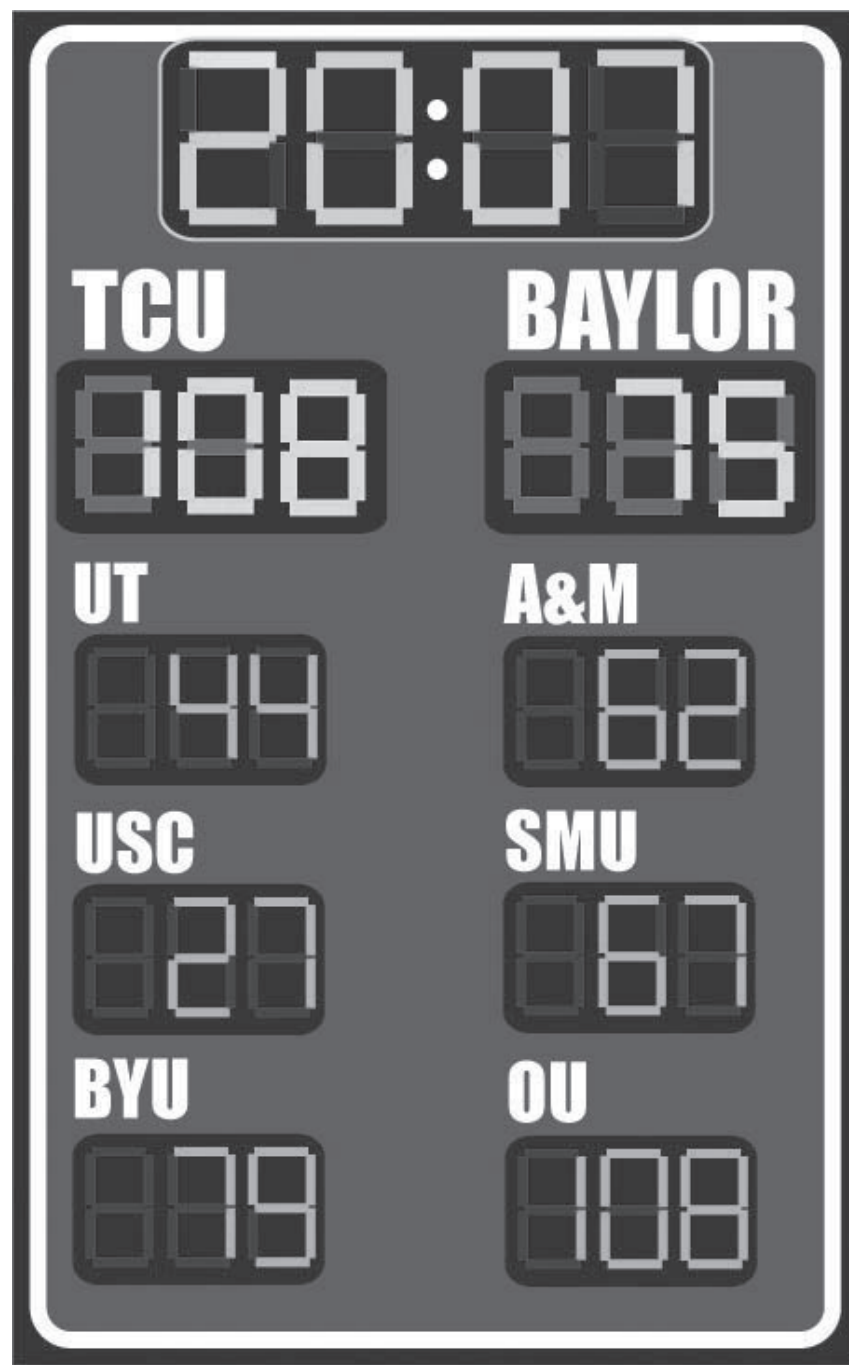
Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said most students who pay attention to the rankings are only looking for the most selective schools.

"Students who pay most attention to these rankings seek the Ivy League schools, like Stanford or Rice," Brown said.

Alumni are more plugged into the rankings than students, he said, because they want to know how their alma mater is doing. And while some students may use rankings, there are many other tools potential students can use to evaluate schools, Chancellor Victor Boschini said.

U.S. News editor Brian Kelly defended the

See **RANKINGS**, page 2



KEELY DOERING / Staff Illustrator

Wireless Internet available in dorms; new network offers increased security

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Staff Reporter

Residence halls at TCU this school year will sport a new look, one no one can see.

Starting this semester, all residence halls on campus, with the exception of Clark Hall, will support wireless Internet in common areas and individual rooms, said Tony Fleming, a senior network engineer at TCU.

The installation of wireless technology is part of a three-phase operation aimed to eventually bring wireless Internet everywhere on campus.

Technicians will next finish installing wireless Internet in academic buildings with the expectation of bringing it to common areas on campus by 2008, according to a campus-wide e-mail sent by the Computer Help Desk in May.

In addition, Fleming said TCU has switched to a new kind of network, which will upgrade security and prevent intrusions. The network features a military-style encryption used by many corporations around the country.

"We felt like we needed added security with a wireless network over such a large area on campus," Fleming said.

Clark Hall will not sup-

port wireless Internet this semester because the building will undergo renovation starting in January, Fleming said.

Unlike other wireless areas on campus previously, such as the library, students will have to manually configure their computers to connect to the network. Fleming said students can either download instructions from the wireless Web site or visit help desks set up in residence halls or the library.

But, with a new network, some tweaking may need to be done in areas where interference can occur. Technicians got off to a rocky start in some areas where connectivity and reliability became issues, Fleming said.

Rodney Lawrence, a freshman premajor, said he experienced weak signal strength in the basement of Milton Daniel Hall.

"Sometimes the signal was so low that I couldn't connect to it," Lawrence said.

Carlton Stewart, a freshman pre-business major, said his wireless connection in Milton Daniel was solid.

"We're going to have to iron out any bugs with the new wireless system," Fleming said. "Initial testing looks good, but the students will be the final judge on how well it works."

Student funds expansion project

By DIANA ALVAREZ
Staff Reporter

The newest addition to the College of Education, the Steve and Betsy Palko Building, was named after a current graduate student who donated to the project, marking the largest donation TCU has ever received from an enrolled student.

Steffen Palko, 55, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1971. Now, Palko is a third-year TCU student pursuing his doctorate degree in education.

The decisions to contribute to the College of Education and enroll at TCU were independently made, Palko said.

"I made the decision at the request of Samuel Dietz," Palko

said. "It was a really special deal. I was delighted by the quality of the student body and of the faculty."

Palko is the former chair of the College of Education Board of Visitors and served eight years as a school board trustee for the Fort Worth Independent School District and as education chairman for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

The new Palko Building has three floors with four conference rooms, including the dean's private conference room, a patio, a lounge area, a number of classrooms and a lecture hall. The entire building has wireless Internet.

Linda Matthews, an administrative assistant in the College of

Education, said the department is happy to start the semester in the new building.

"After a year and a half of being in the basement of Tucker with no window, it is so nice to be in our new home," Matthews said.

Matthews said the building's classrooms were designed with the help of the professors who will teach there.

"The professors had input on what their rooms would look like," Matthews said. "The rooms are set up the same way (classrooms) would be set up in the real world. They get that real world experience in these classrooms. It's very helpful."

Samuel Dietz, dean of the Col-



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Photo Editor

Freshman Journalism major Katie Caruso sits on the steps of the Bailey building which has recently undergone a major renovation, including the addition of Betsy and Steve Palko Hall.

See **PALKO**, page 2

Man robs student at local Walgreens, takes away \$1,600

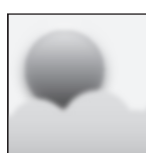
By ALYSSA DIZON
Staff Reporter

A 20-year-old female student was robbed Wednesday night outside of Walgreens on the 3100 block of McCart Avenue, according to a Fort Worth police report.

In the report, an unidentified person told police that at about 10:45 p.m. Sofia Vela was being robbed.

Fort Worth police said the woman left Walgreens and walked to her car when a man, age 25 to 30, came toward her and grabbed her purse, according to a campus-wide e-mail from TCU Police detective Vicki Lawson. The man took Vela's purse, shoved her aside and escaped in a small, dirty, white car driven by a woman, according to the e-mail.

According to the police report, the items stolen were an iPhone, a Gucci purse and \$130 in cash. The total value of the items taken was \$1,670.



WEATHER

TODAY: Partly cloudy, 97/76
SATURDAY: Partly cloudy, 97/75
SUNDAY: Mostly sunny, 96/75

PECULIAR FACT

MOSCOW — A step-by-step guide to building a body like President Vladimir Putin's was available to readers of a Russian newspaper on Wednesday.
—Reuters

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Casino Night on campus tonight, page 2
OPINION: Students weigh in on coed dorms, page 3
SPORTS: Volleyball team gets ready for opener, page 8

CONTACT US

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

RANKINGS

From page 1

rankings. He said with thousands of colleges and universities available to students, the magazine is merely providing people a research tool. But critics say the influential lists lead schools to spend too much money in specific areas to boost their rankings.

"I think we get blamed for a lot of colleges' behavior that isn't our fault," Kelly told reporters. "The kind of behavior they're talking about here is often behavior that is good for the schools."

The rankings reward colleges for small class sizes, student

retention, graduation rates and financial resources. A quarter of each school's overall score is based on the opinions of administrators at other colleges.

Surveying the Schools

In the last couple of weeks, Thacker has gathered signatures from more than 60 college presidents who have vowed to stop completing a major portion of the magazine's annual survey, which analyzes 1,400 schools across the United States. The disputed section, which accounts for a quarter of a school's score, rates a college's reputation among its peers.

Among the institutions refusing to rate their competitors' reputations are St. Mary's College in Moraga, Calif., and San Francisco State University.

Boschini said TCU turned in the required data and cooperated with the survey.

In their hunger for higher rankings, some colleges have increased the number of scholarships for top-performing students, Thacker said. That system skews col-

leges toward more affluent students, while hurting low-income students who tend to have lower test scores.

Boschini said scholarships have nothing to do with TCU's rankings.

Although other college administrators have long grumbled at the popularity and effects of the U.S. News rankings, school leaders have organized in opposition more than in years past. Thacker's group is planning a September meeting at Yale University to discuss alternate ranking systems. Boschini said TCU wasn't invited to the September gathering.

The Reliability of Rankings

This year, the magazine tweaked its rankings to compensate for the effects of low-income students, whose graduation rates are lower. Despite the change, some administrators say the rankings just don't tell students enough about a college.

"The kind of work that U.S. News & World Report does doesn't really get to the heart of what we do here at St. Mary's," said Michael Bes-

FOR YOUR INFO

U.S. News & World Report Highest Ranked Schools

1. Princeton University
2. Harvard University
3. Yale University
4. Stanford University
5. University of Pennsylvania
5. California Institute of Technology
7. Massachusetts Institute
8. Duke University
9. Columbia University
9. University of Chicago
11. Dartmouth College
12. Washington University
12. Cornell University
14. Brown University
14. Northwestern University
14. John Hopkins University
17. Rice University
17. Emory University
19. Vanderbilt University
19. University of Notre Dame
21. University of California-Berkeley
22. Carnegie Mellon University
23. University of Virginia
23. Georgetown University
25. University of California
25. University of Michigan

da, the college's vice provost for enrollment. "They've narrowed the discussion in this country of what an undergraduate education should be.

"Any informed educator who thoughtfully thinks about the ranking systems realizes they are inadequate."

But at the University of California at Berkeley, the top-ranked public university in the country this year, administrators say the lists offer valuable information when taken in the context of other sources. Any rankings systems will have their supporters and critics, said Christine Maslach, the university's vice provost for undergraduate education.

"You always have to take these with a grain of salt," she said. "There's probably a variety of places where a student would do well."

Not Much Sway

Despite the growing opposition, U.S. News remains a major player in the world of college choice. At least 97 percent of the schools that participated in this year's U.S. News rankings plan to continue to do so, according to a survey of more than 300

admissions officers released last week by Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

And while some say the rankings continue to sway many graduating high-school seniors — especially those at the most competitive high schools — TCU's Brown disagrees.

"In my experience — and I've been doing this for a long time — almost nobody bases their decision on these rankings," Brown said.

Katherine Lewis, a freshman fashion merchandising major, said she and her parents looked at the rankings, but it wasn't a large factor in her final decision.

"Rankings helped," Lewis said. "But my final decision was based on seeing this campus."

Matt Krupnick of the Contra Costa Times and staff reporter Antoinette Nevils contributed to this report

FOR YOUR INFO

U.S. News & World Report Top 5 Texas Schools

- Rice University, No. 17
- University of Texas, No. 44
- Texas A&M University, No. 62
- Southern Methodist University, No. 67
- Baylor University, No. 75

MORE ONLINE



View the full list of top universities at dailyskiff.com.

PALKO

From page 1

lege of Education, said he met Palko in 2000.

"When I first met him, people told me, 'Whenever you need someone to help out, this is the guy to go to,'" Deitz said. "He's constantly been involved on campus with numerous projects. When it came time to do something new, he came forward."

One reason for the expansion

of the building was it didn't meet the needs of the growing industry, Palko said.

The exact amount of money for the donation could not be disclosed, Deitz and Palko said.

The 24,600 square-foot building is attached to the Bailey Building by a glass atrium. A dedication ceremony for the new complex is scheduled for Sept. 15. Chancellor Victor Boschini and Palko are scheduled to attend.

QUICK NEWS

PC to host Casino Night

Grab a lucky rabbit's foot and get ready to win some prizes.

The Programming Council is hosting Casino Night on Friday at 6 p.m. as part of Howdy Week.

Howdy Week allows people to meet those they are going to be with throughout college, said Kristen Chapman, PC chair. She said there will be

more than 300 students playing at different tables and slot machines.

The poker chips have no monetary value so there is no chance of losing money and door prizes, such as digital cameras, will be raffled to students, she said.

Casino Night is a chance for students to play games while meeting others, she said. "Both Howdy Week and

Casino are big traditions on campus and bring out a large crowd from the whole student body," she said. "It's a lot of fun."

Staff writer Keri Miller

Man flashes student

A white male, 50 to 55, exposed himself to a female student in the Albertson's parking lot on the corner of S.

University Drive and W. Berry Street Aug. 21 at about 5:08 p.m., according to a police report.

The suspect was masturbating in front of the student, according to the Fort Worth police report.

However, the suspect fled the scene before police officers arrived.

Staff writer Lance Webb

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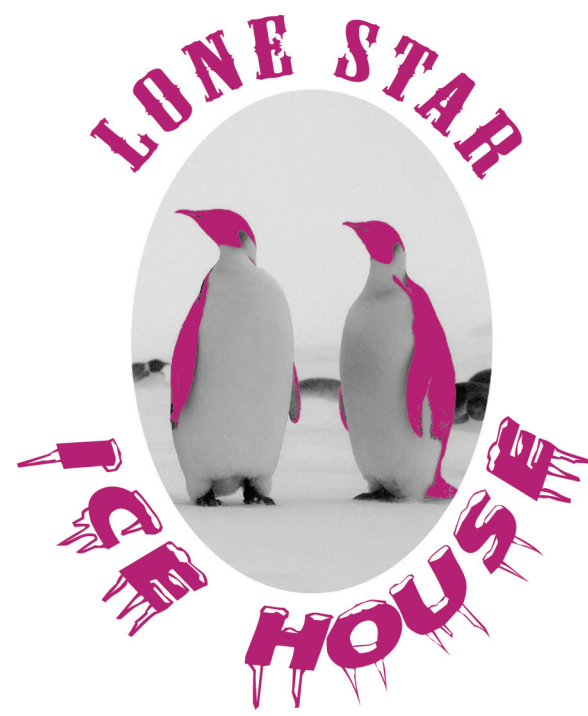
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right."

— Henry Ford

THE SKIFF VIEW

Bookstore woes annoy students

During the past two years, going to the bookstore to retrieve the necessary materials has been an experience that left students dissatisfied and downright angry.

This is not due to the good people who work for hours on end. This is due to broken promises university officials have delivered to students in regards to the construction of the bookstore.

It should bother the typical student that officials decided to delay construction until this past summer, considering what the situation has been like for the past two years.

The bookstore's parking situation epitomizes everything that is wrong with the university's overall parking problem. How can students be expected to buy the books, pens and, yes, polo shirts they need when finding a parking spot is one of the hardest things to accomplish in a typical day for a commuter?

While officials have done a respectable job in trying to provide transportation to places such as the bookstore, people who parade out with laminated signs telling students they can-

not park in what looks to be the bookstore's parking lot need to figure out a better way to use their time.

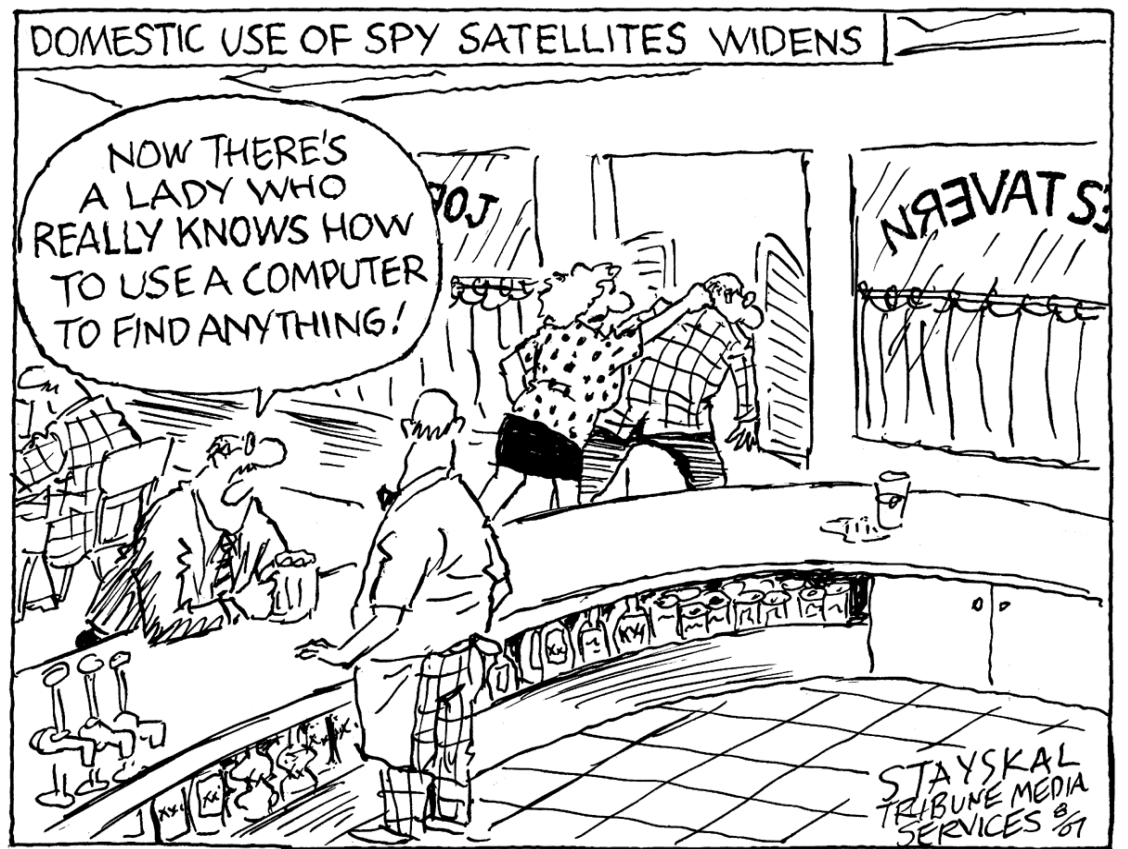
The lot that serves as the parking area for places such as The University Pub, Dutch's and Texadelphia is located directly behind the bookstore but could easily be mistaken as a parking lot for, well, the bookstore. But that makes too much sense.

Since officials have already inconvenienced students with the delayed construction of what figures to be a beautiful piece of architecture, the least they could have done is come to an agreement with the strip owners of when to allow students to park in the lot. The hours between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. during the beginning and end of each semester when the bookstore's traffic is at its peak would be fitting.

Instead, students are left with a bad taste in their mouths thanks to a situation that could have been handled in an easier, more respectable fashion.

Sports editor Tim Bella for the editorial board.

BY WAYNE STAYSKAL

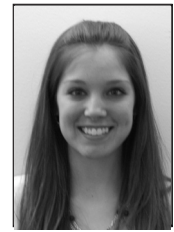


POINT

New living arrangements encourage promiscuity

Coed dorm rooms are no longer a figment of anyone's imagination, they are real. Colleges and universities all over the country are moving toward this new trend.

COMMENTARY



Marissa Warmis

Living in a modern world, people are used to change, as it is unavoidable. Is the world ready to send its children to college, where living conditions are uncomfortable and promiscuous?

Vigen Guroian, theology professor at Loyola College in Maryland, said colleges have "forfeited the responsibilities of 'in loco parentis' and have gone into the pimping and brothel business."

Guroian has conducted studies and written articles concerning coed dorms and his quotes from students are alarming. Before any decision is made on campus, students need to be heard.

As a freshman, freedom is exciting. Parents are not there watching every move and can no longer tell you what to do. It's an exciting part of life no doubt, but has anyone asked students how they feel about living in a coed dorm?

"The peer pressure and the way things are set up make promiscuity practically obligatory," one dorm resident told Guroian.

We attend a private university and coed dorms are farther from being instated than if we were a public university, but the day will come when TCU has to make that decision.

In one of his essays, Guroian writes students "feel pressured to participate in the casual sex that coed dorms make

possible in order to prove their sexual health."

Is proving sexual health the most important part of dorm life and freshman year? I think not. Students need to be worrying about their classes and building lifelong friendships, not whether they can keep up in the sexual world that surrounds them.

Students already have a hard time keeping God in their lives during college, especially freshman year. Coed dorms do not help that. In fact, I would go as far to say that it helps students stray from God.

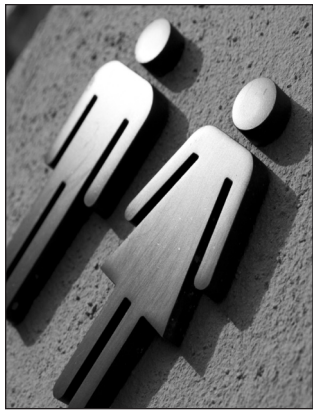
Students have a lot of time during the day to spend with their boyfriends or girlfriends. It isn't necessary to bring those relationships into the dorm life.

When one roommate needs to sleep or study, courtesy needs to be shown to that roommate. Having men or women easily accessible in the same dorm does not allow for a very quiet, comfortable setting. Men and women are naturally attracted to one another.

In most cases, coed dorms that keep women and men on different floors and have curfews for opposite genders are not going to have as many problems, although there will be some.

The solution is clear. Coed dorm rooms lead to promiscuity and uncomfortable living conditions according to some students who have experienced it. There is only one way to avoid that: same sex dormitories.

Marissa Warmis is a senior advertising/public relations major from Irving.



SXC.HU

COUNTERPOINT

Coed dorms foster maturity

Nearly 400 years ago, our forefathers sailed across the Atlantic to begin life anew in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

All in all, they were pretty decent people, armed with steely religious conviction and a work ethic that would put Samuel L. "I'm in every movie, ever" Jackson to shame.

They single-handedly laid the groundwork for the country we know and love today.

COMMENTARY



David Hall

However, they were sorely lacking in one department. No, it wasn't Native American relations. Remember that the original pilgrims had a pretty cordial relationship with Squanto and his tribe, what with Thanksgiving and all.

The major flaw with England's first successful settlement in the New World was the lack of male-female interaction. As far as the Puritans were concerned, the only inter-sex conversation that was to occur involved what color paper to print Bibles on. Anything else would land you in the stockade, Casanova.

Fast forward to the present day. Things are a bit different now. People wear other garments than the all-black, belt-buckle hat ensemble. The American population stretches from coast to coast. Religious dissent is accepted and no longer met with banishment to Rhode Island. However, there are still some people who believe that the best interaction between men and women is little interaction.

That being said, I applaud TCU's decision to increase the number of coed dorms on campus. In his 2001 book, "Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds," Richard Light found that diversity was one of the top ways to bring new perspectives to the academic dialogue and enrich the lives of students.

Administrators wouldn't shy away from placing black and white students in the same dorm because they know of the intense exchange of knowledge that can occur between people of different races. In fact, while I don't have access to Residential Services policies, I would be willing to bet that they try to match up people of different races/cultures when it comes to potluck assignments freshman year.

Why then, in campuses across the country, should dorms be organized solely on the basis of sex? Are administrators afraid of the "naked teenage sex parties" that might result from coed dorms? Those all happen off campus anyway, away from the prying eyes of residence assistants and nosy neighbors.

It's not like same-sex dorms are a deterrent to sexual behavior anyway. Anyone from sophomore level up can recall witnessing someone making the Sunday morning "walk-of-shame" from Milton Daniel Hall in its pre-coed days. It's going to happen regardless of whether the residence halls are coed or not.

While supporters of same-sex campus housing are trying to crusade against so-called "deviancy," they are ignoring the benefits that coed housing creates.

First of all, it creates a more mature standard of living. Everyone can agree that people are on their best behavior when members of the opposite sex are around. Dorms segregated by sex seem to foster a sense of seventh grade immaturity in their inhabitants. Guys run around with their underwear inside-out and draw penises on the walls. Girls talk about surprisingly non-feminine stuff and feel free to pass gas whenever they want. Coed dorms nurture a much needed sense of maturity in the future movers and shakers of tomorrow.

Also, let's not forget the free exchange of ideas that occurs with coed living. Guys can get innovative science project ideas from the girls down the hall. Girls can get advice on boys from that one guy in 317. Both sexes can benefit from the each other's way of thinking in coed study groups. All of this without ever having to leave the residence hall.

For those who feel differently, it's time to wake up and smell the 21st century coffee. It's time to realize that college kids will go at it like jack rabbits no matter the gender designation of their housing. What other benefit does same-sex housing offer besides a porous security blanket against sexual activity?

Coed living is the wave of the future and TCU is putting itself on the cutting edge of change — the exact place where a college campus needs to be.

David Hall is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from Kingwood.

Increasing minimum wage will not alleviate poverty; higher pay rate eliminates motivation to work harder

In reading "New minimum wage a step, still not enough," I would have to disagree with some of the author's viewpoints. As a higher minimum wage is put into place, many people are calling it a victory in the war on poverty. However, I would contend that if people actually examined the effects of increasing the minimum wage, they clearly would not want to raise it.

When we see headlines of an increase of the minimum wage, we tend to think of lower income people boosting their income and helping people get out of poverty. Yes, people receive a higher wage, but that increase is then

passed on to the consumer. To offset these increases, companies pass on the costs by either raising prices or by reducing their costs. As a result, if a company doesn't raise prices or reduce costs, their net income decreases. In the end, the consumer and companies pay a price because of a government mandate. My question is, why should the government mandate the price of labor? Mandating the price of labor is similar to mandating the price of gasoline. Clearly, the minimum wage is just a price-control on labor. The last time I checked, price-controls more often than not fail and lead to

market inefficiencies.

Yes, there are income disparities between people, but there is less of a disparity of income in this country compared to other countries. People in poverty in this country still have more opportunities to get out of poverty than people in countries where the economy is centrally planned. In fact, many people came to this country to participate and reap the rewards of a capitalist economy. The countries without capitalist economies have a wider gap between income classes with only two options: the rich and the poor.

I would disagree with "minimum wage is a good start-

ing point." Minimum wages don't magically end poverty. If all countries could simply increase their minimum wage to \$1,000 per hour wouldn't people working on minimum wage all be rich? If higher wages could fix poverty, countries could easily end poverty by waiving their legislating wand to enact higher minimum wages. People would get paid very well indeed, but consumers would bear the costs of the extraordinary wage including those who are making minimum wage.

Now you may be thinking "Don't you have any decency toward people in poverty?"

I would argue the only reason why people are in poverty or poor for that matter is because they don't produce anything of value. People amass wealth because of their ability to do the most people-pleasing. John D. Rockefeller and Bill Gates were experts at this and in turn satisfied the wants of millions of people. Mandating a minimum wage does not mandate a certain productivity level. If workers are getting paid more for the same amount of work, what is their incentive to work harder? Workers are induced to become lazy and less productive because they are get-

ting paid more to do the same job that they have been doing.

Although an increase in the minimum wage sounds like a good idea, it has more side effects than many people are aware of. If you want to increase the minimum wage, you should also prepare for: higher prices, higher unemployment, lower corporate profits and lower productivity. Upon careful examination, it is clear that these side effects are more than enough to convince people that we don't need to increase the minimum wage much less have one to begin with.

Peter Parlapiano is a junior finance major from Houston.

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

FOOTBALL

From page 8

Running Back:

Lock — LaDainian Tomlinson: Your man, my man, our man. L.T. is unstoppable, period.

On the Edge — Larry Johnson: L.J. is in this spot because although he is a prolific running back who gets stronger as the season goes on. He's coming off an NFL-record 416 carries and has just seen quarterback Trent Green and Pro Bowl guard Will Shields disappear before his eyes. I hope he enjoyed his rest; he's going to need it.

Avoid — Clinton Portis: The hand, the shoulder, the knee, the Ladell Betts—I enjoy my sleep at night, do you?

Sleeper — Marshawn Lynch: With no real threat behind him, Lynch has a great opportunity to utilize his strong rushing and receiving abilities and to be a part of a growing and youthful offense in Buffalo.

Defense and Special Teams:

Lock — Chicago Bears: The "Monsters of the Midway," who were able to keep Lance Briggs and dump Tank Johnson, remain the best unit in the league. With Devin Hester still returning kicks, this group is over the top.

On the Edge — Dallas Cowboys: DeMarcus Ware, Terence Newman and Roy Williams make this defense a constant threat, but the additions of Ken Hamlin to shore up the secondary and Anthony Spencer to provide yet another avenue to rush the passer coupled with the arrival of Wade Phillips make this defense just downright scary.

Avoid — Tennessee Titans: The loss of Adam "Pacman" Jones only further cripples this already-reeling and cash-strapped unit.

Sleeper — Denver Broncos: With Champ Bailey and Dre' Bly, the takeaways will materialize throughout the course of the season. Now, if the rest of the defense can prevent a collapse, then this should be a very good bunch.

Stay tuned for next week's column when we will look at wide receivers, tight ends and kickers as well as preview the opening game between Indianapolis and New Orleans.

Research shows study location unimportant; comfort is key

By FRANK GREVE
McClatchy Newspapers

Forty years ago, Robert Gifford, a senior at the University of California at Davis, spent a few weeks banging on dorm doors and asking occupants whether they were studying.

Gifford didn't want to party; he just wanted to see whether the students were working at their desks or on their beds. Then he wanted to compare the grade-point averages of the erect to the supine.

Gifford's little experiment was a rare serious effort to answer a question that erupts in millions of households and dorms across the nation: Will I do better if I study in an uncomfortable position?

The answer's certainly yes if you go by published study guides and the venerable experts who write them.

"You need a chair that's not real comfortable, and you certainly don't want to be studying on your bed," said Sherrie Nist-Olejnik, a recent retiree from the University of Georgia at Athens, where she directed or delivered various "learning to learn" efforts for 24 years.

And how does Nist-Olejnik know beds are bad for scholars? "There's not a lot written about it, but if you ask students about studying on their

beds, they laugh and tell you they fall asleep," said Nist-Olejnik, author of a popular study guide called "College Rules!"

Indeed, Emily Kopilow, 21, a junior at Haverford College in Haverford, Pa., did laugh at studying abed — but she also spurned the uncomfortable chair idea.

"If you're uncomfortable," she said, "you'll focus on your body and your discomfort, not what you're supposed to be reading about."

Michael Kimmel, a sociologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook who's studied advice manuals, acknowledged that lots of college reading can put students to sleep. But he saw something puritanical in both the straight chair recommendation and the aversion to anything involving a bed other than sleeping in it.

Cultural historian Edward Tenner, author most recently of "Our Own Devices," a book about technology's influence on behavior, agreed. He suspects that the uncomfortable chair theory is rooted in the good-posture movement that flourished between World Wars I and II. It asserted a connection between sitting straight and straight thinking.

Tenner said he also was

reminded of the how-to-succeed advice of 19th-century author John Todd. In his best-seller, titled "Index Rerum," Todd wrote these stern words: "Standing is undoubtedly the best method of study."

So what did Gifford discover in his eight-college study habit survey titled "The Bed or the Desk?"

"No difference between them" when it came to GPA, Gifford and his psychology department mentor, Robert Sommer, wrote in the May 1968 issue of Personnel and Guidance Journal. It's the only widely known serious examination of the bed-desk question.

Gifford and Sommer found that of the above-average scholars surveyed, half studied at their desks and half studied on their beds. Among the below-average students, 47 percent studied abed and 53 percent studied at their desks.

Of the 86 students with GPAs of 3.0 or better, 53 percent worked at their desks; the rest, on their beds. Among the 18 students with GPAs of 2.0 or under, two-thirds worked at their desks.

"There is nothing in these data to support recommendations for studying in a straight-

backed chair at a desk," the researchers concluded.

The 1968 study's findings were based on afternoon and evening visits with 331 students at three universities, four state colleges and one junior college. Researchers discarded results for students who were studying on floors, couches or elsewhere.

Gifford and Sommer, who are well-known environmental psychologists, often advise on the design of libraries, classrooms and study environments. They recommend comfortable furniture.

"Desks are really confining, and cubicles are worse than desks," Sommer said.

They suggest that students work wherever it comes naturally.

Even beds are sometimes just fine.

In his book "Warm and Snug: The History of the Bed," author Lawrence Wright notes that the Roman statesman Cicero and lyric poet Horace; the English poets John Milton and Alexander Pope; essayists Jonathan Swift and Voltaire; novelists Anthony Trollope, Marcel Proust, Mark Twain and Robert Louis Stevenson — not to mention English statesman Winston Churchill — all had one thing in common: They wrote in bed.

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Graduates continue studies, say technical degree needed

By JENNIFER BURK
McClatchy Newspapers

After graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, Miki Causey worked a handful of odd jobs.

But it wasn't until she went to Macon Technical Institute, now known as Central Georgia Technical College, that she says she found her career.

Causey now works as a blood bank clinical laboratory specialist at The Medical Center of Central Georgia, where she has been since earning her medical laboratory technician certificate in 1985.

"It takes some people longer than others to decide what they want to do for their life," said Causey.

Causey is not the only one to follow up a bachelor's degree with studies at a technical college. The number of people attending Georgia's technical colleges who already have bachelor's degrees has grown by 19 percent over the past five years, according to the Technical College System of Georgia.

At Central Georgia Tech, 279 students, or 3 percent of the college's enrollment, already had a bachelor's degree or higher during the 2006 academic year, according to an e-mail from Eddy Dixon, vice president of student services at the college.

At Middle Georgia Technical College, students with a bachelor's degree or higher made up 1.8 percent of the college's enrollment in the fall of 2006. By the winter

2007 quarter, which ran January through March, those students increased to 2.4 percent, said Dan Perdue, the college's spokesman.

Graduates and technical college administrators have given a number of reasons why people might seek a technical education after earning a bachelor's degree. Some people find they can't get a job with a bachelor's degree in some fields, like history, religion or psychology. Others need more hands-on training for advancement in a current job or use it as a springboard for a new career.

A lot of people go to a four-year school because that's what's expected, but sometimes after getting their education and entering the work force, people may want to change their field and they do so quickly, Perdue said.

Universities create individuals who think globally, and technical colleges train students with specific skills that are in demand in the market, Dixon said.

"The combination of the two obviously will make you more employable," he said. "It's a win-win. Therefore, the students are doing it."

Dixon said he sees going to a technical college after earning a bachelor's degree becoming more of the norm as universities and technical colleges become more seamless and collaborative in the future.

"What the four-year schools do well is deliver theory ... and they offer the four-year degree (employees) need to

make advancements," said Gardner Long, director of instructional technology at Central Georgia Tech. "Students are coming back to us for the (hands-on) skills."

This happens particularly in information technology and health-related fields, he said.

Jim Wilson, a senior systems administrator for a software development company in Atlanta, said he used his certificate from Central Georgia Tech to change careers.

After earning a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgia College (now Georgia College & State University), Wilson started teaching. But in the late 1990s, Wilson said, he caught the "technology bug." In 2001, he completed a certificate in Windows networking at Central Georgia Tech and started working with computers.

The combination of his bachelor's degree, hands-on-training from his certificate and actual experience helped him advance from basic systems administrator to senior systems administrator, he said.

"It's probably one of the fastest ways for someone to springboard to something else," he said.

Causey said she doesn't regret her college experience at UGA, and although she doesn't use her philosophy degree in her career, it has helped her in other aspects of her life.

"I've never considered it a waste, but it just doesn't make me any money," she said.

Elections officers stay apolitical

By PAMELA M. PRAH
McClatchy Newspapers

At least a dozen states are determined to avoid one of the political minefields exposed by the cliffhanger 2000 presidential race.

Whether by law or choice, state officials who oversee local and national elections in these states are declining to serve on political campaign committees or publicly endorse candidates to assure the public that elections referees don't have a stake in the outcome.

Still, in Indiana, Arizona and Rhode Island, there's no question who the top state election official hopes will win the presidency in 2008: Their secretaries of state have endorsed presidential candidates.

Most states have few restrictions in this area, and contenders for the White House covet endorsements of statewide officials, including secretaries of state and governors who have political networks and connections to donors.

Up until 2000, secretaries of state were relatively obscure statewide officials. That changed when then-Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris made a series of decisions regarding the recount in the nation's tightest presidential race while serving as co-chair for the George Bush campaign in Florida.

Four years later, in Ohio, where a win was crucial for President Bush's re-election, J. Kenneth Blackwell came under fire for his actions regarding voter challenges while he served as secretary of state and chairman of Bush's re-election campaign there. Blackwell tried to quell possible conflict-of-interest concerns when he ran for governor in 2006 by delegating key duties to the assistant secretary of state.

Blackwell lost to former U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, a Demo-

crat, who is now Ohio's governor.

"It just doesn't make sense to have the state's election administrator being involved in partisan politics. The perception of conflict of interest can be too great," said Mary Boyle, a spokeswoman for Common Cause, a lobbying watchdog group.

Deborah Goldberg, program director of the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program at New York University Law School, said more needs to be known about the role of chief election officials in recent campaigns. "This is an issue ripe for more research. ... People don't fully understand the partisan nature of the secretaries of state we've had."

Current secretaries of state have voluntarily refused to serve on political campaign committees or to publicly endorse candidates for office in Connecticut, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Vermont, according to a recent National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) survey of members in which 25 offices responded.

Four other states — Colorado, Massachusetts, Ohio and Virginia — limit their chief election officials' political activity because of new restrictions put into place within the last year, said Boyle of Common Cause.

Wisconsin is the only state with a law requiring the chief state election official and all state board of elections staff to be nonpartisan, according to Kay Stimson, a NASS.

Besides the four states that acted within the last year, Georgia, Louisiana and Nebraska have ethics codes that restrict secretaries of states from serving on political campaign committees and publicly endorsing candidates, according to NASS. Maine's secretary of state is prohibited from

forming or being involved with a political action committee. New Mexico has a newly appointed ethics task force exploring the issue.

Those top elected officials who have shown their partisan colors on the Republican side include Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, who is backing former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, while Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer is stumping for U.S. Sen. John McCain of her home state. Rhode Island Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis has endorsed fellow Democrat U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York.

The top election official in Utah — Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican — is backing Romney. Utah is one of three states without a secretary of state (Alaska and Hawaii are the others).

South Carolina Secretary of State Mark Hammond, a Republican also has endorsed McCain, but Hammond does not serve as the state's top election official.

While most secretaries of state are responsible for overseeing elections, 11, like Hammond, are not. Other duties include licensing businesses, registering corporations and trademarks, and serving as their state's chief notaries. In some states, the job involves heading up the state boxing commission.

Of the country's 47 secretaries of state, voters elect 35 (Alaska, Hawaii and Utah tap their lieutenant governor to assume the duties).

Of the nine secretaries of state who are appointed by the governor, three serve as chief state election officials — Florida, Pennsylvania and Texas. (The other states in which governors make the selection are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma and Virginia). Legislatures in Maine, New Hampshire and Tennessee make the selection in their states.



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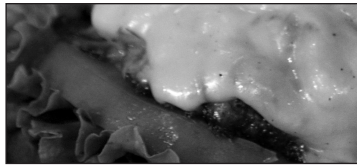
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Donna Liberator by Gregory Beck is one of hundreds of art pieces featured in the Milan Gallery in downtown Fort Worth.

Downtown art gallery opens in new location for better sales

By LANCE WEBB
Staff Writer

After 14 years of seemingly perpetual relocation, the Milan Gallery has moved once again. Resting at 505 Houston St., a block south from its original location, the Milan Gallery now faces the setting sun and a new chapter in its history.

The gallery had its grand opening for the new location on Aug. 11. Tal Milan, the director of the gallery, said hundreds of people circulated in and out of the main room.

Tal Milan said the gallery sold more than 30 pieces that night.

The main room of the new location is a better fit for larger crowds than the original site, said Tal Milan. Although the sizes of the two locations are similar, approximately 3,000 square feet, the more open layout of the new location grants more wall space and visual access to the gallery's collection of more than 600 paintings.

The Milan Gallery houses works by regional, national and international artists, ranging from the impressionist painter Henrietta Milan, mother of Rome and Tal Milan, to Russian painter Vladimir Gorsky.

The array of works is evident as soon as one enters the gallery. Facing the doorway are the wine bottle still-life paintings by Thomas Arvid. Near the doorway of the gallery sits a stainless steel sculpture by Jerry Dane Sanders. Detailed watercolor paintings by Laurin McCracken occupy a portion of the southern wall. Adjacent to the doorway is an exclusive reproduction of Michelangelo's "Madonna della Pieta," cast from the original mold and licensed by the Vatican. However, most of the works on display at the gallery are by contemporary artists.

"Typically, when you enter the gallery, you're going to see living artists," said Tal Milan.

The north wall of the gallery displays impressionistic pieces by Tal Milan's mother, Henrietta. Her paintings often focus on floral subjects and placid landscapes that are comparable to the works of Claude Monet.

A Brief History of the Gallery

In 1979, Henrietta Milan transformed her home studio into a gallery, which was open to those who made an appointment. As Henrietta Milan's works began to sell more and more, Tal Milan found himself marketing her works.

By 1988, Henrietta Milan's works were selling at a pace that allowed Tal Milan to leave his pharmaceutical job to act as a full-time manager and marketer for his mother's artwork. By 1992 the Milans were able to open a gallery in downtown Fort Worth, where it has remained ever since.

Works in the gallery have moved six times in and out of four additional locations.

Explaining the departure from the branch location on 4th and Main streets, Tal Milan said, "It wasn't a good business decision to expand on the same block.

"We already had a presence [in Sundance Square]. By doubling our presence, we did not double our sales."

A Milan Trend

A passion for gymnastics is also a family tradition for the Milans.

Both Jerry Milan, Tal Milan's father, and Henrietta Milan were gymnasts at DePaul University. Henrietta Milan was named the U.S. National Gymnastic Champion in 1959. Her gymnastic aspirations led her to tryout for the women's gymnastic team for the 1960 summer Olympics in Rome. Henrietta became an alternate for the Olympic team after placing tenth in trials, when only eight are accepted. In honor of that round of the Olympic Games, she named her son, born six months before the games, Rome.

Rome Milan continued this tradition of nomenclature. He named his daughters Sydney, Paris and Athens, in honor of the Olympic Games held in those cities.

While also serving as an international gymnastic judge, Rome Milan spent nearly 20 years coaching gymnastics for local high schools. He coached at Weatherford High School and W.E. Boswell High School before retiring from teaching in 2000 to pursue painting full time.

Behind the palette; artist shares history

By LANCE WEBB
Staff Writer

While strolling down Houston Street on a Friday night, one is likely to see Rome Milan in the window front of his family's gallery, intently applying paint to a canvas with a palette knife, wearing hats from various parts of the world.

Much like the gallery itself, Milan has become a familiar fixture in Sundance Square. However, to the average passers-by, the story behind this window-front painter is a mystery.

Milan had a modest artistic beginning, sparked by a T-shirt at age 13.

"One night, my father brought home a gymnastics T-shirt and the artwork on the front was terrible," Milan said. "So, I told him 'I could've done a better job.'"

His father then challenged Milan to come up with a better T-shirt design. He did just that, and with that T-Shirt, his career as a commercial artist began.

But Milan did not start working with paint until the age of 28, when his mother suggested that he do so.

"She told me to go to her studio and paint a landscape, and she would be back in two hours to see what I've done," Milan recalled. "My mother painted with a (palette) knife, so I had to paint with that."

Thus, a young Milan had inadvertently adopted a part of his mother's painting technique.

The artist still uses a palette knife to apply paint to the canvas, offering sharply



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Photo Editor
Rome Milan stands in his gallery's new Houston Street location.

raised accents to the piece. This painting style lends a vibrant texture to his works, which adds a flowing intensity to the otherwise placid seascapes and coastal scenery he paints.

"If I had it my way, I would paint seascapes 99 percent of the time," Milan said.

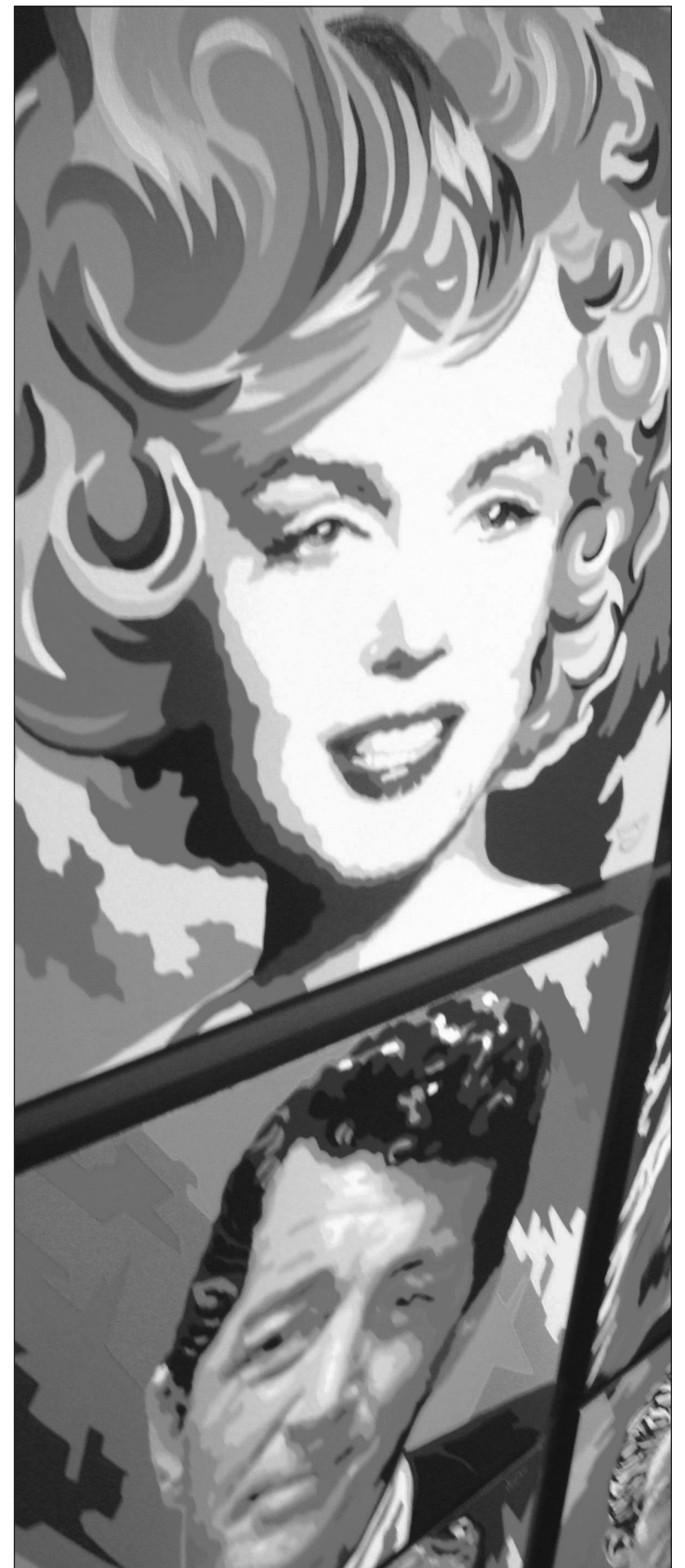
The Mediterranean and Adriatic seascapes make up most of Milan's portfolio. His family's involvement in the Olympics has allowed him to travel to more than 45 countries over the years.

Milan now teaches a class every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Lacking formal training in painting, he is reluctant to call it a painting class. Rather, he refers to it as a "this is what I do" or "follow me" class. For the first few weeks of classes, the students, who range from nine to 85 years old, learn the style and techniques that Milan himself uses.

For the fourth week of classes, students choose their own subjects to paint.



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Photo Editor
Rome Milan stands with several of his works. Rome says he finds most of his inspiration in themes revolving around waterfront locations.



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Photo Editor
Portraits of Willie Nelson, Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra and others painted by Vladimir Gorsky.



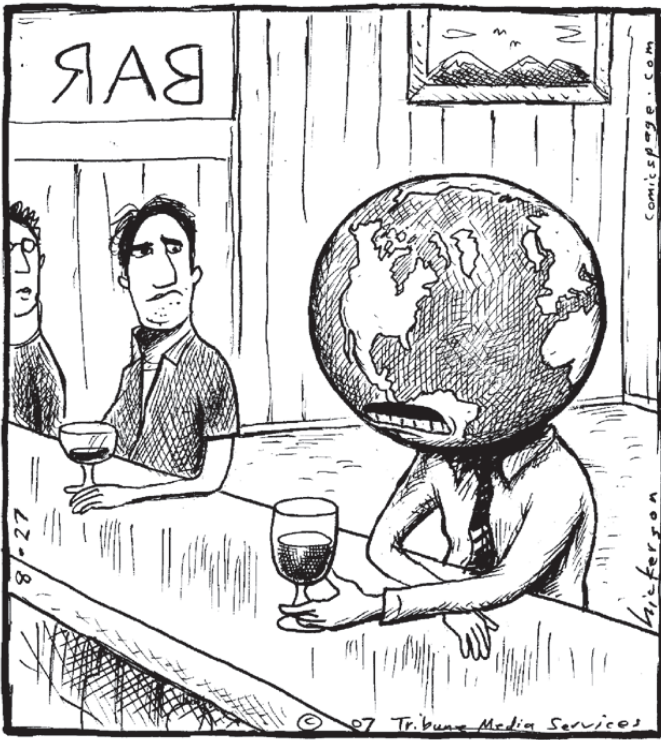
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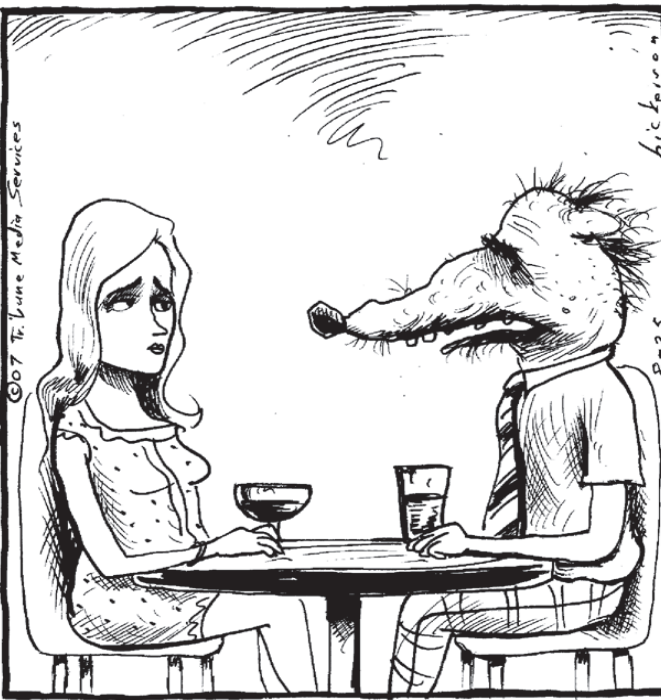
by Buddy Hickerson



"Could I get some ice over here?"

Quigmans

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

Directions

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

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

Thursday's Solutions

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

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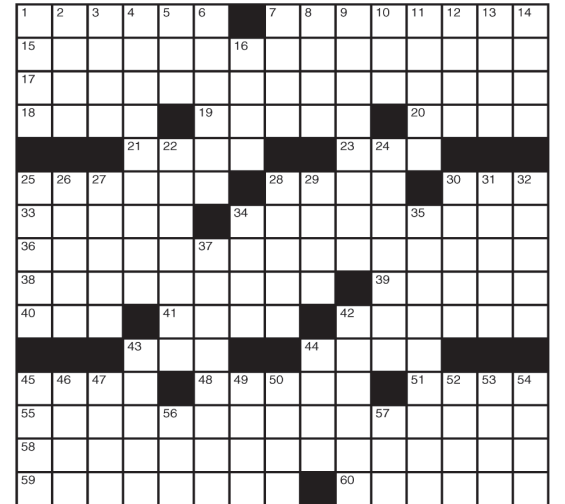
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- 1 Like the Lone Ranger
- 7 Ballpark figure
- 15 Hidden agendas
- 17 Wordless disapproval
- 18 Organ knob
- 19 Fire truck equipment
- 20 Art Deco artist
- 21 Big plant
- 23 Chinese menu general
- 25 Boo shouter
- 28 Cast about
- 30 Strike out
- 33 Intangible emanations
- 34 Free-trial PC programs
- 36 Auto racing and golf, e.g.
- 38 Some hardwoods
- 39 Stream denizen
- 40 Nabokov novel
- 41 Joker
- 42 Cheapskates
- 43 Dog show letters
- 44 Special interest groups
- 45 First word of "Jabberwocky"
- 48 Rabbits' kin
- 51 CIS predecessor
- 55 Treading stealthily
- 58 Judge's command
- 59 On-again-off-again
- 60 Optometrical concerns



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

8/17/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ETHIC ASPS ALEC
MOOLA PEAT GALL
IFALLTHEWORLDSEA
TUX LAIR NEEDED
BIRD MEET
GALLOOT COAL SOS
ICEUP PRIG LOUGH
STAGEWHEREREISTHE
MESH HOPE SARRE
ODE BANE BOGART
TOTE MALE
STERNSSALA EAU
AUDIENCESITTING
UNDO EURO EARTH
LAYS WEAN DRESS

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DOWN

- 1 Rumble
- 2 Made a touchdown
- 3 Normandy town
- 4 Not lose sight (of)
- 5 Marine flier
- 6 Hem and haw
- 7 Stumbles
- 8 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 9 Kitchen devices
- 10 "Addams Family" cousin
- 11 Outdated copier, for short
- 12 Profess
- 13 Pitched object?
- 14 Noble Italian family
- 16 Great Plains tribe
- 22 Replenish supplies
- 24 Doubling Thomas
- 25 Skater Cohen
- 26 Venus offspring
- 27 Tropical palm
- 28 Did a farrier's task
- 29 Corn servings
- 30 Islands (of Denmark)
- 31 Pianist Schnabel
- 32 Wasp homes
- 34 Recipe direction
- 35 Tries to influence
- 37 Spider or tick
- 42 Delicate hue
- 43 "Jeopardy!" contestant
- 44 Phnom
- 45 Ark units
- 46 Distort
- 47 Ray of "Pat and Mike"
- 49 Hindu god of fire
- 50 Coll. mil. grp.
- 52 Erwin and Gilliam
- 53 Miffed
- 54 Soaks to soften
- 56 Author Levin
- 57 Frozen surface

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

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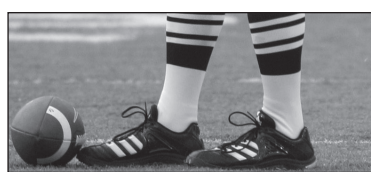
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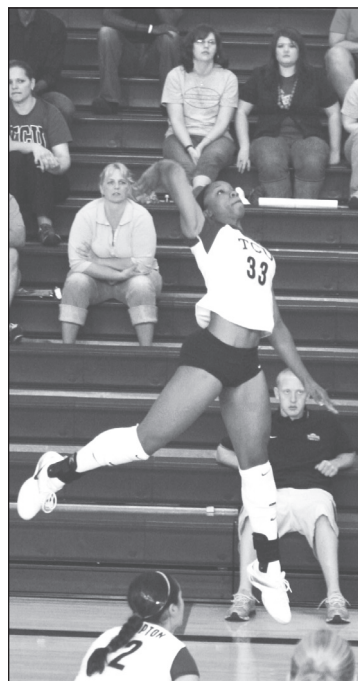


ONLINE

For weekend coverage of TCU Football's "Meet the Frogs" event, check out dailyskiff.com.
MONDAY

VOLLEYBALL

Team sets up for tournament



By MICHELLE NICOU
Staff Writer

As the state of Texas dodged Hurricane Dean this week, the volleyball team heads to hurricane country this weekend for its first three matches as part of the Florida State University Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla.

The tournament pits the Horned Frogs against the University of North Carolina-Asheville Bulldogs, Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles and the FSU Seminoles, the tournament's host. The three opponents are ones head coach Prentice Lewis said the team knows little about. The team faces the Bulldogs and Eagles today, and get a shot at the Seminoles Saturday.

Lewis said she expected

a rebuilding process following the graduation of stand-out middle blocker Anna Vaughn. In 2006, Vaughn led the squad with 408 kills, 3.43 kills per game and a 32.9 attack percentage.

Despite the loss of Vaughn, the squad's 6-1 record last spring proved not much rebuilding would be needed.

"It ended up being a very core group all together and played all the way through the entire spring," Lewis said. "So coming into this fall, we have a different expectation than what we would have thought last February."

Junior setter Nirelle Hampton agreed with Lewis' assessment and said this year's squad has the potential to be one of the stronger teams in the Mountain West

Conference.

"(The spring) definitely set a precedent going into our season," Hampton said. "It obviously (raised) our expectations. It just really helped our team in believing that we can accomplish greatness."

Blocking is the main skill the team has focused on, and senior middle blocker LeMeita Smith said she hopes the extra practice will pay off in matches. Last season, the Horned Frogs blocked 295 balls — 58 more compared to its opponents last season.

"I have been working on my block by executing my plays and not over thinking them," Smith said.

The first serve against UNC-Asheville is at 11 a.m.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

In cyber-football, team allegiances mean nothing

By ERICK MOEN
Staff Writer

A Houston fan rooting for the Cowboys' defense, a Bears fan cheering for Brett Favre to throw a touchdown, a Colts fan pumping his or her fist for an Adam Vinatieri field goal. Well, at least the first two still work.

It's that wonderful time again, a time to pull for those you've hated and a time to hate your friends for the next four months. It's fantasy football time.



Erick Moen

To help you get ready for your draft, we're going position by position analyzing who you need to love and who you may just find a new reason to dislike.

These rankings are not based on any specific scoring schemes but instead, take a look at the player themselves and what kind of potential they have on the field.

Each position will have four categories: locks, on the edge, avoids and the all-important sleepers.

Quarterback:

Lock — Peyton Manning: The only question is how high to take him in the first round.

On the Edge — Vince Young: He made great strides during his rookie year and has big-play potential, but lost a workhorse running back in Travis Henry and both of his starting wide receivers.

Avoid — Matt Schaub: New QB but same old question marks all over the offensive side of the ball in Houston, especially in regard to the offensive line. He may hook up with Andre Johnson for some nice games, but it's hard to throw lying down.

Sleeper — Joey Harrington: He is the starter for the Falcons, a team that still has Alge Crumpler and Joe Horn as well as a couple of good running backs. Who knows, without having to look behind them to see where to block, the line might even buy Harrington the time to take advantage of his comfort with the system and his extra practice reps.

See **FOOTBALL**, page 6

SOCCER

Preseason to end with Cowgirls' visit

By BILLY WESSELS
Staff Writer

The final days of exhibition play for the soccer team are helping solidify a squad mostly comprised of non-seniors.

The team will conclude preseason matches Saturday night when it hosts the No. 23 Oklahoma State University Cowgirls.

"(The preseason) is a matter of getting the players more comfortable with each other," head coach Dan Abdalla said. "It is a gauge to

show where our players are."

The team's first exhibition game against the Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks ended in a scoreless tie Wednesday. After a first half that only saw a combined four shots from both teams, the soccer team was able to outshoot the Ladyjacks 13-5 in the second half.

"Things are starting to come together," Abdalla said about the team's preseason. "Our team chemistry is coming together and players are beginning to understand

their roles on the team."

Abdalla said he uses the preseason games as a way to tell how far the players have progressed since last season.

Saturday's game against OSU will be a good tune-up for the team before the Aug. 31 regular season opener in Austin against the No. 9 University of Texas Longhorns, Abdalla said.

"It is important to get this game in, especially because we are a young team," Abdalla said. "This will help

us get a better understanding of where we are now because we are going to have some challenges right off the bat."

This preseason is especially important to the team, which is made up of 13 freshmen and only four seniors. Even with the relative inexperience from the majority of the team, Abdalla said the team is meshing well in this point of its development.

"The new players are mixing in well with the returners," Abdalla said.

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