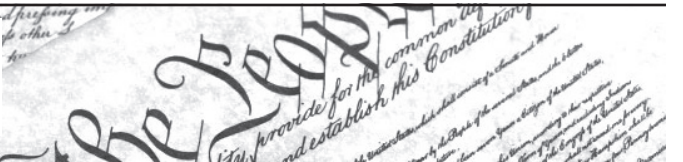


See what head football coach Gary Patterson said in his weekly press conference. Sports, page 8

Milton Daniel Hall will get a \$10 million renovation. Tomorrow in News.



Alumnus discusses racism and the Constitution. Tomorrow in News.



Students petition for meal plan changes

By Michael Carroll
Staff Reporter

More than 1,000 students struggling to adjust to the new meal plan joined a Facebook petition in its first week of existence, giving some students hope that changes will be made, the creator of the petition said.

Sophomore prebusiness major Albert

Rayle, creator of the Facebook group "Petition against TCU's new meal plan," said the quick response the group received is proof that opposition to the new meal plans is widespread.

"They kept saying there was no opposition or a small fraction of opposition, so I figured that Facebook was the best way to prove them wrong," Rayle said. "The more people I talk to, the more people

say they hate it."

Rayle said students' main complaints are the new Frog Bucks system, the price increase from last year's meal plans and the inability to take food out of Market Square, the new all-you-can-eat dining hall on campus.

The main goal is to get all on-campus dining on the swipe card, Rayle said.

The current unlimited-access meal

plan ranges from \$1,799 to \$2,099. Unlimited access applies only to Market Square. Each plan includes \$100 to \$450 Frog Bucks, which can be used to purchase food in other campus dining locations and certain off-campus eateries. The retail-style meal plan last year ranged from \$1,200 to \$1,600, and stu-

SEE RESISTANCE · PAGE 2

Schieffer book signing set for today

A TCU alumnus and a familiar face on CBS for nearly 20 years, Bob Schieffer has captured the moments of his time on Face the Nation in his new book, "Bob Schieffer's America." Schieffer is hosting a free book signing, open to the public at 1:00 p.m. today at the University Park Village Barnes & Noble.



Schieffer

Kristin Butler

POWER WHEELS



Cpl. Brad Murphey patrols outside of the Brown Lupton University Union on Tuesday on one of TCU Police's new T3 Motion transporters.

CHELSEA SMITH / Staff Reporter

Police add two T3 vehicles to patrol fleet

By Chance Welch
Staff Reporter

TCU Police will be turning heads on its patrols around campus with a new set of wheels.

The police department has purchased two T3 Motion transporters to adapt to a more pedestrian-friendly campus, Lt. Ramiro Abad said. The new vehicles have three wheels and

are powered by a rechargeable battery, cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions. The vehicle comes with two removable batteries. According to the T3 Motion Inc. Web site, the vehicles have user-selected settings for speeds up to a maximum of 25 mph.

Abad said the police department began researching alternative forms of transportation several years ago when the campus started becoming

more pedestrian friendly. The department looked into two-wheeled Segways before settling on the T3 Motion vehicles, Abad said. The standard police package costs just under \$9,000 per vehicle, said Brian Buccella, vice president of sales and marketing for T3 Motion Inc.

The department isn't going to get

SEE WHEELS · PAGE 2

Town home community intended for student use

By Rose Baca
Staff Reporter

A new town home development close to campus will likely further the university's goal of becoming a "residential campus," a university official said.

Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the university hopes to have about 70 percent of undergraduates living on or near campus. He said housing developments like the Cantey Place town homes, located on Parmer Avenue east of the Moudy Building, will likely draw in students, as have the extension of activities for students, such as the University Recreation Center, a 24-hour library and late-night functions at the Brown-Lupton University Union.

"Students who are living off campus will want to live close so they can take advan-

SEE DEVELOPMENT · PAGE 2

Office decreases hours required per year to keep financial aid

By Jessica Reho
Staff Reporter

The Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee is expecting a decrease in formal appeals for scholarship renewal this year because of its decision to change the requirement for renewal from completion of 27 hours per year to 24, a Financial Aid official said.

Michael Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid, said all TCU academic scholarships require a 3.0 GPA at the end of freshman year and a 3.25 GPA for each consecutive year, but what most students seemed to overlook was the 27-hour requirement of past years.

"We want students graduated in a timely fashion," Scott said. "We don't want to put

SEE AID · PAGE 2

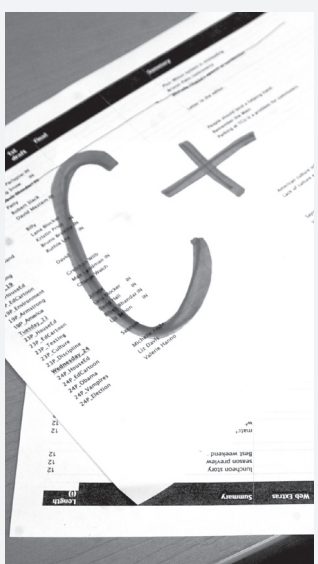
TOP iTUNES DOWNLOADS

- 1 So What
Pink
- 2 Love Story
Taylor Swift
- 3 Whatever You Like
T.I.
- 4 Disturbia
Rihanna
- 5 Swagga Like Us
(feat.) Jay-Z & T. I.

PECULIAR FACT

LONDON - Trafalgar Square routinely serves as a stage for mimes, jugglers and other acts, but the tourist attraction drew an exceptionally curious crowd Tuesday when the shortest man who can walk met the woman with the longest legs.

— The Associated Press



The plus/minus system can be misleading. Opinion, page 3

WEATHER

Today: Sunny
82 / 59
Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny
84 / 61
Friday: Sunny
85 / 61



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

New dept. chair hopes to update speech and hearing clinic

By Brian Smith
Staff Reporter

Christopher Watts had no plans to enter into the field of speech-language pathology before he went to school at the University of South Alabama. In fact, the main reason he took a course on the subject was because his girlfriend was also taking it.

"I just kind of fell into it," Watts said about the beginning of his interest in the field.

Now, he is the new chair of the Harris College of Nursing and Health Science's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (COSD). Watts also heads the Miller Speech and Hearing Clinic on campus.

Watts credits his professor for sparking his interest in the field. He ended up staying eight years at the University of South Alabama, earning a Ph.D. The woman who helped convince him to take his first speech course also became his wife. The two will celebrate their 14th wedding anniversary this December.

Watts left his position at James Madison University, where he was a tenured professor since 2004, to come to TCU. "I saw a really good opportunity for career growth," Watts said. "I had aspirations to move into leadership, and there was a leadership position here."

Others in TCU's medical community are excited about having Watts on board.

"He's an outstanding scholar and teacher and comes highly recommended," said

Dr. Paulette Burns, dean of the Harris College. "We're very excited to have him here."

The COSD has a "great reputation regionally" and a "solid reputation nationally," Watts said. However, he believes there are ways to bolster the school's reputation across the country.

"There's so much potential in this department to see it evolve," Watts said.

Some of the improvements he hopes to bring to the department include updating the program's curriculum and an expansion of the English as Second Language program. Updates to the Miller Clinic are also needed, Watts said.

"First, we need to increase our physical space," Watts said. "Once we have space, we will be able to expand the clinical services we offer in the Miller Speech and

Hearing Clinic, and grow the graduate program in terms of numbers."

Burns said about 20 students graduate from the COSD every year. TCU also offers a two-year Master's program in speech-language pathology, in which 12 students are enrolled in a given year. Burns and Watts said they hope to see an expansion in the school's graduate program sometime in the near future.

Watts is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and a lifetime member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, according to the Harris College Web site. He is a frequent published contributor to peer-reviewed journals and presenter to scientific and professional organizations. Watts has expertise in vocal physiology, voice disorders and motor speech disorders.

NEWS

RESISTANCE

continued from page 1

dents couldn't purchase food off campus with their ID card.

Craig Allen, director of Residential Services, said the initial student response to the meal plan has been about what was expected.

"It's been excitement, and it's been an adjustment," he said.

Rayle met with Rick Flores, general manager of Dining Services, and Allen on separate occasions to discuss potential resolutions to the above-mentioned issues. Each meeting yielded different results, Rayle said.

Rayle said he created the Facebook group after his meeting with Flores, who Rayle said told him opposition to the meal plans was minimal.

Flores said the most important part of the meal plan is making sure students know how it works.

"The biggest thing is to make sure they understand how the plan works," Flores said. "It's been a major shift for everyone. It's been quite an adjustment for the

upperclassmen because they were so used to the plan before."

Rayle said his meeting with Allen was more successful.

Allen said some small changes will be made, such as the installation of clocks and an ice cream machine in Market Square at the request of students.

Although many suggestions have been offered, any potential big changes will have to wait, Allen said.

"They've all given suggestions," Allen said. "Many of them can't be implemented right away. Some of them can be. We'll see what changes we need to make for next semester and next year. But it's a little early to start making wholesale changes to everything. We're three weeks into school."

Rayle said the changes were a start, but added he will continue to push for more improvements.

"Right now, I'm just meeting with people trying to get things going," Rayle said. "Everyone's helpful. Everyone wants to do something."

The new mean plan system has made Pond Street Grill obsolete.

The once-popular dining location served about 100 meals last week, Allen said.

As of now, Pond Street hasn't been changed, but there have already been talks about altering its format to make it a viable dining option once again, Allen said.

Legia Abato, marketing manager for Dining Services, said things are still being adjusted with the plans, and Dining Services is always open to suggestions.

"It's new for them (students)," Abato said. "Change is always hard."

"They kept saying there was no opposition or a small fraction of opposition, so I figured that Facebook was the best way to prove them wrong."

Albert Rayle
Creator of Facebook petition

WHEELS

continued from page 1

rid of its golf carts and bicycles, but the T3 presents some advantages those vehicles don't have, Abad said. The vehicles will be useful for parking lots because the raised platform the officers stand on will give them a better view and serve as a deterrent, Abad said.

Sgt. Alvin Allcon, one of the officers who will be using them, said he doesn't know what to think of the new vehicles. Allcon said the T3's edge out bicycles in terms of visibility. Not only will the scooter draw more attention from students, the driver of the T3 stands on the scooter to drive, giving the officer a better view of

a parking lot, Allcon said.

But Allcon also said there may be some disadvantages with the new vehicles. In terms of having to stand up on the T3 to drive, Allcon said there might be some discomfort after riding on it after a while.

"Some of us here are a little bit older, and you know, the bottoms of my feet are already aching a bit so after an hour and a half, I don't know how that's going to work out," Allcon said.

In terms of the new vehicles' impact on reducing emissions, Michael Slattery, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies, said that the amount saved will be small considering all the other vehicles on campus, but the most important part of these im-

provements is they are visible to students.

Slattery said more changes will have to come since Chancellor Victor J. Boschini signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. According to the official Web site of the commitment, the commitment is a pledge to take part in a series of goals, such as setting a target date for achieving climate neutrality.

Abad said when he drove the T3 for the first time around campus Friday, the response from students was positive. Students will be seeing a lot more of them when officers start patrols with the new vehicles this week, Abad said.

House of Representatives passes four election bills

By Matt Syme
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association's House of Student Representatives passed four new bills in its meeting Tuesday night, all of them written by the Elections & Regulations Committee.

The first bill discussed was "A Bill to Modify Campaign Rules." The bill clarified the definition of "campaigning" within the Student Body Code, also giving the finite starting and ending dates of when a campaign can be run, as well as runoff procedure. The bill passed unanimously.

The second bill also passed unanimously, which was titled "A Bill to Clarify Standards of

People Involved in Campaigns." This bill forces candidates running for office to acquire the written consent of TCU-connected individuals — faculty, students and university employees — before their images or quotes can be used to gather votes and campaign for office.

The third bill that was brought to the House caused debate and sought out an amendment. "A Bill to Determine Members of Campaign Staffs" makes candidates running for office name each member of their campaign staff. This makes a candidate become liable for the actions of members of their campaign staff in a situation where misconduct is discovered.

Additionally, the bill requires campaign staff members to at-

tend an election information session. The debate came about when the discussion was made to add non-TCU affiliated individuals into the bill.

After debate, the bill did pass with a statement that non-TCU individuals must sign a waiver to participate in the campaigning events. The bill passed with two abstentions from representatives.

A new bill was introduced at the end of the meeting. "A Bill to Allow Student Organizations to Endorse Candidates" stated that any student organization should have the right to publicly support a candidate running for office. Discussion of the bill was put off until next week in order for the Elections & Regulations committee to vote on the bill.

AID

continued from page 1

up too many roadblocks."

But the number of hours required isn't the only change this year. Under previous guidelines, repeated classes and classes taken pass/no credit did not count towards the required hours. Starting this year they will, Scott said.

Efton Park, professor of mathematics and former chair of the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee, said the changes were implemented because many students don't need to take 27 hours each year to graduate in four years.

"For most majors, 24 hours is good enough," Park said.

Scott said there were many appeals in the past because students were unaware of the rules.

The committee, comprised of both faculty and staff members, meets in July and August of every year to review around 300

appeals, Scott said.

Park said some students will have their appeals granted and some students will be granted provisional appeals, but most will not.

Besides looking at GPA, the committee looks at the degree of the extenuating circumstance, Scott said.

"It has to be a significant reason, not just, 'Well, I took too hard of a class' or 'I got too busy,'" Park said.

Scott said the committee reviewed 282 appeals this past summer, and 161 were approved. He said if a student is not granted an appeal, then he or she can make up the hours in summer school to meet the renewal requirements. However, a sub-par GPA can only be made up in summer school at TCU.

Students seem pleased with the changes to the requirements.

Julia Locke Miller, a senior speech-pathology major, said she

"I think it will be easier for more students to maintain their awards that they have already proved they deserve."

Carson Russell
junior history and radio-TV-film major

thinks the changes will be especially helpful for those students with multiple commitments on campus.

Carson Russell, a junior history and radio-TV-film major, agreed with Miller.

"I think it will be easier for more students to maintain their awards that they have already proved they deserve," Russell said.

DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 1

tage of what's happening on the campus," Mills said.

Schylene Reetz, a junior political science major and first-year transfer student who now lives in the Grand Marc, said at her previous school she lived far away from campus. She said the distance made it difficult to become a part of the student life, and living close to campus has already made her feel a part of the TCU community.

Matt Franklin, president of Franklin Properties and developer of the Cantey Place town homes, said all 24 three-story town home units will have a Bostonian-style design similar to the brownstones of Boston and New York City.

In an effort to "go green," the developers have also decided to use recycled steel frames instead of wood, Franklin said.

"That's not cheap," Franklin said. "It's not easy going green, but we thought it was the right thing to do."

Reetz said the town homes' design will likely appeal to stu-

"Students who are living off campus will want to live close so they can take advantage of what's happening on the campus."

Don Mills
Vice chancellor for student affairs

dents.

"Most college kids kind of aspire to those big cities," Reetz said. "But at the same time want the small, city of Fort Worth kind of feel."

Franklin said while town homes are intended for students, he has also had some interested professors and residents in the immediate area who are looking to relocate.

Franklin Properties has also spent time making sure the design of the town homes fit with the surrounding neighborhood, Franklin said.

The town home plans were

studied and approved by the neighborhood associations within the immediate area, Franklin said. The neighborhood associations were concerned about high density living, which is why Franklin Properties is building 24 units, about half of what was initially proposed, he said.

"If you're as close to campus as our project is, (then) it's all the more important that we build something that blends with the character of the neighborhood," Franklin said.

To help blend in with the neighborhood, the town homes are each designed to have a different look, Franklin said. The town home structures will sit uneven with varying colors of brick, and stairways leading up to the porch will vary in height, he said.

Every "luxury" unit will have granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances and hardwood floors, Franklin said. Each unit will be about 2,000 square feet with three bedrooms and three and a half baths, he said.

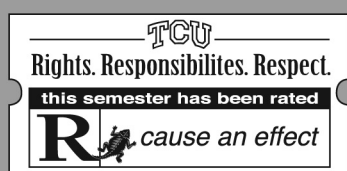
The project will also feature a swimming pool, which will be placed in the middle of the development, Franklin said.

The first 12 units are expected to be completed by the end of December and will start at \$420,000, and the following 12 units are expected to be ready for move-in by summer 2009, Franklin said.



Being a part of the TCU community means a lot of things. Most importantly, it means being a part of a learning community, a place where we help each other learn to change the world. That is why we have devoted the Fall 2008 semester to the theme of Think Purple, Live Green. The focus on sustainability will allow all of us to discuss the issues that affect ourselves, our school, and our world and how we can make a difference in them.

For more information, visit, www.themesemester.tcu.edu



Career Services | 1st Floor Jarvis
817-257-2222

Timberview
GOLF CLUB

\$18 Student Special

Show your current Student ID and pay \$18 W/Cart for a round of golf at Timberview Golf Club!

* Tee Time Required *

Enjoy \$1.50 beer during happy hour M-F 3pm to Close!

4274 Timberview Drive
Ft. Worth, TX 76140

817-478-3601 | www.timberviewgolf.com

#1 College Ski & Board Week
BRECKENRIDGE
Ski 20 Mountains & 5 Resorts
for the Price of 1
\$179
Breckenridge
Vail
Beaver Creek
Arapahoe Basin
& Keystone
Slopeside Luxury Condos, Lifts,
Rentals, Airfare or Bus & Live Bands
1-800-SKI-WILD
1-800-754-9453
www.ubski.com

OPINION

DAILY SKIFF

Editorial Board

Bailey Shiffler, *Editor-in-Chief*
Saerom Yoo, *Web Editor*
Julieta Chiquillo, *News Editor*
Billy Wessels, *Sports Editor*
Valerie Hannon, *Features Editor*

Joe Zigtema, *Managing Editor*
Michelle Nicoud, *Associate Editor*
David Hall, *News Editor*
Patty Espinosa, *Opinion Editor*

The Skiff View

New patrolling scooters waste of force's money

TCU Police got an upgrade. Now, instead of just cruising in police cars, golf carts and on bikes, officers can now be seen riding down the sidewalks on their new scooters.

The T3 Motion vehicles are powered with a rechargeable battery and can reach a maximum speed of 25 mph. So what's the problem?

Adding two new scooter-like forms of transportation was not the most fiscally responsible thing to do. Department officials said they have been looking for ways to better suit the campus' pedestrian-friendly environment. Instead of walking or riding bikes, our sidewalks are invaded by inconvenient T3s. Although the effective golf-carts, rarely used bicycles and well-known SUVs will still remain on campus, the scooter purchase was still unnecessary. At almost \$9,000 apiece, students can't help but wonder if the money could be spent better elsewhere. The department should get its money back and stick with what works.

The reaction from students has been positive. Why? Students want one, too. They're fun and convenient for when boredom strikes, and students are wanting to find an entertaining activity to skip class. In fact, several times officers have been spotted in the parking lots playing with their new toys. Apparently doing doughnuts in the bookstore parking lot is more fun when you're on a T3 Motion.

These investments are a waste of money, a distraction for officers and an ineffective way to support the university's sustainability motto. The changes these scooters will make are insignificant; therefore, the TCU Police Department should brainstorm a little more and find a better way to make change on campus with almost \$20,000.

Opinion editor Patricia Espinosa for the editorial board.

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

Sex education should not rely on abstinence



GREG SNOW

When the news broke last month that Senator John McCain selected Alaskan governor Sarah Palin as his running mate, controversy erupted when the media quickly found out Palin's teenage daughter, Bristol, was pregnant. Some Americans wondered why this was even a controversy and some were complaining the news media was showing a liberal bias. Could the real story behind the controversy be that Palin backed abstinence-only education when she ran for governor in 2006?

The topic of abstinence-only education is controversial because it is letting outside professionals teach children outside their own home about safe sex. Many conservative parents feel this is their own responsibility to talk to their children about this issue. Conservative parents fail to realize that many parents do not want to talk about sexual promiscuity with their own child. Many moralists inside the Republican Party believe that if teenagers don't learn about contraception, they will not become sexually active. In this train of thought, we are assuming we can change human behavior. One reason Marxism failed was because it is not possible to change human behavior. Could this be another form of Marxism? The Republicans pride themselves on being the anti-communists

led by Ronald Reagan, but did they fail to read the part that Karl Marx believed you could change human nature?

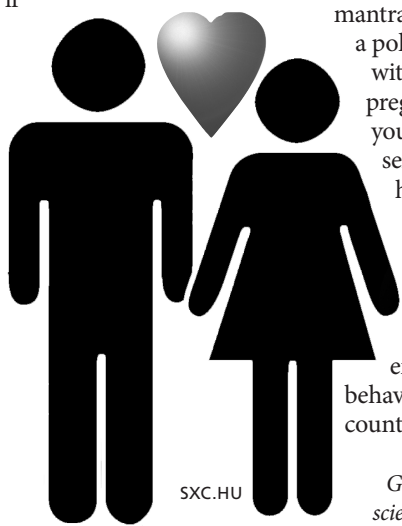
A fact many conservatives don't know is when their children reach 14, more than one-third of them are participating in sexual activity, according to research done by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this fact, we commonly see teenage pregnancies at high schools across the country. When teenage pregnancy comes, that teenager is more likely to end up in poverty, and the risks of many socioeconomic effects increase as well. When many teenagers lack the knowledge or access to contraception, we could avoid such a scenario.

Conservatives should come to the conclusion that the best way to handle the problem is to teach young adults about contraception, the one way to get abortions down and to help protect against sexually-transmitted diseases. Sarah Palin's just-say-no belief system has failed in her home, but now she wants to be second in command of the free world?

Abstinence education failed to work in Palin's own home, she could be one heartbeat away from the presidency and now wants to force her own morals onto

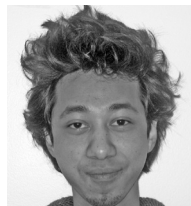
300 million people. The conservative mantra of "just say no" is not a policy and has failed, as witnessed by Bristol Palin's pregnancy. As stated before, you can't change human sexual promiscuity, and having abstinence-only education will just make teenage pregnancy more prominent. If the conservative movement embraces realism over behavior modification, this country would be better off.

Greg Snow is a junior political science major from Fort Worth.



Nate Beeler / MCT

Obama's wife relates well to Americans



BIBEK BHINDARI

She wasn't the keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention, but millions of supporters noted her with keen interest on the first night in Denver. Michelle Obama delivered a remarkable speech that made the audience shed tears of joy, and gave a smile of hope with her firm support for her husband, Barack Obama. The leading lady of the first day of the convention, Obama tried to connect with the common American through her personal story. She shared her moments of pains and gains to let everyone know she was not different, but one of them.

Throughout her speech, Michelle Obama made a personal connection with the people. She didn't stand there like a celebrity but as any other American woman who had her share of good and bad times in life, just as the Obama campaign wanted her to appear.

"I come here today as a sister," Obama said, "as a wife who loves my husband and believes he will be an extraordinary president...as a Mom whose girls are the heart of my heart and the center of my world...as a daughter — raised on the South Side of Chicago by a father who was a blue collar city worker, and a mother who stayed at home with my brother and me." Her rhetoric was clear. She wanted people to know her family values and commitment, moreover, her faith in her husband. She also mentioned Barack Obama's childhood, how he was raised by his grandparents and a single mother who struggled to pay the bills.

YOUR VIEW opinion@dailyskiff.com

In the Sept. 5 issue, there was an opinion piece titled "U.S. not in as bad of shape as Obama says," by Max Landman.

In it, the writer stated, "The markets have been recovering since the subprime mortgage crisis bottomed out stocks earlier this year. It doesn't quite sound like a time of despair, does it?" I feel his phrasing on the issue to be particularly insensitive and grossly out of touch with reality, especially since there wasn't an adjacent article of an opposing point of view. Yet, this was just one statement out of many that were left unopposed.

The gentleman uses the first few

paragraphs of his article to blast Barack Obama about his position on the economy. On Sept. 7, the Federal Reserve System took over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, an extremely controversial issue within itself. On Sept. 15, the Dow Jones industrial average had its lowest drop since 9/11, and Lehman Brothers recently filed for the largest bankruptcy in American history.

Just today, a group of 10 banks set aside \$70 billion for banks or brokerages to use to cover short-term funding needs, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Also, the insurance giant American International Group saw its stock fall 60 percent, or \$20 billion.

Americans.

But not everyone seemed happy with her speech, especially some hardheaded Republicans.

Ben Stein, a political and entertainment personality, seemed utterly unhappy with Michelle Obama's speech. "Well, I thought that Mrs. Obama's speech was a — just a mass of clichés," Stein said while talking to Larry King on CNN. "I don't get what's so impressive about her."

He said Michelle Obama presented herself as a loyal wife at the convention, and "she did anything much more than do what any wife is supposed to do."

But what more was she supposed to do? Was she obligated to deliver her four-year plan when she becomes the first lady? That wouldn't have done any good because she would then be representing her power and status, which would have failed to connect with people. Her intention was just to connect with people, and that's what she did.

Michelle Obama is no political figure, and she has no obligation to present herself in such a position. She is a mother and a wife who firmly supports her husband to be the next president of the United States. She is one of America's citizens who knows what it's like to grow up in poverty and struggle for success. All she wanted was to let people acknowledge her by her roles as a determined woman and to realize her husband could be the change.

In Denver, Michelle Obama stood for her husband and millions of people whose lives he would change. She was there, as herself, to speak her mind. She spoke and definitely conquered the hearts and minds of many.

Bibek Bhindari is a senior international communications major.

can International Group saw its stock fall 60 percent, or \$20 billion.

I feel that in the heat of an election, two points of view should be presented. The problem is that students read this and completely buy into one side of an argument. With what's happened in the past couple of weeks, people can't afford to be presented with a one-sided daily. If you're not going to make this a priority, please let me come and write for you and I'll fill in the missing page.

Mitch Monthie is a junior radio-TV-film major from Fort Worth.

Plus/minus grading does little to raise academic reputation

PETER PARLAPIANO

When reading the news story "Plus/minus system not widespread on campus," I couldn't help but make some observations. The system, in essence, reverts to a standard grading system some colleges have implemented. Although there isn't a consensus regarding whether TCU should use the plus/minus system, I think it would be appropriate to render a final decision on whether the system will be used. Many people believe using a plus/minus system will strengthen the academic reputation, however, there are other

factors that comprise academic reputation besides a plus/minus system.

According to the latest U.S. News & World Report, TCU dropped in its rankings to No. 113 in the national universities category. While the top universities such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton fight to be labeled the "best college," what do these rankings really mean? In addition, what weight, if any, is placed on a plus/minus system? Although I do not know what weight is placed on having a plus/minus system, I do know college-bound students look at the national rankings of colleges before they apply.

While criteria like "assessment by administrators at peer institutions" doesn't translate into anything practical for prospective students, other criteria such as selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving are important. In addition to these criteria, the type of student a college admits is critical for rankings. Schools that only accept a small percentage of the students that apply are usually the most sought after. In 2007, TCU became the second-most-selective school in Texas by admitting just below 50 percent of the students who applied. According to College Board figures, however, the average SAT

test score for entering TCU students is much lower than that of Rice, the University of Texas at Austin and Southern Methodist University. In addition, the retention rate was not as high as other comparable schools in Texas.

Although I don't work for U.S. News and World Report, I am fairly certain if TCU raised the average standardized test score for students admitted, increased the freshman retention rate and remained selective, TCU would dramatically increase their national rankings. I don't believe that implementing a plus/minus system would do much if anything to help the

rankings. While some of the top universities in the nation use a plus/minus system, it doesn't mean it is necessary to become a top university. Perhaps schools with a better ranking than TCU have higher average test scores, higher retention rates and select a smaller percentage of the students who apply. Clearly, trying to establish a cause-and-effect relationship between having a plus/minus system and academic excellence can be misleading.

Peter Parlapiano is a senior finance major from Houston.

NEWS

Same-sex marriage an issue for nation, not just Calif.

By Steven Harmon
Contra Costa Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The stakes of the ballot drive to forbid same-sex marriage reach far beyond California's geographic and political borders in what has emerged as another chapter in America's culture wars.

Christian groups, wealthy benefactors and self-styled pro-family groups from all over the nation are watching closely — and weighing in with money.

In the past eight weeks, combatants in the Proposition 8 battle have poured in more than \$20 million to gear up for an all-out confrontation about whether the nation will begin to move toward tolerance of same-sex marriages — or to preserve traditional views of marriage.

"It's a defining issue for this state and the country," said Brian Brown, executive director for the National Organization for Marriage, a New Jersey-based Mormon group with a branch in California, which has contributed nearly \$1 million to the Yes on 8 campaign. The outcome of the battle, he said, "will affect what our children will be taught about marriage, and it will affect our religious liberties."

Opponents say the campaign to defeat the ballot measure is a fight for gay rights around the country.

"I really think this is our Gettysburg," said Kathy Levinson, a Silicon Valley philanthropist and gay-rights activist who pledged this month to match \$100,000 in donations to the No on 8 campaign.

"If Proposition 8 passes, we'd lose a generation of time. If we as a perceived liberal and tolerant state lose this battle, many smaller states will feel permission to say 'not yet.' If it fails, it's a statement that says the country has changed, that full acceptance of gay and lesbian citi-

zens has come and it would be perceived as a watershed moment."

Thousands of Californians have contributed to the Yes on 8 campaign, according to campaign finance statements on the secretary of state's Web site. But the big money has come from out-of-state groups such as Connecticut-based Knights of Columbus (\$1.275 million), a Catholic men's organization; the National Organization for Marriage (\$921,000); Mississippi-based American Family Association (\$500,000); and Colorado-based Focus on the Family (\$414,000), whose chairman is James Dobson, the evangelical Christian whose syndicated radio show is heard by millions.

Wealthy and well-connected individuals have pitched in. Elsa Prince, the matriarch of a powerful Michigan Republican family, donated \$250,000 to the Yes on 8 campaign. She's the mother of Eric Prince, the co-founder of Blackwater Worldwide — the controversial private military and security contractor — and of Betsy DeVos, the Republican activist whose family has contributed millions to conservative causes.

Opponents have their heavy hitters, too, including Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who hasn't contributed to the campaign but has voiced his opposition to the initiative. The top contributor to the No on 8 campaign, Equality California (\$3.6 million), is its sponsor. Others include Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign (\$2.3 million); Robert Wilson, a New York philanthropist (\$1.2 million); and Bruce Bastian, a gay Mormon from Utah and co-founder of WordPerfect (\$1 million).

Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the California Teachers Association and the California State Council of Service Employees each donated \$250,000 to the No on 8 cause. Steve Westly, the former

state controller and Democratic gubernatorial candidate, has donated \$5,000.

Twenty-seven states have constitutional amendments outlawing same-sex marriages — 11 approved by voters in 2004, when the issue became a central part of President Bush's re-election, and seven more in 2006.

Three more states — California, Arizona and Florida — have the issue on November's ballot. Massachusetts and California are the only states that recognize same-sex marriages.

Conservative and evangelical groups were freshly mobilized by the California Supreme Court's decision in May to overrule voters' approval of a ban on same-sex marriages in 2000. But the movement has its roots in the culture wars of the 1980s and 1990s, said University of California-Berkeley sociology professor Michael Hout.

A key feature of the state Supreme Court decision, say Yes on 8 forces, is that there is no residency requirement.

"Same-sex couples are flying in, getting married, and flying out," said Bruce Hausknect, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family.

"What happens in states that don't recognize same-sex marriage when there are custody disputes? It's part of their agenda to wear down other states. If they can create enough problems, they're hoping they'll force courts to take their cases, which could lead to overturning the laws.

"It's a subtle way," he added, "of forcing the same-sex agenda on unwilling states by exporting the problems to states that don't have same-sex protections."

Proponents also claim that same-sex marriage laws will lead to an acceptance of polygamy and polyamory (group marriages), and teaching about same-sex marriage in public schools.

Rules unclear about relationships between doctors, device industry

By Janet Moore
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — Kenneth Burkus is quite confident his eight-year relationship as a paid consultant for Fridley, Minn.-based medical device maker Medtronic Inc. hasn't compromised his patients' care.

In fact, amid the growing chorus of questions about the practice from government investigators and some of his own colleagues in spine surgery, Burkus poses this question: "If you needed a (neck) disc replacement, would you want to go to one of the guys down the street or to the person who helped develop it?"

The Columbus, Ga., surgeon said he receives royalties for helping to develop the company's artificial neck disc and other products. A whistleblower lawsuit filed in Massachusetts federal court alleges he was paid \$416,775 for consulting work in 2006.

Such lawsuits, and probes by Congress and the Justice Department, have fueled confusion among doctors about just how far they can ethically and legally go in working with the device industry.

Some doctors and lawmakers say the cure for that confusion and the key to curbing any questionable payments is public disclosure of the compensation on a government Web site for all to see.

A bill introduced last year in Congress, called the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, would require drug and device makers to reveal the amount of money they give doctors in payments such as gifts, honoraria and travel on such a Web site.

The manner in which surgeons are paid is "very carefully constructed," said John Lundquist, a Minneapolis lawyer who represents 82 surgeons in the Massachusetts lawsuit. Consultants are paid an hourly fee representing their fair-market value, he said.

"We do not apologize for the fact that we pay physicians to provide training on our products," said Marybeth Thorsgaard, Medtronic spokesperson. "That training is essential to the well-being of patients. Physicians are busy people whose schedules are packed with appointments. Often, the only opportunity they have for training is on a weekend or at night, and we think that it is appropriate to pay presenters for their time during those non-working hours."

But congressional investigators say competitive pressures in the \$7.5 billion spine device business make it a natural habitat for questionable consulting arrangements because so much money is being made.

"If these physicians are essentially putting their medical judgment up for sale, where does the patient's well-being fit into the equation?" asks Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, sponsor of the bill and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee.

With Congress back in session, the bill is awaiting action in his



GLEN STUBBE / Minneapolis Star Tribune via MCT
Just twelve days after his spinal surgery, Ron Troyer is back at the St. Croix Valley YMCA in Hudson, Wis., to resume his regular swimming workout in early September.

committee.

While many lawmakers are convinced that patients are curious about the payments, there are doctors who maintain the opposite. Patients, they say, don't care.

Count Ron Troyer among them. Three years ago, he had just about lost his will to live.

The retired funeral director from Hudson, Wis., had battled chronic back pain most of his adult life. By the summer of 2005, his mind "muddled with narcotics," Troyer heard about a new pain treatment using an implanted pacemakerlike device that zaps the spinal cord with tiny electrical impulses.

Like many patients with searing chronic pain, Troyer placed his

"If he got a million dollars, I could have cared less. What he did for my quality of life was just tremendous."

Ron Troyer
Back Pain Sufferer

complete faith in his doctor. Whether his doctor was paid consulting fees by the maker of the medical device implanted in his body was "of no consequence," he said.

"If he got a million dollars, I could have cared less," Troyer said. "What he did for my quality of life was just tremendous."

As it turned out, the neurostimulator made by a division of Little Canada-based St. Jude Medical Inc. relieved nearly all of Troyer's pain.

"I've never had a patient who has had an issue with it," said Dr. Lawrence Lenke, a professor of orthopedics and neurosurgery at Washington University in St. Louis. Lenke, a Medtronic consultant for eight years, is among those referred to in Grassley's investigation of the spine industry. The Massachusetts whistleblower lawsuit alleges that Lenke was paid \$175,000 by Medtronic in 2006 in grants and fellowships.

Lenke and Burkus said they disclose their relationship with Medtronic to their patients. None of the patients ever seemed surprised or offended, the doctors said.

In Chicago's cavernous McCormick Place convention center, more than 200 companies filled 800 booths, touting their products to the crowd.

Dr. Charles Burton, a St. Paul neurosurgeon and spine specialist, remembers surveying the glittering scene at the annual meeting of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons with dismay. It had the aura, he recalled, of a consumer electronics show.

Despite the high-profile lawsuits and ongoing government investigations, there was little discussion about the growing controversy over the consulting fees medical device companies pay surgeons, Burton said. As the vice president of the Association for Ethics in Spine Surgery, he thinks the time has come for his profession to elevate the debate over the practice.

There is no shortage of professional codes of ethics theoretically governing financial relationships between doctors and medical device companies. The medical technology trade group AdvaMed has one and Thorsgaard said Medtronic was instrumental in developing it. Medical schools, including the University of Minnesota, have agreements about outside conflicts of interest. The big medical societies also have codes of ethics. Many device companies have their own codes of ethics on marketing practices.

"Medtronic has a robust compliance program designed to assure that our arrangements with physicians fully comply with those principles and the law," Thorsgaard added. An employee can be terminated for violating the standards, according to the code.

The codes largely rely on voluntary enforcement — and some think that's enough to do the job. The North American Spine Society, for example, counts on spine surgeons to report peers for unethical behavior.

"It has some teeth," said Dr. Stanley Herring, a spine surgeon at the University of Washington and past president of the spine society. "Doctors don't like to be shamed." He thinks a key component of any code of conduct is disclosure.

But the founder of the two-year-old Association for Ethics in Spine Surgery said those codes don't go far enough to eliminate the insidious pull money has on spine surgeons.

Dr. Charles Rosen, a spine surgeon at the University of California-Irvine and the grass-roots society's founder, said the group now has about 250 members. All, he added, have signed an affidavit declaring that they will not accept consulting fees, royalties or other compensation from any company whose products they use.

Rosen said he has paid a price for his advocacy. After he criticized the safety record of the first artificial lumbar disc approved by the Food and Drug Administration, Rosen said, his critics personally attacked him and attempted to have him fired.

Undeterred, he recently formed a second group called the Association for Medical Ethics, in which doctors from all specialties agree to forgo payments from the medical device and drug industries.

Burton was an early member of the spine ethics group. He hopes all the attention on the spine industry will bring about a "return to an understanding of what doing the right thing for the patient is really all about."

Marquis at Stonegate



Get out of the dorm and live in luxury.

1, 2 & 3 bedroom floor plans available

Ask about student discounts

4200 Bridgeview Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109

817.922.5200 • Fax 817.922.5204

Cover Letter | **817-257 2222**

Delta Gamma
presents
Silent Auction
Date Auction

Thursday, September 18
5-9 TCU Rec. Center

Benefiting Service for Sight

WIN \$250

Enter contest at
www.FrogCribs.com

Write 500-word essay on
"Why I like Where I live"

GO FROGS

ETC.



Today in History
Beginning early on the morning of this day in 1862, Confederate and Union troops in the Civil War clash near Maryland's Antietam Creek in the bloodiest one-day battle in American history.
— The History Channel

Joke of the Day
Q: Why are burglars so relaxed?
A: They like to take things easy.

Bliss

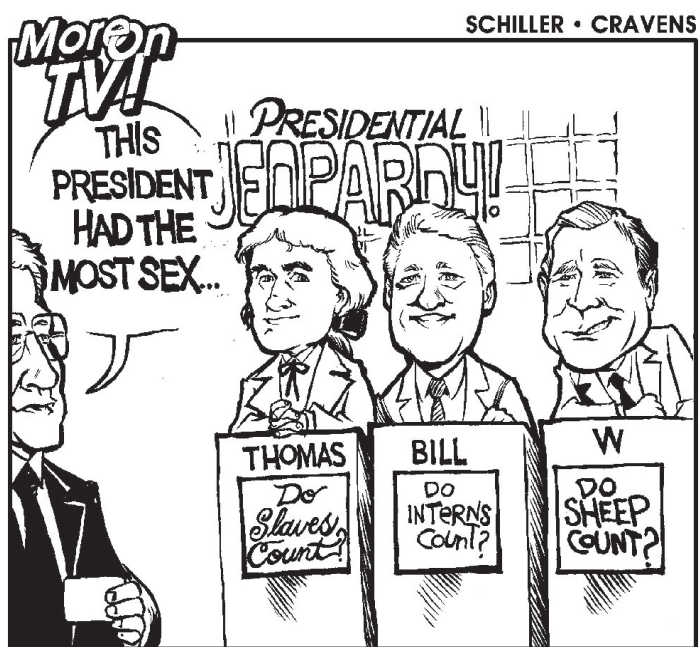
by Harry Bliss



"I know I shouldn't complain, but it's a little chilly up here, no?"

MoreOn TV

by Jay Schiller and Greg Cravens



© 2008 Jay Schiller & Greg Cravens

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Sponsored by:

TCU VOLLEYBALL
GAME TONIGHT
7PM VS. NEW MEXICO
FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS-GAMES AT THE REC

GOFROGS.COM

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

Directions

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

Tuesday's Solutions

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

GET TIPS AND MORE SOLUTIONS AT WWW.SUDOKU.COM

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

Sponsored by:

Full Service Repair Shop • 1 Day Re-Gripping

Used Pro V Balls \$1 each

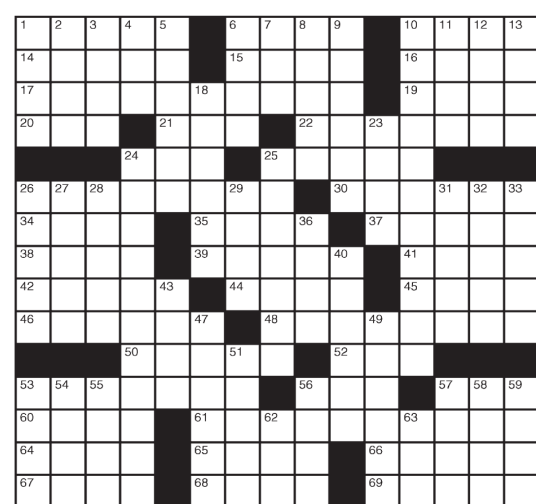
3 Blocks South of TCU

Target Golf

New • Used • Buy • Sell • Trade

3465 Bluebonnet Cr. • Mon-Fri 10 to 6 | Sat 9 to 5 • 817. 927.8803

- ACROSS**
- Con jobs
 - Ltr. carriers
 - Ocean extract
 - George or T.S.
 - Spiffy
 - Tennis great
 - Old-time typescript duplicate
 - "Sweater Girl" Turner
 - 6-pointers
 - WBA stats
 - "Hamlet" Oscar winner
 - Precious stone
 - Cut back
 - Fabled city of gold
 - Maroon
 - Bunch, e.g.
 - Completed
 - Lyricist
 - Hammerstein
 - Rock group
 - Soft drinks
 - Southern cornbread
 - Duck
 - Knit
 - Killer whale
 - Yearner for
 - Thought out
 - Lytton
 - Strachey's first name
 - Put on
 - Operating physician
 - ISP biggie
 - Draft choice
 - Oh, yeah
 - Deleplained
 - Cordelia's father
 - Planted
 - Probe
 - and ends
 - Vogue competitor
 - Blotch
- DOWN**
- Religious subdivision
 - Dressed (in)
 - Affectations
 - Throng



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

9/17/08

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	M	S	S	O	Y	A	S	M	A	S	H
L	E	A	P	C	P	A	S	T	A	M	P	A
F	I	J	I	H	A	W	K	A	X	I	A	L
O	R	V	I	L	L	E	W	R	I	G	H	T
C	D	R	O	M	S	W	O	R	O	N	S	
L	I	D	I	M	I	T	V	A	R			
I	N	O	N	S	T	A	G	E	R	I	G	H
N	A	M	E	S	E	X	O	S	P	O	O	N
G	H	O	S	T	W	R	I	T	E	A	L	T
C	H	O	S	T	A	I	S	H	A	Q	D	E
U	N	C	I	N	F	C	R	U	F	F	L	E
R	E	L	I	G	I	O	U	S	R	I	T	E
I	R	E	N	E	M	O	C	C	I	O	V	A
A	V	A	S	T	F	L	A	N	R	E	B	A
H	E	R	T	Z	Y	A	N	G	D	R	E	W

©2008 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved. 9/17/08

JOBBO AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE
3970 WEST VICKERY

ONLY MINUTES AWAY FROM CAMPUS!
Take University north toward I-30 and turn left on Vickery, we're just over a mile on the right.

MINOR TO MAJOR REPAIRS & 30,60,90,100 THOUSAND MILE MAINTENANCE AND CHECKS

• WE DO STATE INSPECTIONS! •

Complete Auto Service • Service All Foreign, Domestic, and Diesel Vehicles

10% DISCOUNT FOR TCU STUDENTS & FACULTY \$50 MAXIMUM DISCOUNT

AAA Approved Auto Repair

Hank Milligan Owner
Philip Thomas Service Manager

817.738.5912

M-F 7:30A.M.-5:30P.M.
Sat. 8:00A.M.-2P.M.

Closed every third Saturday of the month.
We accept checks and major credit cards.

WWW.JOBOBSERVICE.COM

Career Services | 1st Floor Jarvis 817-257-2222

imagine

stopping the progression of Alzheimer's

Maya Angelou
author, poet, educator

Photo: Courtesy of Dwight Carter.com

I have friends and loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's. But I can imagine... and hope for... a world without this terrible disease.

You can help make a difference. A major brain imaging study led by the National Institutes of Health may help us learn how to stop the progression of Alzheimer's.

Please consider joining the study if you are between 55 and 90 and:

- are in good general health with no memory problems, OR
- are in good general health but have memory problems or concerns, OR
- have a diagnosis of early Alzheimer's disease.

For more information, call 1-800-438-4380 or visit www.alzheimers.org/imagine.

imagine
Stopping the progression of Alzheimer's disease
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE NEUROIMAGING INITIATIVE

air purifier

It's simple. Look for the ENERGY STAR® to reduce your home energy use.

To learn more, go to energystar.gov.

YOUR HOME CAN CAUSE TWICE AS MANY GREENHOUSE GASES AS A CAR.

ENERGY STAR® is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

ENERGY STAR

HOW DO YOU GET TO WORK?

When you're on a search and rescue mission you can't help but get jazzed! The trees blur, the rotors thump, the wind whips by. It's awesome! Getting to work was never so much fun. But that's just the search. The rescue is the reward.

GET UP TO A \$20,000 ENLISTMENT BONUS IF YOU QUALIFY

NATIONAL GUARD TEXAS

Get to work in the National Guard. Call Now!

• Extreme Adventure • Community Service • Career Skills

1-800-GO-GUARD • www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com

Pulido's MEXICAN RESTAURANT

\$1.50 Margaritas
Friday & Saturday • ALL DAY with lunch or dinner
Lunch specials starting at \$4.99

2900 Pulido St
817-732-7571

TCU does not encourage the consumption of alcohol. If you do consume alcohol you should do so responsibly, and you should never drive after drinking.

Circle Cleaners
Professional Dry Cleaning • Minor Repairs Free

SAME DAY SERVICE
in by 10am
out by 5pm

leather cleaning
bulk cleaning
expert alterations
charge accounts

\$5 off
any \$12
DRY CLEANING ORDER
with coupon - one per visit

\$3 off
any \$8
DRY CLEANING ORDER
with coupon - one per visit

3450 Bluebonnet Cir.
(817)-923-4161

VISA MasterCard Discover

NOW OPEN

Montgomery Plaza • Across from Starbucks
2600 W. 7th St. Suite 181
817.332.5050

Planet Smoothie Cafe

Best smoothies on the planet!
Wraps, salads, sandwiches, and more!
Now serving breakfast!

TCU DAILY SKIFF 35¢ PER WORD PER DAY
45¢ PER BOLD WORD PER DAY
www.tcudailyskiff.com/classifieds TO PLACE YOUR AD

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

A+ SPORTS-MINDED STUDENTS
Hiring 20-30 Students \$15.00-\$20.00/HOUR Flexible Part/Full-Time Close to Campus, Top Gun Promotions 817-546-3905

BARTENDER APPRENTICE WANTED. Showdown Saloon. 4907 Camp Bowie Blvd. 817.233.5430

A+ STUDENT STAFFING seeks college students for part-time and full-time event and office positions. Call 214-357-9500 to set up an interview. Jobs pay \$10.00-\$12.00. WWW.STUDENTSTAFF.COM

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OWNER seeks entrepreneurial minded TCU student to mentor on how to earn a six figure income while in college. Interested student should email Thomas@bazipro.com interview process.

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED Part-time. Computer and phone skills. 817-831-1886.

COMPUTERS MADE EASY seeking part time trainers. \$10-\$12.50 hr. Just blocks from campus. jobs@cmefw.com 817.386.2530

TUTOR/PT NANNY Spanish tutor/nanny needed wkly on Mon & Tues only for 2 elem children in SW Ft Worth. Applicants must have own transportation and be able to transport the children from school. Send resume w/references to Julie@rrp.com

GROUP EXERCISE INSTRUCTORS
Executive Fitness Club seeks professional, passionate and energetic certified Group Exercise Instructors. Fax Resume to 817-878-4085.

Skiff Advertising
817-257-7426
dailyskiff.com

SPORTS



Tomorrow
See how the football team matches up against the rival SMU Mustangs.

EQUESTRIAN

TIME TO RIDE



ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS
The TCU equestrian team celebrates after winning the national championship last season. The team will begin its third year of existence this weekend with scrimmages against West Texas A&M and Texas Tech in Lubbock.

Riders ready for title defense

By Wyatt Kanyer
Staff Writer

When the equestrian team's season begins Friday, there will be a tough task at hand — defending a national championship.

However, head coach Gary Reynolds likes his team's chances.

"We're very fortunate to have a strong team with depth this year," Reynolds said.

The team will travel to Lubbock for its first action of the season in a scrimmage with Texas Tech University and West Texas A&M University.

This season's team features proven veterans like seniors Chloe Baker and team captain Carrie von Uhlit, who both participate in the Western events.

Then there's the young talent. Reynolds noted sophomore Western rider Kelsey Huffman, who will be in her first year participating, as a rider to watch for this year.

The depth chart continues

with talented sophomores Tassie Munroe and Jessica Hagen, who participate in the English riding events, and promising freshman recruits like Taylor Frederick, who Reynolds said could have a strong role down the road.

Even though the Western team was hit hard by graduation, Reynolds said he feels confident the team's newcomers will grasp the opportunity.

"(The squad) graduated two great riders off our Western team, but we gained several that are very accomplished," he said.

Reynolds said he thinks his English (or hunt seat) team is more seasoned than last year.

"There were lots of freshmen last year because it was a relatively new program, but we look to be very competitive this year," he said.

As for the team's goals for the season, Reynolds is sticking to the basics: good riding.

"The thing that won the (Western team) national championship was riding correctly

all the time," Reynolds said. "We don't want to get too many penalties."

Solid riding will be key for the Horned Frogs this season, as their schedule features tough national competition like the University of South Carolina on Oct. 24 and the University of Georgia on Nov. 22, which TCU beat for the national championship last year. Both of these matches will take place at home.

But the match Reynolds said may be most important will take place Nov. 15, when the Horned Frogs travel to College Station to play Texas A&M University, the team's rival.

"(Texas A&M) will be our biggest game of the fall," he said. "They're well-coached and they're a great rival."

Reynolds said he also thinks students would enjoy the games, inviting students to cheer the team on as they face Georgia and South Carolina. All home matches are in Mansfield at Fieldstone Park, located at 7528 Dick Price Road.

BILLY KNOWS BEST

Senior has dream baseball trip



BILLY WESSELLS

As I sit in my seat thousands of feet above the Earth, probably somewhere near Washington D.C., I am dazing in and out of sleep after a long, amazing weekend.

I had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity this past weekend. I went to go see Yankee Stadium, Shea Stadium and Fenway Park. All of this in the same weekend and with just nine regular season games left in the histories of Shea and Babe Ruth's old stomping grounds before their teams move to new ballparks.

I took this trip with my dad, two of my friends from high school, Alex and Ryan, and Alex's dad. I couldn't have picked a better group to go with, as we all have a fascination with not just baseball but history. If there is one thing all of these stadiums have, it is history.

From Monument Park at Yankee Stadium to all of the great teams that have played at Shea and the Green Monster in left field of Fenway, my trip was full of memories of highlights I have seen over my entire life. Now, I finally had the chance to see these places first hand.

The weekend started with a rapping at my apartment door at 5 a.m. Friday. It was Ryan and Alex making sure I was up and ready to get to DFW Airport for our 7 a.m. flight to LaGuardia Airport in New York City.

We made the flight and arrived in rainy New York with fears of a

rain out at our first stop, Shea, to see the New York Mets host the Atlanta Braves.

We take a taxi, for the first time in my life, from the airport to the subway station. We boarded the subway, another first in my life, which we took to the Hotel Pennsylvania located across the street from Madison Square Garden.

We have enough time to check in and drop off our bags before we head off to Flushing to see Shea.

We get there early, get some souvenir shopping done, and drink a couple of beers and eat some hot dogs.

The game ends up being rained out and our tickets were not going to be good for Saturday's doubleheader. So we were left with quite a quandary.

We decide to buy tickets to Saturday's double dip and sell our tickets back to the box office, so we were able to get two games for the price of one.

Then it dawns on us: we are going to three games at two different stadiums Saturday.

We already had tickets for the 1:00 p.m. game at Yankee Stadium between the Yankees and the Tampa Bay Rays, then we bought tickets for the 3:55 p.m. game at Shea and with those tickets we could stay for the game after that, which started around 8 p.m.

So we hit the subway and head back to our hotel to tour Times Square.

We get some much-needed rest and then head off to the Bronx at noon Saturday, just in time for the first pitch.

We looked around the historic stadium, took a ton of pictures and took in the game between the first-place Rays, yeah I can't believe I wrote that either, and the non-

playoff bound New York Yankees. I can't believe I said that, too.

As soon as the game was over, we hit the subway to get back out to Shea in time to see the last couple of innings of game one.

Shocker. The Mets' bullpen blew another game, and we enjoyed a couple of Nathan's Famous hot dogs and Bud Lights while we wait for the second game to begin.

This game starts off better for the home team with David Wright going deep to right center field to give the Mets an early lead, and this time they held on for the win. After that game, we got in the car we rented from LaGuardia and headed for Boston.

We show up at Alex's aunt and uncle's house around 2 a.m. and crash in their basement. We got some more much-needed rest and dreamed about what was still to come.

We get up and head out to Fenway in plenty of time to get a look around my favorite stadium, do some gift shopping and see the first pitch.

We took a ton of pictures and videos of the stadium, the fans and even some of the vendors, which included the New England Clam Chowder, or "Chowda," man.

But the best part of Fenway was "Sweet Caroline" echoing through the entire stadium during the eighth inning. Truly fantastic.

After the game we walked around the stadium in more awe, and then went to a local sports bar to catch some football. After that we went back to Alex's family's house for more beer and football.

Oww, a flight attendant just hit me in the face with a bag of peanuts. Was all of that a fantastic dream, or was I truly having the best weekend ever?

FOOTBALL

Coach prepared for TCU-SMU rivalry

By Logan Wilson
Staff Reporter

Rivalry games are among the most emotional of the season for players and fans, and head football coach Gary Patterson said Saturday's game against Southern Methodist University will be no different.

"They're emotional ball games because these kids know each other," Patterson said. "They played each other in high school, they played in all-star games together; they know each other."

TCU has started the season with three wins, while SMU has started with one win and two losses.

Patterson said it's a lot easier for his team to be going into Dallas after three wins, but his team realizes it has its hands full.

"We understand any time we play over in Dallas you can throw the records out," Patterson said, citing 2005, when SMU handed TCU its only loss of the season.

SMU's head football coach June Jones, in his first year with the school, has already done a great job making a difference on offense, Patterson said.



KHAMPHA BOUAPHANH/ Fort Worth Star-Telegram via MCT
Head football coach Gary Patterson congratulates Brian Bonner during the Horned Frogs' victory in last year's Texas Bowl. The Frogs will visit SMU on Saturday.

"If you look at June Jones' staff, you're not looking at a group that just started coaching," Patterson said. "They've got some good football coaches that aren't going to be rattled by losing a couple football games early."

This week Patterson said his players will be focusing solely on the game against SMU.

"They're the biggest task we have at hand right now," Patterson said. "We understand it's the difference between being 4-0 and 3-1."

Sophomore quarterback Andy Dalton reiterated Patterson's point and said his team got the Iron Skillet last year, and they hope to keep it. Last year TCU beat SMU 21-7 at home but only had 250 yards of offense compared to SMU's 352.

"We get a chance to be 4-0, and we have a chance to play and test our skills against somebody of coach Jones' level of expertise," Patterson said. "It's always a lot of fun as coaches too."

Job Search | 817-257-2222

Are your lips sealed?
theSecret.

