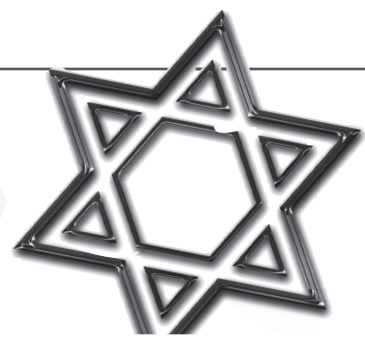


TCU DAILY SKIFF

DAILYSKIFF.COM · WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 · VOL. 107 ISSUE 13



Veteran leadership carries one group of Frogs through a short depth chart.

Sports, page 6

NEWS

Find out why Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns will be visiting the university this week. Thursday



NEWS

The university is co-sponsoring a local series of seminars and programs that will focus on the Holocaust. Thursday

STUDENT LIFE

HUBBA HUBBA



Photo Illustration: CHANCE WELCH / Multimedia Editor with others around campus and voice their opinions.

New opinion site catches fire

By Austin Pearson
Staff Reporter

Hubba-U.com, a Web site started by and run by TCU students, gives students an outlet to voice their opinions. Just don't expect it to be another JuicyCampus, the Web site's founder said.

The main purpose of the site is to be a media outlet for students

to share information, showcase their talents and voice their opinions, said junior Mike Vosters, a marketing major and founder of Hubba-U.

"This is not JuicyCampus," Vosters said. "This is not for gossip; this is not to degrade people. We're trying to keep it as positive as possible without censoring it."

Any student can use the Web

site because it is not geared toward any one group of people, Vosters said.

Ali Lamb, a junior strategic communication major who works for the site, said the students who run Hubba-U cared about creating a place where people can read news and connect with others

SEE HUBBA · PAGE 2

ADMINISTRATION

Officials question sorority sisters

By Melanie Cruthirds
Staff Reporter

Members of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority are undergoing questioning by campus officials after a neighbor complained about noise coming from a residence off campus where two members of the sorority live, sorority members said.

During the early morning hours of Sept. 7, the Monday of Labor Day weekend, six students attempted to leave a friend's home and were met by a disgruntled female neighbor, an Alpha Chi Omega member said. The student, who asked to remain anonymous because she wasn't given clearance from the sorority to speak officially about the issue, said the woman told the students that she had called the police citing noisiness as her chief complaint. The student said she was not present at the time of the incident.

Another member of the sorority, who also asked to remain anonymous, said she was present when the woman complained about the noise. She said the neighbor also claimed to have made calls to university offices, including the Office of the Chancellor and

SEE ALPHA CHI · PAGE 2

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Quick reporting of crime essential

By Vicky Watson
Staff Reporter

The recent report of a sexual assault on campus highlights the difficulties police face when conducting investigations when victims do not immediately report a crime.

TCU Police Sgt. Kelly Ham said not calling university police can delay investigations by a week in some cases.

"The sooner the university police receive information about a crime on campus, the quicker they can start investigating," Ham said. "The longer it takes to get the information, the harder it is to find witnesses and video evidence."

A female student reported to campus police on Sept. 9 that she was sexually assaulted by an acquaintance in a campus residence hall, according to a campuswide e-mail sent Friday. The incident reportedly occurred on or around Aug. 30, according to the e-mail sent by TCU Police.

No arrests have been made on the case as of Tuesday afternoon, Ham said. Jason Clark-Miller, assistant professor of criminal justice, said delays can interfere with the investigation process by hindering the collection of evidence, particularly biological evidence, and lessening the victim's credibility.

"There's a kind of assumption that someone who's experienced a sexual assault is going to know it and immediately jump up and run for the phone," Clark-Miller said. "That's just not the case."

Victims often wait to report crimes as a result of trauma, Clark-Miller

SEE PARKING · PAGE 2

TOP 10 BOX OFFICE

(millions of dollars)

- 1 Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself \$23.4
- 2 9 \$10.7
- 3 Inglourious Basterds \$6.1
- 4 All About Steve \$5.6
- 5 The Final Destination \$5.2
- 6 Sorority Row \$5
- 7 Whiteout \$4.91
- 8 District 9 \$3.5
- 9 Gamer \$3.2
- 10 Julie & Julia \$3.1

— Associated Press



Sorry PETA — whaling is not an alternative to fishing.

Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

LUANDA — A power outage has knocked out the lights and services in a small Angolan town for two months, a local official said on Tuesday, despite the country's multi-billion dollar investments in new hydro-power projects.

—Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER



80 67
HIGH LOW

Chance of T-storms

Tomorrow: Chance of T-storms
80 / 68

Friday: Mostly Sunny
83 / 68



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

TUITION

State refunds undergoing change

By Melanie Cruthirds
Staff Reporter

Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan investors looking for big returns on their canceled contracts might want to take a closer look at their savings strategy soon, a university official said.

Melet Leafgreen, assistant director of loan programs, said the plan's governing body will limit the payment of refunds for canceled tuition contracts beginning in November.

The state-sponsored program, which allowed investors to prepay for an education in the future at the average rate of college tuition at the time,

was scrapped in 2003 but continues to honor its financial commitments. Plans were offered for both private and public colleges and were adjusted for increases in tuition, according to the fund's Web site.

For example, a \$11,000 contract would now be worth nearly \$29,500 in tuition and fees at an eligible institution, according to an article from The Dallas Morning News citing figures from the fund's Web site.

Following an Aug. 24 announcement in a letter from the overseers of the fund at the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board, plan participants who cancel their contracts will

no longer receive earnings on their original investment. The letter also states that purchasers have until 5 p.m. on Oct. 30 to cancel and still receive the earnings from their contract, minus any applicable fees.

Leafgreen said potential earnings, like those in the example, were part of what assured contract holders that their decision was a financially sound one.

"Some people have counted on ... this supposition that what they put in would be worth more now," Leafgreen said.

SEE TUITION · PAGE 2

ORGANIZATIONS

Student book club premieres today

By Katie Love
Staff Reporter

After a student government conference at Baylor University last year, one student began to dream up big plans to promote recreational reading on campus. Starting today, this student will finally see "One Book, One TCU" become a reality.

Brett Major, a senior psychology major and former student body vice president, said people spend too much time in front of the TV, surfing the web and playing video games. Student Development Services and the Student Government Association joined together to promote "One Book, One TCU," which encourages faculty, staff and students to read the same book.

A committee made up of students, faculty and staff chose the book "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom. Albom will speak about the book in the Kelly Alumni Center on Oct. 15. He will also discuss his most recent book, "Have a Little Faith," Major said.

"The book has great themes and life lessons that I think will really get our campus thinking and talking," Major said. "I hope this program will be the start of a long tradition here at TCU."

Today, outside of Market Square from noon to 2 p.m., 350 books donated from SDS will be passed out for free, said Matt Dietrichson, junior political science major and current student body vice president. Books can also be picked up in the Student Affairs office in the Brown-Lupton University Union, Suite 2003, or requested to be sent to a TCU mailbox by going to onebook.tcu.edu.

Books must be turned in to the Student Affairs office once read, Dietrichson said. If the books have all been distributed, students will be placed a wait list until the books are returned. At the end of the year, the books will go to a local high school to encourage reading and promote a similar program.

Dietrichson said to look out for several discussions on campus about the book concerning themes such as

mentoring, the meaning of life, death and dying and values. SDS and SGA welcome all TCU community members to attend, but an RSVP is required by calling (817) 257-7855.

One Book One TCU schedule

- Oct. 6 at 3 p.m.: Informal discussion over ice cream on the 1873 patio
- Oct. 7 at 12 p.m.: A men's roundtable on mentoring led by Daniel Terry in the Market Square Private Dining Room
- Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m.: Author Mitch Albom speaks about his book in the Kelly Alumni Center
- Oct. 20 at 12:30 p.m.: The Rev. Angela Kaufman on the meaning of life
- Oct. 28 at 12 p.m.: Michael Katovich on death and dying
- Nov. 5 at 12:30 p.m.: Ron Pitcock on values

NEWS



The Orion at Oak Hill is home to some of the members of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. AMANDA RINGEL / Design Editor

ALPHA CHI

continued from page 1

Campus Life.

Chaney Hiberd, president of Alpha Chi Omega, said university officials are questioning members of the sorority with little discernment as to who was involved.

"Girls are being questioned that weren't involved at all," Hiberd said. "I don't have any involvement in it

either." Hiberd declined to comment about the incident.

A member of management at the Orion at Oak Hill, said there was a privacy clause concerning its residents.

"Unfortunately, everything that happens on the property, unless it's common knowledge, is not anything that we can talk about," she said.

Paula Fultz, adviser to the

university chapter of Alpha Chi Omega, said the group had no comment in reference to the incident.

"There's no situation to talk (about)," Fultz said. "We have nothing to share, so there's nothing to put in."

Nick Whitesell, assistant dean of Campus Life, and Katherine Reed, director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, declined to comment on the situation.

VICTIMS

continued from page 1

said. Experiences can be so traumatic that it can take a while for the victim to come to terms with what happened, he said. A victim's friends can also influence his or her decision to report the crime as the victim tries to define what happened to him or her, especially in sexual assault cases involving acquaintances, Clark-Miller said.

Some women are certain that what has happened to

them is sexual assault but they don't want to risk being exposed to accusations that they are trying to get back at someone. Some women may also be concerned about the possibility of the case going to trial, Clark-Miller said. In a trial, victims are forced to relive traumatic events in situations that are not necessarily conducive to letting them tell their story, he said.

"Many victims actually experience an incredulous or suspicious or unsupportive environment when they come forward," he said.

Some police agencies may not be trained in assisting victims in sensitive cases and might be somewhat dismissive and unintentionally inappropriate in the manner in which they question victims, he said.

Clark-Miller said he isn't sure of the university's procedures on sensitive cases, noting that his understanding is that the university takes such cases very seriously.

Staff reporter Kim Little contributed to this report.

HUBBA

continued from page 1

around campus.

Vosters said he got the idea to start Hubba-U last winter after watching MTV Jams and wanted to find a way to give music artists a way to showcase their music around campus. It started out as a way to give music artists a platform to share their work but evolved, he said.

Matt Williams, a junior computer information technology major and Webmaster of Hubba-U, said the site became popular through word of mouth and social networking sites.

"It's the ideal place for TCU students to come and exhibit their work," Williams said. "It's

not enclosed to just writing and text."

Vosters said Hubba-U's hits and users have been steadily increasing since the site launched Aug. 25. The site had more than 2,000 page views on Sep. 8 alone, he said.

The main goal of the site right now is to get it off the ground, he said. For the future of the site, the staff is going to try to promote it more and try to get students to buy into the site, he said.

"It's not so much where we want it to go, but more so where the students want it to go," Vosters said.

Vosters said the Web site manages content through submitted e-mails, and then the five administrators go through them to decide what

is published. He said the pieces of content that don't make it on Hubba-U are the ones that are blatantly ignorant and degrading.

JuicyCampus was more focused on gossip and criticism and was all anonymous, Vosters said. Some people will write anonymously on Hubba-U, but the site will not post anything that attacks a group or individual on campus, he said.

"One thing I'm incredibly dedicated to is not to allow any content which will be offensive, or is blatantly attacking a group or preaching ignorance in any way," Vosters said. "I think it's more informative and more educated."

Hubba-U will not be a censor of content but more of a filter of content, he said.

TUITION

continued from page 1

R.J. DeSilva, spokesman for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, said that before the refund policy change, contract holders who canceled their plans were awarded the amount their investment would have paid at an eligible college or junior college, minus any fees due.

The change in policy comes after examination of past refund payments by the fund's governing board since closing the program in 2003, DeSilva said. With tuition inflation rates climbing in recent years, the board found it appropriate to limit refunds of canceled contracts in an attempt to protect the financial resources of the plan, he said.

DeSilva said participants who choose not to cancel their contracts before the October deadline will continue to reap the benefits the plan provides.

Wendy Crowley, director of

"In this situation it seems like ... they could've put the money elsewhere and done better."

Melet Leafgreen
assistant director of
loan programs

student financial services, said about 300 students plan to use contracts from the program, formerly known as the Texas Tomorrow Fund, to pay for tuition and fees this school year.

Leafgreen said that because the plan began in 1996, many parents saving for their child's education have had money in the fund for more than a decade.

"The time value of money is something that is supposed to really pay off," Leafgreen said. "In this situation it seems like ... they could've put the money elsewhere and done better."

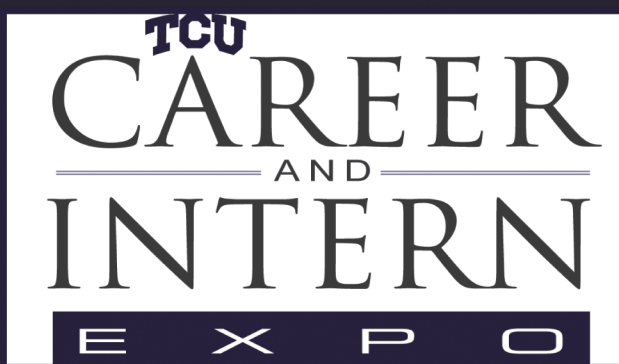
Andrea Beshel, a sopho-

more nursing major and mother of a 15-month-old son, said she thinks planning ahead for college is crucial, but realizing the inherent risks in some savings options is also important.

"I think a lot of people have taken a lot of losses (in the stock market)," Beshel said. "You really do take a chance when you try to go into an investment-type situation."

Leafgreen said the fund is guaranteed by the state of Texas, so contract holders in the program should not worry about losing value on their original investment. When a participant chooses to cancel their plan, they are guaranteed to receive no less than the amount they originally invested minus any fees due, she said.

The change in the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan cancellation policy will take effect Nov. 1.



Meet with top employers ready to hire Interns, Part-Time & Full-Time Positions

Employers Include

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AXA Advisors
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Becker Professional Education
Buckle
Buxton
ChildCare Careers, LLC
Dallas Independent School District
Deloitte
Dixon Hughes, LLC

DSS Research
E & J Gallo Wines
Education in Action
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Ernst & Young LLP
Federal Correctional Institution
First Command Financial Planning
First Investors Corporation
Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Group Excellence
Group Workcamps Foundation
The Institute of Environmental and Human Health
Internal Revenue Service
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Modern Woodmen of America
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Oxy - Occidental Petroleum Corp/Occidental Services, Inc
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Wednesday, September 23rd
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All Students and Alumni Welcome
Dress Professionally and Bring Résumés

Be prepared before the Career and Intern Expo and visit www.careers.tcu.edu to review the Career Expo Book. This book contains a profile on each employer, positions sought, majors interested in and more.



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OPINION

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The Skiff View

Reaction to noise an unreasonable response

The university began an investigation into the off-campus activities of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority after a noise complaint from a neighbor.

Earlier this month, a noise complaint call was made about members of the sorority at the Orion at Oak Hill apartment complex. The neighbor called the police and then proceeded to call the Office of the Chancellor and Campus Life among others to complain.

The resulting investigation has led to members of the sorority who weren't even there at the time of the incident to be questioned, which is a waste of valuable time that could be spent talking to those who actually were there. Campus Life and other departments involved in the investigation should be more open with students about the investigation and what type of violation occurred.

While the acts committed by the members were irresponsible, the neighbor's reaction and the resulting measures taken by the university are beyond a reasonable response. The neighbor had a right to complain about the noise level, but choosing to live near so many college students should carry a different level of expectation for neighbors. Taking that into consideration, students should be more respectful of the homeowners around them. Whether it comes to parking on a homeowner's property because it's closer to class, littering or having a loud party, students should be courteous.

In the meantime, the university should take care to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident by questioning only those involved, while those who are involved should take responsibility.

Multimedia editor Chance Welch for the editorial board.

The Skiff View represents the collective opinion of the editorial board.

Unions are idealized



MICHAEL LAUCK

Although I usually heavily disagree with President Barack Obama on economic policy, the man sure knows how to play the political game.

On Labor Day, the president gave a heartwarming speech to the popular workers union AFL-CIO in which he attributed modern labor developments, such as paid leave and the minimum wage, to trade unions.

As a political move, this was perfect for Obama. Union members very often vote democrat, and politicians have to cater to the people who give

A union can even stifle competition from outside union workers and make working conditions even worse.

them money and votes. But what people want to hear may not be the best thing for our economy.

Obama saying unions are responsible for the rising wages of workers is nonsense. In fact, my economics textbook (I add "textbook" to emphasize that this is economic law, not opinion) points out that one of the principles of economics is that a country's standard of living depends on its productivity, not what its unions do. When a country's people are able to produce more goods and services per hour of work, they are paid more and can enjoy a higher standard of living.

This can be seen in union-dominated South America. But many

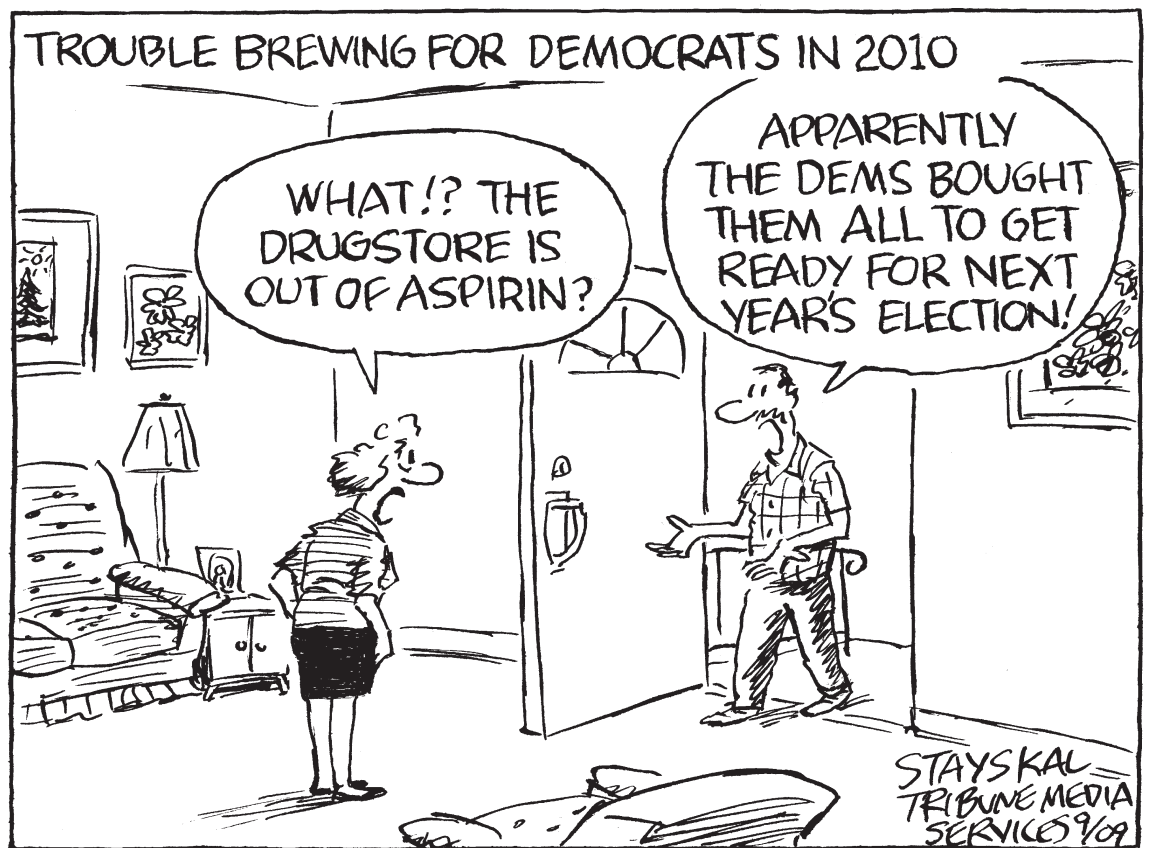
people are still poor despite the minimum wages and regulations. People are too unproductive to get paid for a higher standard of living. They must do this through technological innovation spurred by a free-market system. A union can even stifle competition from outside union workers and make working conditions even worse.

For example, in South Africa, during Apartheid, racism against blacks was rampant. But white unions actually supported a minimum wage, saying they didn't want employers taking advantage of black, low-skilled workers. Unfortunately, unions had not had a change of heart. It was found that the union was actually trying to prevent black workers from undercutting whites' pay by forcing employers to pay everyone above a certain wage. Since many blacks at the time were not productive enough, they stayed unemployed.

Some would argue that I'm only talking about wages. Some workers had to fight (and write big fat checks to Congress) to get time off and benefits. Economic theory, however, would also tell us that if a person makes enough money, they would rather take weekends off or take a paid vacation. I'm willing to bet that if you made one million dollars an hour, you wouldn't work a regular, eight-hour day.

Don't get me wrong, unions can be a wonderful thing. If people want to peacefully assemble and work with their employers on what they want, then that is completely fine. However, what has happened is unions have now stuck their hands into the pockets of legislators and have had laws enacted that do not support all workers, but merely their own workers, many times at the expense of the consumer and society.

Michael Lauck is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Houston.



Wayne Stayskal is an editorial cartoonist for the Tampa Tribune.

No reason for whaling



WYATT KANYER

I was recently asked to select a topic for a class. The topic had to be one of which I could gather a considerable amount of information. It had to have some form of controversy, and it had to present a series of viewpoints.

I could have chosen a wildly publicized, political issue like health care, immigration, abortion and the like. Instead, I decided to go a somewhat obscure route and chose the current situation dealing with whaling in Japan. It's more of an issue than we might think.

Japanese harpoon boats chase whales and utilize ruthless killing tactics in order to perform what they call "scientific research." Unfortunately, whale meat is a delicacy that can be found in many Japanese gourmet markets, which has demonstrated the true motives behind whaling.

These actions are still taking place despite the fact that commercial whaling was banned in Japan in 1986. That hasn't kept Japanese whalers from killing nearly 1,000 whales a year.

According to a Los Angeles Times report last February, Japanese whaling boats harvest an estimated 935 minke and 50 fin whales annually. Those numbers pale in comparison to the amount of fish taken from the oceans yearly. But whales are far from fish.

In a column in the Seattle Times, gray whale expert Brenda Peterson provided a convincing reason for protecting the whale population.

"... Whales and dolphins are not just 'big fish,' as some pro-whaling Japanese argue; they are highly advanced life forms," Peterson said. "They sing lullabies to their young, engage in complex family systems, and their communication and navigation skills rival our own."

Clearly, we're talking about im-

pressive creatures here. Later in her column, Peterson said humpback whales have even made eye contact with people who have rescued them from fishing nets. Sadly, because these animals can't communicate with words, they're being killed off as if they were fish.

If whales could talk, Japanese whalers would hesitate before aiming a harpoon at them and shooting it clear through their bodies multiple times.

Outrageous as it might seem, many animal rights organizations have been less than helpful in the fight to prevent whaling.

Essentially, instead of taking a stand against the atrocity, we got bullied and succumbed to Japan's rule breaking.

In fact, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) — an animal rights organization with more than 2 million members — has encouraged whaling by instituting campaigns like "Eat the Whales," which began in 2001. The campaign compares the amount of meat in one whale to the number of animals that must be slaughtered to equal that amount. For instance, 1,200 pigs must be killed to equal the amount of meat in one blue whale.

Either PETA is making light of the issue, or it's just ignorant. If PETA officials were to do serious research on whale lifestyles, as Peterson did, there would be no such campaigns. Granted, whales are large mammals and have thousands of pounds of meat, but their reproduction process is vastly different than that of a pig.

According to The Vegetarian Society, the average female pig, or sow, gives birth to 22 piglets a year.

Whales aren't quite as fortunate.

A female humpback whale gives birth to a single calf every two to four years, according to the Whale Center of New England. Add to that the fact that humpback whales have an 11- to 12-month gestation period, and the argument dissolves.

PETA's careless claims exemplify the United States' activity in the issue. Instead of exercising its power to prevent whaling efforts, the U.S. has decided to compromise. However, the compromise has become more of an excuse.

According to a January report by Los Angeles Times, the U.S. initiated a closed-door negotiation that opened new areas for whaling. The negotiations came after Japan had ignored the restrictions placed upon it when commercial whaling was banned. Essentially, instead of taking a stand against the atrocity, we got bullied and succumbed to Japan's rule-breaking.

Obviously, the president can't drop everything and focus on saving whales. I'm not oblivious to our economic situation. All I know is that more can be done. Even when restrictions and guidelines were set in place, Japan continued whaling. We sat back and watched.

If we had issued a treaty with Japan, the Japanese had broken it and their military had attacked us, I don't think the reaction would have been the same.

Rules are rules, and they need to be implemented when a simple worry becomes a grave issue. If we want to send the message that we could care less about the well-being of this planet, we can sit back and watch the whale massacre.

We can't afford to do that if we want whale species to endure for generations to come.

Wyatt Kanyer is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from Yakima, Wash.



SXC.HU

Movie remakes are watered-down versions of originals



CHRISTI ALDRIDGE

There are probably thousands, if not millions, of creative minds in this country. Yet here we are experiencing déjà vu when we go to the movies. I'm consistently being barraged by shinier reworkings of movies that were meaningful to me.

The finished, CGI-laden product is not always better than the cheaper original. For example, "Fame" opens in a couple of weeks. The original movie and soundtrack were staples

of my childhood. The storylines were gritty. The characters, though they were only teenagers, were experiencing life, and the movie was R-rated due to the aforementioned "experiences" the kids had. Now it is a much friendlier PG-rated film and probably not half as good.

"Poltergeist," "Footloose" and "A Nightmare on Elm Street" are all up for a second spin. "Poltergeist" was a PG-rated movie that scared the pieces out of every kid I knew and would still make me check the windows and doors. I think the technology we have now will ruin those great old movies. Are the ghosts going to come out of a Blu-ray compatible flat-screen HDTV? I doubt it. Is Freddy's tongue going to come out of Nancy's iPhone instead of her rotary phone? Oh, please! What's fun about old hor-

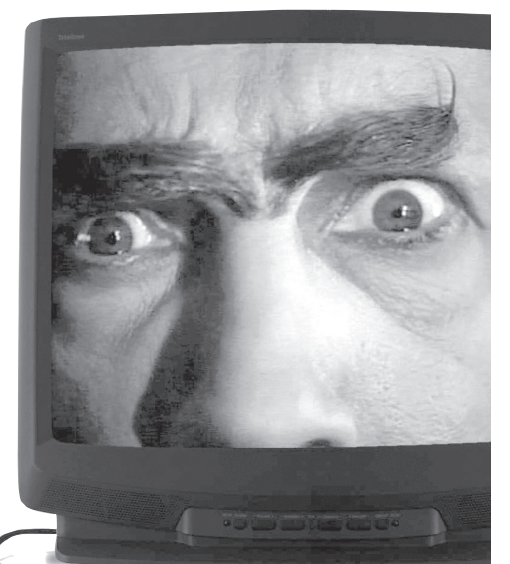
ror movies is the lack of technology and special effects. The new "Friday the 13th" doesn't hold a candle to the original violence and corn syrup blood from the 1980s movie.

Children's movies are not safe from the Hollywood vampires either. I remember being particularly disgusted when I watched "The Parent Trap" remake starring Lindsay Lohan a few years back. One Lohan is terrifying. Two is just masochistic. The original film starring Hayley Mills is a Disney classic and one of the best children's movies ever. I hope children will go back and watch the original "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" and hear the fabulous old songs from that movie instead of only viewing the funky, fun Johnny Depp version. Gene Wilder was a fascinating and wonderful Willy Wonka.

Television is not immune to recycling either. "10 Things I Hate About You" is now a TV show. The sassy, smart teen film was unforgettable. I'm not sure the show would have the same bite. Also back from the dead are "Melrose Place" and "Beverly Hills, 90210," two shows that really have no relevance now but were wonderful back in the '90s, where they should stay.

Come on, Hollywood. Recycle your freaking newspapers, but leave our precious memories alone.

Christi Aldridge is a senior strategic communications major from Hillsboro.



SXC.HU

NEWS

Moon program gets boost in Washington

By Seth Borenstein
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA's weakened return-to-the-moon program got a lift Tuesday on Capitol Hill.

The head of a special expert panel conceded to Congress that the moon program could work if given enough money. That would mean another \$3 billion a year for the program proposed by President George W. Bush.

The plan has been under question because of that panel's dim look at NASA's future and concerns about support from the Obama administration. The panel issued its preliminary summary last week, concluding that there is not enough money to explore space in the current budget, including the moon plan.

"With the resources available, the program I think is fatally flawed," testified Norman Augustine, head of the panel of experts appointed by President Barack Obama.

But congressmen from both parties, including the wife of an astronaut, came to the 5-year-old moon plan's defense. They even attacked the Augustine panel for referring to the plan in the past tense at one point.

"I don't see the logic in scrapping what the nation has spent years and billions of dollars to develop," said House Space Subcommittee chair Gabrielle Giffords, D-Arizona. Her husband is astronaut Mark Kelly, who will command a mission

next year.

NASA said it has spent nearly \$8 billion already and plans to spend at least \$100 billion by 2020.

Giffords said there needs to be compelling reason to change the program. She pressed Augustine for a reason and said she was angry over the "glancing attention" the panel gave to the current program.

Augustine, retired chief executive officer of Lockheed Martin Corp., said the panel put the current program — with the extra funding — as one of several options for the president to choose among. The White House told the panel not to recommend one over the other, he said.

Having already spent lots of money is not reason alone to continue with the Bush plan, Augustine told The Associated Press after the hearing: "the sunken costs argument doesn't carry much weight with us."

After Augustine left, former NASA Administrator Michael Griffin — in an unusual move for a recent ex-space program chief — came to the defense of his pet project. Griffin agreed with the Augustine report in saying there was not enough money in the current budget to explore space and go anywhere new. Griffin noted that Presidents Obama, Bush and Bill Clinton all essentially cut NASA spending, with a drop of about 20 percent since 1993.

But Griffin in his writ-

ten testimony defended the Bush moon program's technical design and emphasized that it should continue with the extra money. He said Congress should ask Obama and the Augustine commission "exactly why does the policy which we established in law — twice — need to be changed?"

"As I see it, the commission didn't find anything wrong with the current program, didn't find anything safer, more reliable, cheaper or faster," Griffin testified. "The roots are healthy. So why throw away four years and \$8 billion pulling the flowers? Let's apply some plant nutrient and watch them grow."

The Bush moon plan involves building two new Apollo-type rockets. The first and smaller one, Ares I, would carry people. The later and larger one, Ares V, would carry equipment. But the Augustine commission said it doesn't make much sense to build Ares I. Instead it preferred building only the Ares V and make it carry people and equipment if some version of the Bush plan is kept.

Last week, after an initial problem, the main rocket engine on Ares I passed a crucial test firing.

George Washington University space policy expert John Logsdon said the big test is what the Obama administration will decide once it examines the full Augustine commission report, which is due out later this month.



ERIC J. Shelton / AP Photo
A pedestrian walks past a Blockbuster Video store in Boston in August. Blockbuster is planning to close as many as 960 stores by the end of next year. That would shrink the video rental chain by more than 20 percent as it struggles against stiff competition from Netflix and Redbox.

Rental chain faces closures

By Michael Liedtke
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Blockbuster Inc. may close as many as 960 stores by the end of next year, shedding more dead weight as the struggling video rental chain tries to reverse its losses and fend off rapidly growing rivals Netflix Inc. and Redbox.

The cuts outlined in documents filed Tuesday would leave Blockbuster with about 20 percent fewer U.S. stores. The previously confidential documents didn't identify the locations of the endangered stores.

Blockbuster hasn't made any final decisions on the possible store closures, Chief Executive James Keyes said in an interview Tuesday.

Keyes described the closures as something that Blockbuster is considering as it sets up more DVD-rental kiosks in the stores of other merchants. It's a concept that has been popularized by Coistar Inc.'s Redbox.

By the middle of next year, Blockbuster hopes to have 10,000 kiosks scattered around the country. It had just 500 kiosks at the end of August.

"We could have fewer physical stores and still have more rental points for our customers," Keyes said.

Blockbuster's shift serves as another reminder of video stores' waning appeal as consumers buy and rent movies through the mail, on the Internet and through cable connec-

tions and standalone kiosks.

The shift has threatened to turn once-mighty Blockbuster into a dinosaur. The Dallas-based company has been trying to evolve by embracing kiosks and expanding into rentals delivered through the mail and the Internet.

But it hasn't been enough to justify keeping so many stores open, prompting management to consider cutting much deeper than it anticipated to save money and keep its lenders happy.

"We could have fewer physical stores and still have more rental points for our customers."

James Keyes
Chief Executive

About 18 percent of Blockbuster's stores aren't making money, according to the documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Blockbuster is thinking about closing between 810 and 960 of its U.S. stores before 2011, up from the 380 to 425 stores that normally would be closed during that time span, according to Tuesday's filing.

As of mid-August, Blockbuster had closed 276 stores so far this year.

Besides closing stores, Blockbuster indicated that it will convert at least 250 stores into smaller outlets.

If Blockbuster hits the high

end of the new target for store closures, it will represent 22 percent of its 4,356 stores in the United States.

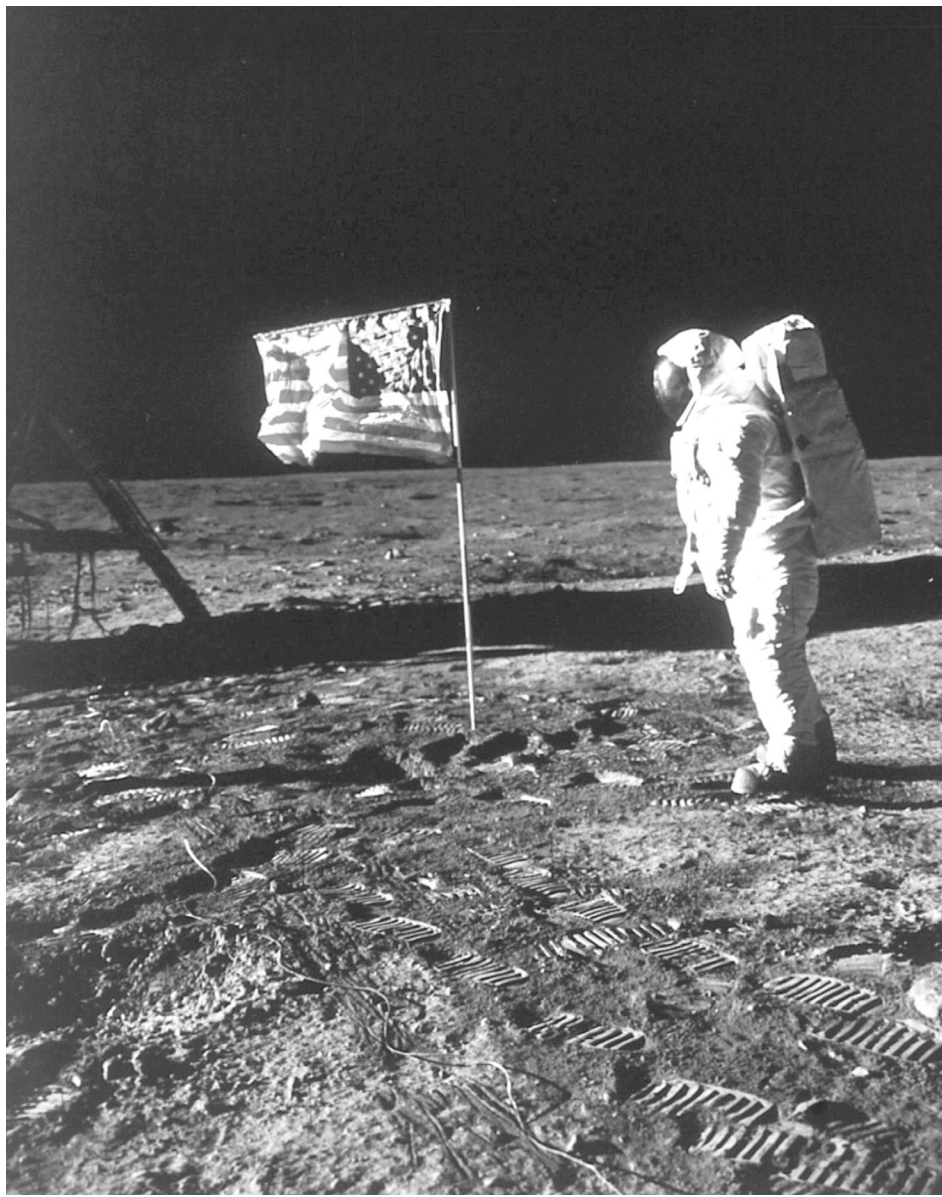
Netflix's DVD-by-mail service, launched a decade ago, has hit Blockbuster particularly hard as more households have embraced the concept of picking out their rental choices online before the DVDs are delivered through the mail for a monthly subscription fee that usually runs from \$9 to \$17. In the last two years, Netflix lured even more customers by building up its library of movies available for instant viewing over high-speed Internet connections.

Netflix now has 10.6 million subscribers and, unlike Blockbuster, is becoming more profitable. The Los Gatos-based company earned \$55 million through the first half of this year while Blockbuster lost \$15 million.

Redbox also has been hurting Blockbuster with its red kiosks that rent DVDs for just a \$1 per night. That low price has proven particularly compelling during the recession as more people pinched pennies.

In a Tuesday research note, Barclays Capital analyst Douglas Anmuth said Blockbuster's accelerated store closures should bolster Netflix. Investors seemed to agree as Netflix shares surged \$1.69, or 3.9 percent, to close Tuesday at \$44.97.

Blockbuster's cost-cutting plans also pleased Wall Street as its shares gained 7 cents, or 5.2 percent, to \$1.40.



NEIL ARMSTRONG, NASA / AP Photo
This July 20, 1969 file photo shows astronaut Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. standing beside the U.S. flag deployed on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission.

Carter: Rep. Wilson's comments based on racism and fear

By Greg Bluestein
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter said Tuesday that U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson's outburst to President Barack Obama during a speech to Congress last week was an act "based on racism" and rooted in fears of a black president.

"I think it's based on racism," Carter said at a town hall held at his presidential center in Atlanta. "There is an inherent feeling among many in this country that an African-American should not be president."

The Georgia Democrat said the outburst was a part of a disturbing trend directed at the president that has included demonstrators equat-

ing Obama to Nazi leaders. "Those kind of things are not just casual outcomes of a sincere debate on whether we should have a national program on health care," he said. "It's deeper than that."

Wilson, a South Carolina Republican, was formally rebuked Tuesday in a House vote for shouting "You lie!" during Obama's speech to Congress last Wednesday.

The shout came after the president commented that illegal aliens would be ineligible for federal subsidies to buy health insurance. Republicans expressed their disbelief with sounds of disapproval, punctuated by Wilson's outburst.

Tuesday's rebuke was a rare resolution of disapproval pushed through by

"It's unfortunate people make that jump. People can disagree — and inappropriately disagree — on issues of substance, but when they make the jump to race it's absolutely ludicrous."

Alan Wilson
Joe Wilson's eldest son

Democrats who insisted that Wilson had violated basic rules of decorum and civility. Republicans characterized the measure as a witch hunt and Wilson, who had already apologized to Obama,

insisted he owed the House no apology.

Wilson's spokesman was not immediately available for comment, but his eldest son defended his father.

"There is not a racist bone in my dad's body," said Alan Wilson, an Iraq veteran who is running for state attorney general. "He doesn't even laugh at distasteful jokes. I won't comment on former President Carter, because I don't know President Carter. But I know my dad, and it's just not in him."

"It's unfortunate people make that jump. People can disagree — and inappropriately disagree — on issues of substance, but when they make the jump to race it's absolutely ludicrous. My brothers and I were raised by our

parents to respect everyone regardless of background or race."

South Carolina's former Democratic Party chairman said that he doesn't believe Wilson was motivated by racism, but said the outburst encouraged racist views.

"I think Joe's conduct was asinine, but I think it would be asinine no matter what the color of the president," said Dick Harpootlian, who has known Wilson for decades. "I don't think Joe's outburst was caused by President Obama being African-American. I think it was caused by no filter being between his brain and his mouth."

Harpootlian said he received scores of racial e-mails from outside South Carolina after he talked about the vote

on Fox News.

"You have a bunch of folks out there looking for some comfort in their racial issues. They have a problem with an African-American president," he said. "But was he motivated by that? I don't think so. I respectfully disagree with President Carter, though it gives validity to racism."

Carter called Wilson's comment "dastardly" and an aftershock of racist views that have permeated American politics for decades.

"The president is not only the head of government, he is the head of state," he said. "And no matter who he is or how much we disagree with his policies, the president should be treated with respect."

SPORTS



Check dailyskiff.com for a recap of head football coach Gary Patterson's weekly press conference.

VOLLEYBALL

A NOTCH ABOVE



Junior outside hitter Irene Hester returns the ball to Baylor territory earlier this month.

MATT COFFELT / Staff Photographer

Streaking team to visit Lobos

By Lauren Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Coming off of a three game winning-streak, the women's volleyball team will play the Lobos of the University of New Mexico on Wednesday in Albuquerque.

Head coach Prentice Lewis said that although the team played well in Ohio and won all three tournament games, it faces the same obstacle in Wednesday's game: not having home court advantage. And the Lobos, she said, typically have a lot of supporters at

their games.

"It's always great to have good momentum going into matches, but each match is completely different because of the personnel on the other side of the net," Lewis said.

Senior Kourtney Edwards only needs one block in Wednesday's game to break Allyson Lynch's career record of 445 blocks.

Wednesday's game will be the Horned Frogs' first conference game of the season.

"They're very excited about conference play," Lewis said of the team. "TCU has not beat New

Mexico on their home court yet, and I know that's something that's driving our athletes."

The Horned Frogs have won eight of the 11 games they have played this season, and the Lobos have won seven of their eight games this season.

Lewis said that although it is a conference game, the Horned Frogs have to approach the game against New Mexico the same way they would approach any other game.

"We need to come out and play consistent," Lewis said. "That's what we fin-

TCU vs. New Mexico

When: 8 p.m. tonight
Where: Albuquerque, New Mexico

ished with on our Saturday night match."

She said it will take consistent passing, a good defense and a strong offense to beat New Mexico.

After Wednesday's game in Albuquerque, the Horned Frogs will come back to campus to play at home against the University of Tulsa at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

FOOTBALL

DB's adjusting to depth woes

By Mary Sue Greenleaf
Staff Reporter

Although the Horned Frogs' defensive secondary received national hype for the upcoming season, the loss of Sir Demarco Bledsoe and injury of junior Colin Jones at the position of strong safety leaves the secondary in an unsure position for the 2009 season, head coach Gary Patterson said.

"You lose a Stephen Hodge, you lose a Sir Demarco Bledsoe, you lose a Colin Jones, so now you're down to your fourth safety and you still hold people under 200 yards," head coach Gary Patterson said in his weekly press conference Tuesday.

The experience of the secondary lies in the returning cornerback starters, seniors Rafael Priest and Nick Sanders.

In last weekend's game, both Priest and Sanders recorded two tackles, and Sanders was tallied for one pass breakup.

Priest and Sanders are returning for their fourth starting season and have started all 39 games in their careers at the university. They share the most career starts of any returning players for the 2009 season.

Priest, who made second-team All-Mountain West Conference in 2008, was ranked in the top 20 cornerbacks nationwide by Colleg-

eFootballNews.com and had 26 tackles last season.

Sanders led the defense last season with 12 pass breakups, as well as 45 tackles. He also made All-MWC honorable mention.

In 2008, Sanders had a career high of seven solo tackles against Oklahoma. He also made two key interceptions in the victory over BYU last season.

Although Sanders and Priest will return as the most experienced players for the upcoming season, Patterson said he expected leadership to come from the defensive line, specifically the defensive ends.

Patterson said junior Jason Teague and sophomore Greg McCoy will back up Priest and Sanders.

"All four guys that played a year ago are playing this year," Patterson said. "It's a good group, a group that has played in a lot of football games and we'll be able to rotate them."

Due to the loss of Bledsoe and Jones' injury, the struggle in the secondary will lie with the open safety positions this season, Patterson said.

"We have two corners and we have a free safety right now," Patterson said. "I would probably tell you this is where we need to keep gaining depth."

Junior Tejay Johnson is the lone returning safety, but will move to a new position as free safety after playing at weak safety in 2008.

US Open loss marks end of incredible summer for Federer

By Eddie Pells
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Federer sat in his sideline chair, listening to the music, gazing into the distance — the glassy-eyed look of a defeated man.

Shocked. The owner of the most Grand Slam titles in history — maybe the best player of all time — finally lost at the U.S. Open, but not to Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick or even Andy Murray.

Rather, it was sixth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro, the

6-foot-6 Argentine with the big serve and the bigger forehand, who did the deed — a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 upset Monday in his first Grand Slam final.

"It's difficult to explain this moment," del Potro said.

Inexplicable.

That's another way to describe the loss of the top-seeded, top-ranked player, who was two points away from victory in the fourth set in windy Arthur Ashe Stadium but couldn't get his serve to click and had no answer for del Potro's forehand, or his tactically superior game plan.

Thus ended a streak of 40 straight wins for Federer at Flushing Meadows and the quest to become the first person to win six straight titles at America's Grand Slam since Bill Tilden in the 1920s.

"Five was great. Four was great, too," Federer said. "Six would have been a dream, too. Can't have them all!"

Federer beat everyone who got thrown at him in his five straight U.S. Open final victories: Roddick, Murray, Andre Agassi, Lleyton Hewitt, Novak Djokovic. Big hitters, finesse players, young kids, old men.

Everyone. Until he met up with the kid from Tandil, nine days away from his 21st birthday, who had big plans growing up back on those courts at home.

"When I would have a dream, it was to win the U.S. Open, and the other one is to be like Roger," del Potro said. "One is done."

How did he do it? It started with 37 forehand winners — many hit with such blunt crispness, smack in the middle of the strings, that it sounded more like the cracking of a coconut than the striking of a tennis ball.

With the forehand working so well, del Potro saw no need to ramp up a serve that can reach into the 130s. Instead, he simply spun it in, got himself into a rally, then waited for his chance to strike.

Federer, meanwhile, couldn't get his first serve on track. He got only 50 percent into play after averaging about 66 percent through his first six matches.

"I thought he served twice, held twice; I got broken; then he got the 3-0 lead. Pretty obvious," Federer said, not bothering to expand.

His empty stare at the end was much different than the tear-filled reaction at the Australian to start the year, when he lost to Nadal in five sets and was left still seeking Grand Slam title No. 14 to tie Pete Sampras for the record.

Federer got that at the



DARRON CUMMINGS / AP Photo
Roger Federer, of Switzerland, holds his second place plaque after losing the men's finals championship to Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York on Monday.

French Open, then broke the record at Wimbledon.

Got married and became the father of twins, too.

"I think this is easy to get over just because I've had the most amazing summer," he said. "I tried everything, you know. Didn't work. I missed chances. He played well and in the end it was a tough fifth

set. It's acceptable. But life goes on. No problem."

Life should change now for del Potro, who joined Guillermo Vilas as the second Argentine to win the Open. Vilas, the 1977 champion, was on hand to watch his countryman, who will move up to No. 5 in the rankings and now has signature wins under his belt.

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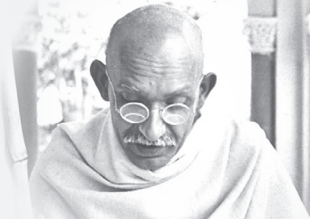
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Today in History
On this day in 1932, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi begins a hunger strike in protest of the British government's decision to separate India's electoral system by caste.
— History Channel

Joke of the Day
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A: Because she wanted to rock and roll.

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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 sudoku and crossword solutions.

Tuesday's Solutions

7	1	8	9	6	4	3	2	5
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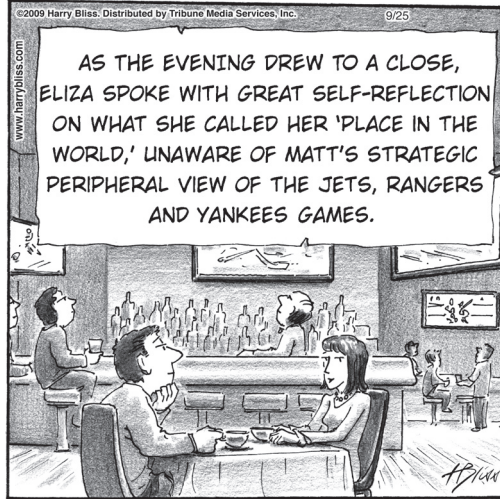
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Bliss

by Harry Bliss



"Enough about me. Let's talk about my dog."



AS THE EVENING DREW TO A CLOSE, ELIZA SPOKE WITH GREAT SELF-REFLECTION ON WHAT SHE CALLED HER 'PLACE IN THE WORLD,' UNAWARE OF MATT'S STRATEGIC PERIPHERAL VIEW OF THE JETS, RANGERS AND YANKEES GAMES.



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By Michael Blake

9/16/09

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

DEBRA	NIHIL	ISM
USUAL	OZONE	TEA
DANGER	MOUSE	OLD
SIDERO	ROADS	WOLFE
TRIAL	ECARD	
WILLY	YOU	MARRY
RANDY	PARD	OAR
VCRS	SCENT	RUNT
EKE	KOLN	TASSE
ROBINSON	CRUSOE	
USEAS	HER	
TITLE	ELAIN	MAY
ANT	LOST	INSPACE
RCAN	ENIDS	TILTS
PAL	DENSE	OCTET

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- ACROSS**
- Colored part of the eye
 - Phonograph records
 - Become overly dry, as lips
 - John Wesley's relig.
 - Love to pieces
 - Country byway
 - Arizona city
 - Fenway Park team, briefly
 - Condo or apartment, e.g.
 - Really exhausted
 - 'Nevermore' bird of poetry
 - Honey maker
 - '... and so on': Abbr.
 - 11-point blackjack card, at times
 - Really exhausted
 - Copier paper size: Abbr.
 - Creole vegetable
 - Mil. school at Annapolis
 - Really exhausted
 - Bassoon cousin
 - Big-screen movie format
 - Observed
 - Really exhausted
 - Mentalist Geller
 - Sandwich initials
 - Cereal grain
 - Concrete-reinforcing rod
 - Really exhausted
 - Ali who stole from thieves
 - Broom rider of the comics
 - With 66-Across, roadside stop
 - Findings in mines
 - King of rock 'n' roll
 - See 63-Across
 - Sitcom radio station
 - Gunslinger's "Hands up!"
 - Afternoon TV fare
- DOWN**
- Unethical
 - Bring to life again, as a Civil War battle
 - Romance-ending words
 - 1953 Alan Ladd Western
 - Pats gently
 - Object of worship
 - Sammy in the 600 Home Run Club
 - Singing Bing
 - Moderate-sized chamber group
 - Board game with suspects
 - Closet assortment
 - Jennifer of "Friends"
 - House cat, e.g.
 - Bankrupt energy company
 - July-August sign
 - Tax-season advisor, briefly
 - out: barely obtain
 - Flight board datum: Abbr.
 - Camp for presidents
 - Faulty firecracker
 - Response to a mouse?
 - Latin 101 verb
 - Sigma follower
 - Additional
 - Horse player's hangout, for short
 - Defensive wall
 - Halloween month
 - Really cold, temperaturewise
 - Shrunken Asian lake
 - Furtive listening device
 - Extensive period
 - Preferably
 - Star, in France
 - Poet Pound and others
 - Hoarse sound
 - Edison's middle name
 - Banking regulatory agency
 - Diaper problem
 - Gift decoration

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