

ALUMNI 3

Former university athlete promotes book about relationship with golf legend.

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DATE	CLASS	RATING	COMMENT
10/28/10	SchoolSprt	Good Quality Easiness: 4/5 Helpfulness: 4/5 Clarity: 4/5 Rater Interest: 3/5	Take SuperFrog! He's a super professor. I had never taken a school spirit course before but I did this time and like I got an A. Because it was fun and easy to support TCU. Great at explaining difficult concepts, witty, interesting lectures and ridiculously good-looking. The tests aren't too bad either.
10/28/10	SchoolSprt	Good Quality Easiness: 4/5 Helpfulness: 4/5 Clarity: 4/5 Rater Interest: 3/5	His class is great. Professor Frog is kind of a legend, y'know? He once taught a mustang to read his e-mail for him. AND that he speaks fluent French, in Russian. I heard he once had an awkward moment just to see what it felt like.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARICRUZ SALINAS

Lack of regulation on rating website reduces credibility

By Alex Collins
Staff Reporter

Before advising begins Nov. 1, students may soon be driving up the traffic at ratemyprofessors.com by looking up which professors they want for the spring semester.

A lack of regulation on comments posted to the website, however, limits its credibility, Department of Mathematics Chair and mathematics professor Robert Doran said.

"Any student can say anything without any requirements or being held accountable for what they put down," he said.

Associate Dean for the College of Science and Engineering Magnus Rittby said that although the website may be one resource to use when researching classes, students should also prepare for their classes by speaking with other classmates and friends.

Accurate ratings about professors were difficult to achieve because only several students from large classes actually comment about their professors, he said.

"Ratemyprofessors.com gives a very limited perspective of the given faculty member," Rittby said.

Junior strategic communications major Colin Huffines, however, said he thought the website provided students with useful and credible information about classes and professors.

"Most of the ratings of the professors are accurate," he said.

Huffines said he enrolled in two classes of the same subject but with two different professors his freshman year. One of the professors ranked higher than the other according to the website, he said.

He said he chose to drop the class taught by the poorly-rated professor after attending several sessions. Huffines said he enjoyed the class taught by the higher-ranked professor much better.

He also left comments on the website to help other students prepare for classes, he said.

"I only leave comments if the professors are either really, really good or just absolutely awful," Huffines said.

There is no reason to leave comments about mediocre professors because those comments do not offer students the useful information they are looking for, he said.

See **Professors** 2

HEALTH 2
Alcoholic drinks can prove to be dangerous.



ACADEMICS 3
Changes arrive for students' evaluation of teachers'



PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

Alcohol and energy drinks a dangerous mix

Before coming to college, many students are warned of the dangers of leaving drinks unattended. You never know what someone might put in a drink while it is out of sight.

It seems it is not only at a party that something might make it into a drink without the knowledge of the consumer. Even a manufactured drink, like an alcoholic energy drink, such as Joose, might contain something that could harm the person drinking it.

In all cases, students should know what is in their drinks. Regardless of alcohol content, students should know that energy drinks are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and have not been deemed safe by the government agency.

Though the tendency might be to assume that anything on a grocery store shelf is safe, this may not always be the case.

Research shows that when mixed with alcohol, energy drinks become more dangerous than they might be otherwise. These drinks have been linked to increased drinking and an increased likelihood that consumers will abuse prescription drugs.

Students should always think before they drink. They should not assume that any energy drink or dietary supplement, many of which are found in energy drinks, is safe until it is approved by the FDA.

Students should know the risk before choosing to consume.

News editor Kayla Mezzell for the editorial board.

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

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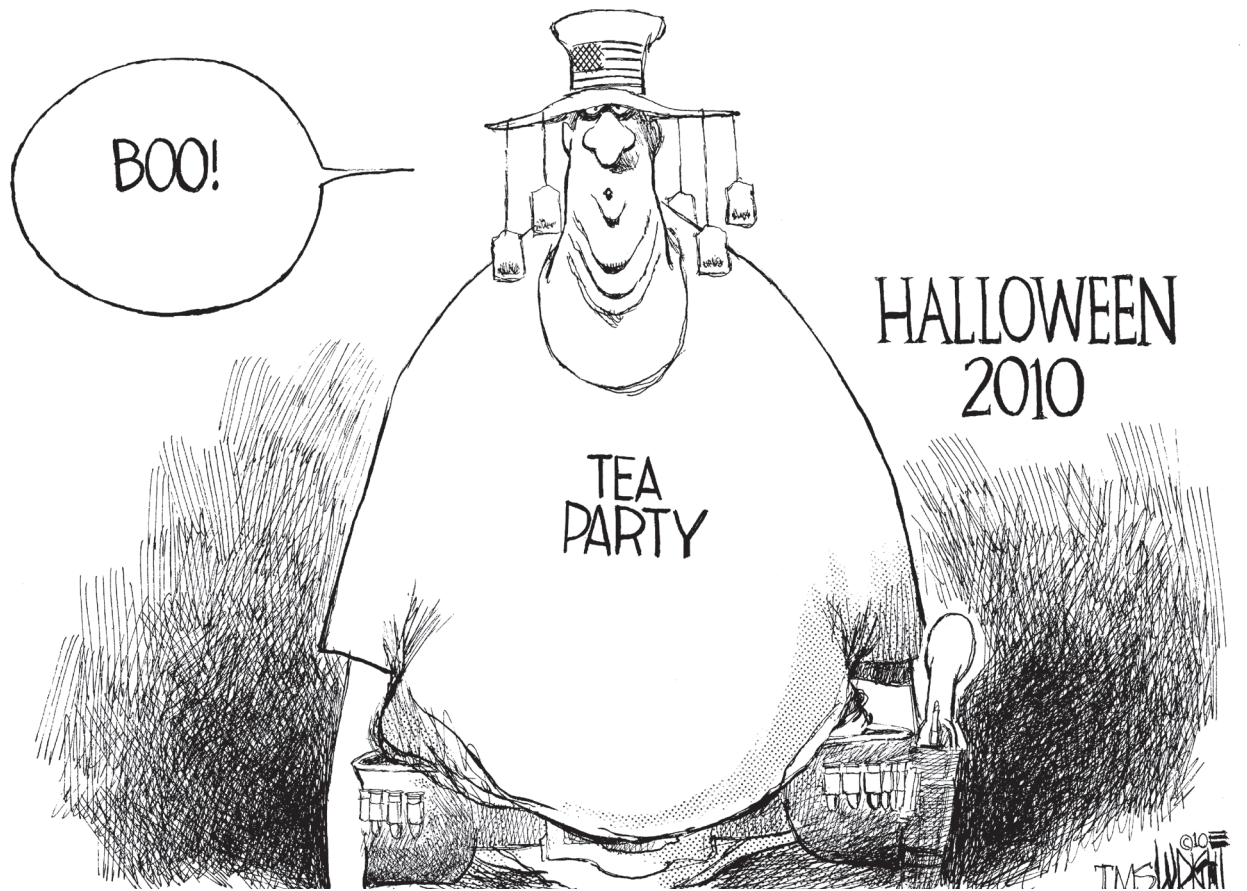
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Nate Beeler is an editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

Better education requires a change in culture



Jordan Rubio

During summers spent in New England, I learned that crabs are remarkably like humans. When a bucket of caught crabs is left unattended, one will try to make a heroic escape to avoid ending up as someone's dinner. Yet as this one crab attempts its escape, several of its fellow crabs will latch onto it and pull it back into the bucket as if they were saying, "If we're going down, you're going down with us."

Like crabs, humans stuck in bad situations with little or no hope often try to drag down those who seem like they are about to break away.

Dragging down those who have the best chance of succeeding creates a culture of failure. One where failure is the norm and where those who try to succeed are pulled down through this culture and the attitudes of their peers. The most sickening part of this culture is that it exists where success is needed the

most — in inner-city schools.

Education is key and in the areas most stricken by poverty, crime and decay there is a real need for a quality education, which would allow those stuck in these areas to break free and return to both serve as an example to the community and to help restore it. Yet the inner-city school problem seems to be a predicament that keeps those born into a bad situation stuck in that situation with little hope of escaping it.

Those who seem poised to do well and break away are often dragged back down through the pressures of that area's culture of failure, whether it is through crime, drugs or gang violence. In these schools, failure has become acceptable where substandard students are passed on by substandard teachers so the students are no longer a burden. This culture of failure becomes a discomfort on that area and school system where nobody is expected to make anything of themselves.

In the United States, this is simply not acceptable. The inner-city school problem must be tackled so as to ensure a better future for the less fortunate of our population. The best way to do this is to change the culture of failure.

Changing this culture of failure will go much further in addressing the substan-

dard inner-city schools than any amount of money or new teaching system could. But changing a culture requires an entire community to change it and help those who are in need of this change. A partnership of all levels, from government bureaucrats to those in the community themselves, is needed to reform and change this culture into a culture that encourages success in school as real progress and a way to better oneself.

This new culture would bring in accountability, real expectations and challenge students to work hard to better themselves and improve their lot in life, all huge components of the American spirit. No single community can change a culture by itself. It requires help from all of us, from smart and efficient government programs designed to help public education in those areas needed, to teachers who are held accountable for the jobs they perform, to students and to those of us just trying to better those who are less fortunate.

A better education and a better life are possible for those in the inner-city, but it requires all of us to help change a culture. Doing so would infinitely help America's future.

Jordan Rubio is a freshman broadcast journalism major from San Antonio.

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PERSPECTIVES

Professor remembers alumna for hard work, kindness in life

Rob Garnett

Twelve days ago, the TCU community suffered the tragic loss of Jennifer Anne (Jenny) Prentice, class of 2007, who died from injuries suffered when gunmen opened fire on a restaurant in Guatemala City.

Jenny Prentice was a bright light to many in the TCU community during her four years here from 2003 to 2007. On behalf of the TCU economics faculty and everyone else who knew Jenny, I offer this brief remembrance of her spirited achievements during and since her undergraduate years.

Jenny was a native of Guatemala and had returned there in June to work at the Inter-American Development Bank in Guatemala City. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from TCU with majors in international economics and sociology. During her senior year, Jenny decided, on her own, to research the potential role of microfinance in Latin American development. She received no course credit, but submitted her work to the AddRan Undergraduate Research Festival where it won the "best paper" prize and was selected for publication in the TCU Undergraduate Research Journal.

On the strength of her original research, Jenny was offered a position at the Grameen Foundation, as a member of their Latin American Task Force, in May 2007. In fall 2008, after a year of intensive work and travel, she began work on a master's degree in international political economy at the London School of Economics and Political Science, aided by a merit-based scholarship from Fundación Guatefuturo, a foundation for educating developing post-graduate Guatemalan professionals with a history of academic excellence. Her master's thesis, an examination of remittances and their impact on political participation in Latin America, received a distinction, which is the highest possible mark, from the LSE faculty.

Though she loved her country and was committed to returning to Guatemala, Jenny was concerned about security problems there and had hoped to secure a job in the U.K. or U.S. after completing her M.A. She was offered an internship last spring with *The Economist*, but then received a competing offer from the Inter-American Development Bank in Guatemala City. She surprised some of her close friends by choosing to return to Guatemala. She started at the IDB on June 1 and had planned to return to London by the end of January 2011.

In the words of Jenny's TCU classmate and

close friend, Ambika Sharma, "Jenny was a friend that everyone desires: fun, smart, inspiring, and unconditionally supportive. I particularly admired that she was proud of her cultural heritage and deeply committed to giving back to her country. She readily sought to apply her classroom knowledge on practical projects. Besides excelling in school, she was an outstanding soccer player and even recruited me to the team. She cultivated a positive atmosphere and accomplished a great deal in a very short time. We all will miss her dearly."

Jenny was never one to draw attention to herself but was without question one of the most capable, intelligent and self-motivated students I have ever encountered, not to mention one of the most thoughtful and kind. Everyone who knew her as a student, classmate or colleague has similar memories. In our last e-mail exchange in May 2008, I said I wanted to arrange a time for her to come back to TCU to speak to the economics faculty and students about her experiences at the front lines of Latin American development. It is a terrible shame that we will never see her again.

A memorial service will be held for Jenny on Nov. 6 in the chapel of Goodenough College, the dorm where she lived at the LSE.



JENNIFER ANNE PRENTICE

Rob Garnett is an associate professor of economics.

Economic uncertainty impacts marriages



KC Aransen

Pre-nuptial agreements are not only a fairly common part of getting married, but they are also a reasonably accepted form of financial stability.

According to *The Washington Post*, 73 percent of divorce lawyers reported seeing an increase in the demand for pre-nuptial agreements over the past five years. This could be because of the current economic situation in the United States. People do not want to take on their future spouse's debt, nor do they want to share pension plans or have to worry about difficult divorce proceedings dealing with money.

Pre-nuptial agreements have been happening for years. What is new is divorce insurance. The logic behind this is that "you can insure your life, so why can you not insure yourself against divorce?" This insurance plan basically works the same way as life insurance; customers choose how large of a plan they would like, and every month, they make payments to their plan.

On the WedLock Divorce Insurance website, you can get a personalized estimation of the costs of your possible divorce. Policy holders must wait

36 months before making a claim for divorce, which deters those who feel they have a high risk of getting a divorce. According to the *Post* article, the owner of the company claims he does not support divorce and offers benefit payouts to those couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

This service, though it could make sense at the time, may have some negative psychological effects on a marriage. By insuring your divorce, you are — somewhere in the back of your mind — telling yourself that there is either a high risk you are going to get a divorce or that the end is near for you and your partner. Divorce rates have been on the rise for years. This insurance may seem like a simple solution, but it may just be setting you up for that which you fear most.

Divorce doesn't concern all Americans. Some are actually just putting off marriage. According to *The Washington Post*, the number of couples living together before marriage rose 13 percent in the last year. For some, this can be considered more financially sound than living on one's own and is almost a test run of marriage. It also would be much less messy if a break up were to occur. No marriage means no divorce. You get your stuff, and whoever was supposed to leave the apartment leaves. It seems much simpler than having to deal with another insurance agency.

KC Aransen is a sophomore psychology major from Arlington.

Questions?
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Continued from page 1 Professors

Rittby, on the other hand, said the extreme opinions of the students who are posting comments pose another concern for the website.

"People who are more prone to give comments are either people that are very unhappy or people who are happy," he said. "The majority of the students are somewhere in between."

"From a personal point of view, any professor likes to at least have good ratings because you are a human being. I don't recommend the website, and I don't discourage it."

Robert Doran

Department of Mathematics Chair and Mathematics professor

Doran said he does not use the website to evaluate professors on a professional level.

Professors are instead rated according to Student Perception of Teaching evaluations, which are taken very seriously by the chairs of each department, he said.

"When I give the [SPOT evaluations] out to my students, I say, 'I want you to be perfectly and completely honest about this,'" he said.

Students should not make light of the evaluations because the comments they leave are used, in part, to determine

whether or not professors receive tenure, raises or promotions, he said.

The popularity of the site even caught the attention of incoming freshmen and their parents during class registration, Doran said.

"They already know which professors they want just on the basis of ratemy-professors.com before they even get here," he said.

Huffines said freshmen want to know what to expect when they enroll in their classes, and the website allows them to do that.

Doran said the site impacts the way classes fill during registration depending on a professors' popularity based on student rankings and comments. Some well-qualified professors do not have the enrollment they should because of their rankings on the website.

Rittby said that although professors do occasionally check their ratings on the website, he rarely hears of professors regularly monitoring their scores. Professors feel flattered when they read positive comments about themselves.

Doran said some of his colleagues receive negative ratings, which are discouraging and even harmful to the professors.

"From a personal point of view, any professor likes to at least have good ratings because you are a human being," he said.

He said use of the website should be left to the discretion of students.

"I don't recommend the website, and I don't discourage it," Doran said.

HEALTH

Professor: alcohol and energy drinks a bad combo

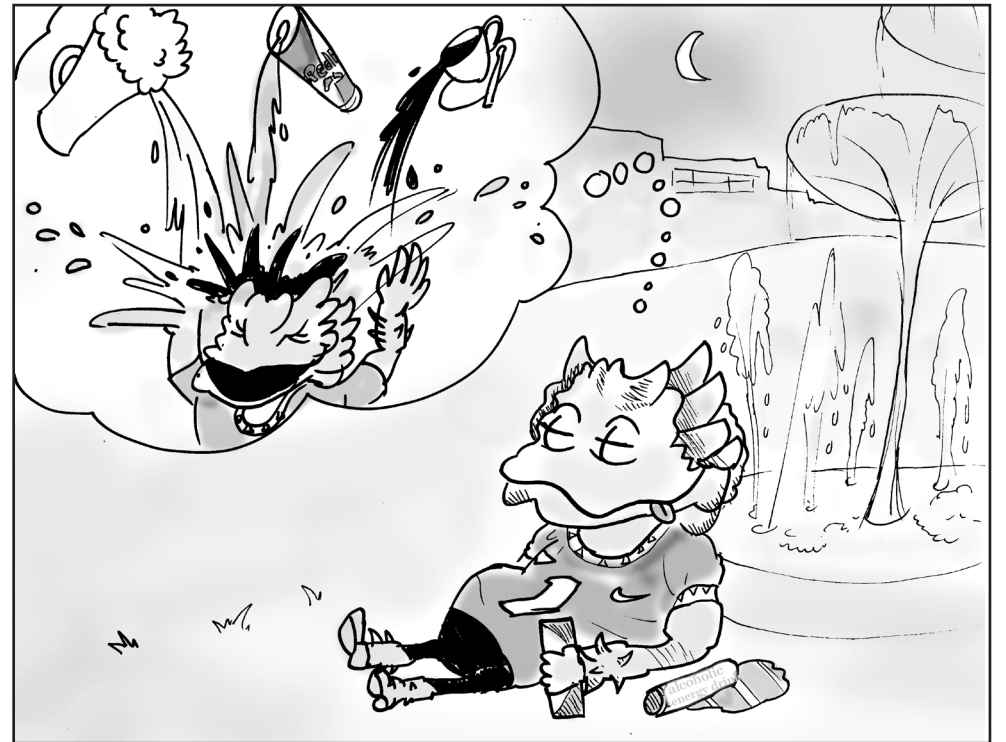


ILLUSTRATION BY PHAT DU

By Lizzie Ferguson

Staff Reporter

According to the Food and Drug Administration, substances that contain dietary supplements, such as energy drinks, are allowed to go on the market before pre-approval. But that does not necessarily mean they are safe for consumption.

According to *Inside Higher Ed*, officials at Ramapo College, a public liberal arts college in New Jersey, banned alcoholic energy drinks on campus this month.

Alcoholic energy drinks mask the effects of alcohol so people don't realize how much they have had to drink, biology instructor Michael Sawey said.

Sawey said people who mix energy drinks and alcohol tend to drink more alcohol than someone who does not mix the two. This can lead to people getting into a situation where they no longer have control of what happens to them as a result of drinking too much alcohol.

Andrea Harmon, a junior supply and value chain management major, said she drinks energy drinks because they keep her going throughout the day, but she no longer mixes energy drinks with alcohol.

"I just didn't like the way it made me feel," Harmon said. "Once I realized it was a depressant and a stimulant I knew it just wasn't good for me, so I just won't mix the two together."

Knowing the effects that alcoholic energy drinks have on the body is something that students need to be aware of so that they can make better decisions when drinking, Harmon said.

Kia Igel, a junior strategic communication major, said students should be better educated on how much alcohol is already in the alcoholic energy drinks.

When people mix their own drinks, they know how much alcohol they put in them,

Igel said. But when the drink is already mixed, people don't really pay attention to how much alcohol is in a drink.

Sawey said the difficulty in trying to ban alcoholic energy drinks is that both alcohol and energy drinks are legal. Both of those components can be bought separately and then mixed together, so it wouldn't do much good to ban them.

"I just didn't like the way it made me feel," Harmon said. "Once I realized it was a depressant and a stimulant I knew it just wasn't good for me, so I just won't mix the two together."

Andrea Harmon

Junior supply and value chain management major

The FDA does not regulate energy drinks because they are considered to be dietary supplements, Sawey said. As a result, there are some energy drinks that have substances other than caffeine, like taurine, whose effects are unknown.

These supplements can be included in the drinks even though the physical effects on the body can be the same as a drug that is regulated by the FDA, Sawey said.

According to *Inside Higher Ed*, last November the FDA threatened to ban alcoholic energy drinks if they could not prove the beverages were safe.

"It's kind of unfortunate that this is an unregulated drug," Sawey said. "I think we are setting ourselves up to see some perhaps dangerous problems of people drinking too much of these."

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ADMINISTRATION

SPOT changes provide faster results

By Amelia Wenzel
Staff Reporter

No. 2 pencils will no longer be necessary for the new Student Perception of Teaching evaluations that will be given this semester, a university official said.

Catherine Wehlburg, assistant provost for institutional effectiveness, said the change will help faculty receive results and comments faster than before, making students' feedback more important than ever.

Students receive SPOT evaluations at the end of each semester in every class. Wehlburg said the evaluations are designed to give professors student feedback and give university departments a way to measure how well they are teaching.

Wehlburg said she wanted students to know that faculty use the results of the evaluations to help with their teaching. She said the most important reason for making changes to the evaluation was for faculty to use it to enhance their courses.

"Now that faculty are going to get results back faster, they can use them much more immediately," Wehlburg said.

She said the main change to the evaluations does not have to do with the questions or ranking system but with formatting and the way the faculty will receive the SPOT forms.

Wehlburg said students will now be able to mark questions in blue or black pen. They also will mark numerical ratings with an "X" instead of filling in bubbles or squares.

She said the director of institutional research who is in charge of SPOT evaluations, Cathy Coghlan, came up with the phrase "X" marks the SPOT" to help students remember the new change.

Wehlburg said the format will change, but the questions will be exactly the same.

Senior economics major Alyssa Kneipp said she wished there were changes to the questions that

are asked.

"I think if they are changing the format, they should change the questions they ask as well because there are way too many," she said.

Kneipp said she liked the idea of being able to just mark ratings with an "X" but thought if the university would cut down on the questions, more students would be inclined to write feedback.

"I think it's great professors will get the feedback before the next semester begins, but I think they would get more written opinions if there were fewer questions," Kneipp said.

Wehlburg said students will not notice a difference except for how the form looks and how to mark it.

She said the evaluation form will have three sections: the questions with numerical ratings, two broad questions of what students liked and didn't like and the comment boxes on the back that correspond with each question.

The university will move to an updated system that will allow faculty to access their evaluations faster and look at their evaluations over time, Wehlburg said. All evaluations will now be stored in a server on campus, allowing professors to do comparisons by categories, such as by item or by question.

"The way the SPOT data will be stored will be [done so that] each individual faculty member can access their own and really use that information in a better way," Wehlburg said.

Another change is that faculty will no longer receive the paper form of the evaluation but will get all the same data and comments. Wehlburg said comment boxes will be given to faculty in a report with a picture of the feedback each student wrote.

"The faculty will get the same information they have always gotten, but they'll get it faster," Wehlburg said.

All evaluations are still anonymous and will be reviewed after grades are turned in, she said.

ALUMNI

Alumna returns to Fort Worth to promote book, reflects on life

By Kayla Travis
Staff Reporter

Alumna and former TCU golfer and first-time author Kris Tschetter returns to Fort Worth for the signing of her book "Mr. Hogan, The Man I Knew" at 5 p.m. today at The Pour House in downtown Fort Worth.

Tschetter said her book is a look back on interactions and moments from her time at the university where she was fortunate enough to meet and see a different side of one of the greatest professional golfers of all time, Ben Hogan.

The two met at Shady Oaks Country Club in Fort Worth where they both were members at the time, she said.

"He was known for being very standoffish and unapproachable, and I was just lucky," she said. "He took me under his wing and mentored me."

While playing golf at the university from 1984-87, Tschetter was a two-time TCU Most Valuable Golfer and a four-year letter-winner. After graduation, Tschetter played on the LPGA Tour and won her first tournament at the 1992 Northgate Computer Classic.

In Fall 2001, she was inducted into the TCU Hall of Fame, and in 2009, Tschetter was TCU's No. 19 career leading scorer.

Tschetter said the university had

everything to do with the material for the book. There would be no book if she had not attended the university, she said.

"If I had not gone to TCU I wouldn't have become a member of Shady Oaks and met Mr. Hogan and become friends and wrote a book about it," she said.

"I was able to learn self motivation and what I needed to do to achieve what I wanted in life."

Kris Tschetter

While at the university, Tschetter learned life lessons, which she was able to take with her and put to use as a professional golfer as well.

"I was able to learn self motivation and what I needed to do to achieve what I wanted in life," she said.

Tschetter said she looks forward to returning to Fort Worth for her the signing of her book, which was published Oct. 14.

Former TCU golfer Kris Tschetter book signing

"Mr. Hogan, The Man I Knew"

When: 5 p.m. Today

Where: The Pour House

INTERNATIONAL

Bond's Aston Martin auctioned for \$5.5 million

By Gregory Katz
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — One of the world's most famous James Bond cars — the specially equipped silver Aston Martin first driven by Sean Connery in "Goldfinger" — was auctioned off Wednesday in London for 2.6 million pounds (\$4.1 million.)

The unique car, which boasts an ejector seat, machine guns, rotating license plates and other spy gear, was initially expected to go for more than 3.5 million pounds (\$5.5 million).

"This is the only genuine, 007 James Bond car," said Mick Walsh, Editor-in-Chief of Classic and Sports Car Magazine.

It was bought by Harry Yeaggy, an American classic cars collector who has a small private museum in Ohio.

"We'd ride it around the streets of London tonight," he told the BBC.

He said the fact the iconic Aston Martin has never been auctioned before meant it had tremendous appeal to collectors.

"It's never been on the market before, and with the classic car scene it's very important to see something new," he said.

He said it was likely the car would end up on public display, perhaps as the centerpiece of an upscale office complex in a city like Los Angeles or Moscow.

Bond's creator, newspaperman and novelist Ian Fleming, had originally placed Bond in a Bentley, which was his own personal car of choice. But the filmmakers put him in the

Aston Martin, which then competed mainly with the Jaguar E-type for the lucrative British and American sports car market.

Aston Martin was seen as a heady mix of Italian design and British engineering.

The silver Aston Martin DB5 coupe auctioned Wednesday was used by Connery to elude various villains in both "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball" — generally regarded as early classics in Hollywood's longest running and most successful film franchise.

It is closely associated with the Connery-era Bond films, which are often preferred by aficionados, who rate him above George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and the current 007, Daniel Craig.

The use of the Aston Martin, with a rear bulletproof shield that could be activated with the push of a dashboard button, provided a major boost for the British carmaker, which received worldwide publicity when the car was featured in "Goldfinger" in 1964.

It was the Bond movies that made Aston Martin a household name, even though its handmade cars remained far too expensive for most.

The street version of the Aston Martin DB5 was released in 1963 and had a top speed of 145 miles (233 kilometers) per hour.

The car auctioned by RM Auctions Automobiles of London is one of two Aston Martins factory-modified for use in the early Bond films, and it is the only surviving example.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Cameron plans for 'Avatar' sequels



20TH CENTURY FOX / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, "Avatar." (AP Photo/20th Century Fox)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Cameron will start writing the scripts for two "Avatar" sequels early next year, aiming to land the first one in theaters four years from now.

Executives at 20th Century Fox announced Wednesday that Cameron has settled on two sequels to the blockbuster hit as his next film projects with plans to begin production in late 2011.

The studio hopes to have the first of the as-yet-untitled sequels in theaters in December 2014, with the third movie in the franchise following in December 2015.

Cameron will decide whether to shoot the films back-to-back after he completes the scripts for the sequels to his sci-fi sensation. Set on the distant Pandora, "Avatar" is the biggest modern blockbuster, with \$2.8 billion at the box office worldwide.

"In the second and third films, which will be self-contained stories that also fulfill a greater story arc, we will not back off the throttle of 'Avatar's' visual and emotional

horsepower, and will continue to explore its themes and characters, which touched the hearts of audiences in all cultures around the world," Cameron said in a news release.

"I'm looking forward to returning to Pandora, a world where our imaginations can run wild."

Cameron had been up in the air on what he would do next, telling reporters as recently as last week that he had not decided whether to shoot another film before returning to his "Avatar" saga.

The studio was anxious to get back into the "Avatar" business.

"We had no higher priority, and can feel no greater joy, than enabling Jim to continue and expand his vision of the world of 'Avatar,'" Fox studio bosses Jim Gianopulos and Tom Rothman said in a statement.

"Avatar" is not only the highest grossing movie of all time, it is a created universe based on the singular imagination and daring of James Cameron, who also raised the consciousness of people worldwide to some of the greatest issues facing our planet."

POLITICS

Obama attempts to rally Democratic Party

By Julie Pace

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Girding for the campaign's homestretch, President Barack Obama is quietly using the powers of his office to fire up a reeling Democratic Party.

Though Obama is off the campaign trail for three full days this week, he's personally targeting key Democratic constituencies from the White House, holding conference calls with union activists and campaign volunteers, and doing interviews with radio stations that draw largely black audiences. Many of these campaign events for the midterm elections are not publicized by the White House.

On Wednesday, Obama will tape an appearance on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," an irreverent comedy show with a host who aims for younger audiences and has become a prominent voice in today's politics.

The president will wrap up the week with a campaign swing through five states where Democratic candidates are locked in tight contests.

It's a homestretch strategy based on how the White House believes the president can be most effective in an election in which his name is not on the ballot but his agenda is up for debate. According to a recent Associated Press-GfK poll, nearly half of likely voters say their votes for the House are intended to send a message about Obama.

White House officials say that while they still see value in the large rallies Obama has been holding across the country this month — he'll headline three more this weekend — they also recognize that with just six days until the election, many voters have already made up their minds.

"You've identified who your voters are," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday, adding that now is the time to get those voters motivated to show up on Election Day.

Obama held a conference call with thousands of union activists Tuesday night to thank them for the hours they've spent knocking on doors and working phone banks to boost turnout for Democratic candidates.

Union officials said Obama was acknowledging the critical role that organized labor's get-out-the-vote machine will play in helping Democrats hold onto as many congressional seats as possible.

Obama will hold a similar call Wednesday with volunteers for Organizing for America, the network that grew out of his presidential campaign, to encourage them in their final get-out-the-vote efforts.

The president took a tough tone Tuesday during an interview with American Urban Radio Networks, telling Democrats their fate in the election is in their own hands.

"If we turn out at the levels we turned out in 2008, we'll win," he said. "It's pretty straightforward."

That argument will be a central part of Obama's message during his final campaign stops, beginning with a trip to Charlottesville, Va., Friday on behalf of embattled Rep. Tom Perriello. Obama will also take part in a canvassing event Saturday in Philadelphia and headline rallies in Bridgeport, Conn., and Chicago the same day.

Obama will be joined by Vice President Joe Biden for a rally in Cleveland on Sunday, his final stop before Tuesday's elections.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a week remaining before the national vote, the Capitol is seen in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010. President Obama and his Democrat majority in Congress could become victims of voter anger over the miserable economy, likely to give Republicans control of the House of Representatives, considerably diminish their Senate majority.

Though the president has made numerous campaign trips in recent weeks, White House communications director Dan Pfeiffer said Obama aides had long planned for the president to spend much of the final week before Election Day in Washington, noting that Obama's duties extend beyond the campaign trail.

"There's always more on the president's plate than can possibly be handled at one time," Pfeiffer said.

Officials say the president has been getting daily updates on the midterms during meetings with his senior advisers. He also gets more detailed guidance on individual races from state and local officials when he's on the road campaigning for candidates.

Though some Democratic incumbents are shying away from tough votes they took in favor of the massive economic stimulus and the health care overhaul, Obama said his party should be "clear and strong" about the steps they took to pull the country back from the brink of a depression.

"You wake up everyday, you do what you think is right, and you make sure that you're not embarrassed about what you thought was right even if it's not politically expedient," Obama said during an interview Wednesday with radio host Michael Smerconish, a conservative who endorsed Obama in the presidential campaign.

With Obama in Washington for much of this week, the White House is relying on Biden and Michelle Obama to rally Democrats on the road. Biden has campaign stops planned every day through Sunday.

The first lady is wrapping up a West Coast campaign swing in Los Angeles on Wednesday and will hit the trail again Monday with events in Las Vegas and Philadelphia.

Associated Press writers Erica Werner and Sam Hananel contributed to this report.

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WAR ON TERROR

Leaked documents confirm treatment of suspects, groups react

By Paisley Dodds and
Raphael G. Satter

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It has been one of the most bitter legal debates during the so-called war on terror — who's to blame for torture and how many degrees of separation are needed to dodge a lawsuit?

The answer may lie in recently leaked documents, which lawyers and human rights groups hope will be a treasure trove of evidence that could prove U.S. and other coalition forces broke a cardinal rule of international law — handing over terror suspects when they had good reason to believe the detainees would be tortured.

The Pentagon has criticized the whistleblowing organization WikiLeaks for publishing nearly 400,000 U.S. military logs detailing daily carnage in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. In July, the same group published 77,000 secret documents on the war in Afghanistan.

The classified logs on Iraq describe detainees abused by Iraqi forces, insurgent bombings, executions and civilians shot at checkpoints by U.S. troops. They also show that, in some cases, U.S. interrogators thought detainees were speaking truthfully when they accused Iraqi security forces of abuse.

Lawyers say the once-secret logs stand apart from other reports about the Iraqi security agen-

cies because the accounts of mistreatment are recorded — and sometimes corroborated — by the Americans themselves.

"It's not as if, if we didn't have these documents, we wouldn't know that torture was widespread," said Matthew Pollard, who works as a legal adviser for Amnesty International, a human rights group which repeatedly warned that abuse was widespread in Iraq. "What's new is confirmation — in their own documents — that they didn't dispute that."

"If a state knows that there's a real risk that a person will be tortured by another state, they simply cannot transfer that person to the other country's custody."

Phil Shiner
Public Interest Lawyers

Phil Shiner, of U.K.-based Public Interest Lawyers, which represents some 130 Iraqi civilians who allege ill-treatment by Britain's armed forces, said the law is unambiguous.

"If a state knows that there's a real risk that a person will be tortured by another state, they simply cannot transfer that person to the other country's custody," he said.

But not everyone agrees that torture is avoidable during war — or just how far an occupying power should go to make sure terror suspects aren't tortured or mistreated — especially in the case of Iraq, which is a sovereign state. Some still dispute the definition of torture or abuse.

"This is an issue that we talked regularly (about) with the Iraqi government, but the same time we have and are continuing to fulfill not only our international obligations, but our obligations to Iraq as a sovereign government," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said on Tuesday, denying that U.S. forces had turned a blind eye to torture.

The leaked war logs carry hundreds of allegations of detainee abuse — from minor assaults during arrests to torture at Iraqi police stations and bases. U.S. forces occasionally intervened — by remonstrating with senior officers or even sleeping over at a police station to prevent late-night abuse — but the U.S. still regularly transferred detainees to Iraqi custody.

Of the 23,000 prisoners held by U.S. authorities in mid-2007, all but 200 or so have now either been released or handed over to Iraqi security forces, according to a recent Amnesty report.

"These documents provide additional evidence for why victims of torture should have their day in American courts," said Anthony Romero, executive director of the New York-based American Civil Liberties Union.

Since the start of the Iraq war, dozens of U.S. or British troops have been convicted of killing and abusing Iraqis.

In the Abu Ghraib scandal where U.S. troops were seen posing next to naked, hooded and leashed Iraqi detainees, most of the defendants were convicted and sent to prison. In the case of the 14-year-old Iraqi girl who was raped and then killed along with her family, a former U.S. Army soldier was sentenced to life. In Britain, a soldier became the country's first convicted war criminal when he pleaded guilty in connection with an Iraqi hotel receptionist who died after a British raid.

But few cases have ever been brought against coalition forces for violating non-refoulement, a principle in international law that prohibits the transfer of people if there are fears of abuse or persecution — a principle that grew out of the massive flow of refugees in World War II.

Under the Bush administration, several terror suspects were transferred to countries like Morocco, where they were interrogated and tortured under a process known as extraordinary rendition. Although the practice is widely condemned, prosecutions have been rare — the first and only convictions were secured last year in Italy for the CIA kidnap of an Egyptian cleric from Milan.

Associated Press writer Hamid Ahmed contributed to this report from Baghdad.

HISTORY

Nuns to auction century-old baseball cards

By Ben Nuckols

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Sister Virginia Muller had never heard of shortstop Honus Wagner.

But she quickly learned the baseball great is a revered figure among collectors, and the most sought-after baseball card in history. And thanks to an unexpected donation, one of the century-old cards belongs to Muller and her order, the Baltimore-based School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The Roman Catholic nuns are auctioning off the card, which despite its poor condition is expected to fetch between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The proceeds will go to their ministries in 35 countries around the world.

The card is part of the T206 series, produced between 1909 and 1911. About 60 Wagner cards are known to exist.

A near-mint-condition T206 Wagner card sold in 2007 for \$2.8 million, the highest price ever for a baseball card. Muller remains aghast that the 1 1/4-inch-by-2 1/2-inch piece of card-board could sell for even a fraction of that.

"It just boggles your mind," Muller told The Associated Press. "I can't remember a time when we have received anything like this."

The brother of a nun who died in 1999 left all his possessions to the order when he died earlier this year. The man's lawyer told Muller he had a Honus Wagner card in a safe-deposit box.

When they opened the box, they found the card, with a typewritten note: "Although damaged, the value of this baseball card should increase exponentially throughout the 21st century!"

The card was unknown to the sports-memorabilia marketplace because the nuns' benefactor had owned it since 1936.

It has a big crease in the upper right-hand cor-

ner, and three of the white borders have been cut off. It has also been laminated. But even in poor condition, a T206 Wagner card is prized by collectors, said Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions at Heritage Auction Galleries in Dallas, which is auctioning the card.

"The T206 set is known as 'The Monster' among collectors. It's just really tough to complete the entire set," Ivy said. The Wagner card is "one of those that's always sought-after, always desirable, and there's not a big population of them. Even in a lower grade, they do have quite a bit of demand and command a strong price."

Wagner, nicknamed "The Flying Dutchman," played for 21 seasons, 18 of them with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He compiled a .328 career batting average and was one of the five original inductees into baseball's Hall of Fame.

The card was printed during the prime of Wagner's career, but the American Tobacco Company ended production soon after it began. Some say Wagner didn't want to promote tobacco products to children. Others believe it was a dispute over money that led to the card being pulled.

On the card, Wagner appears stocky and pale, with his hair parted down the middle and the city on his jersey spelled as "Pittsburg," the official spelling at the time.

The auction ends Nov. 4, and the highest bid was \$60,000 as of Wednesday morning.

Muller is making frequent checks to the Heritage Auction Galleries website — an unusual practice for someone who's taken a vow of poverty. But potential bidders should know that the sale of the card will help people worldwide.

"The money that we receive from this card will be used for the many School Sisters of Notre Dame who are around the world, who need support for their ministries for the poor," Muller said.

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WEATHER

Winds damage homes, injure 11 people as storm heads east

By Mitch Weiss
Associated Press

VALE, N.C. (AP) — Fierce winds demolished three homes and injured 11 people in North Carolina and tornado watches were issued across the Southeast as a massive storm blew east Wednesday after lashing the central U.S.

One emergency responder said a woman and three children in rural Vale had only cuts and minor injuries after the storm late Tuesday tore apart their mobile home and an adjacent house.

"It was a miracle they survived," said Leslie Bowen, the emergency medical technician who found the family standing amid the wreckage. "It was just total chaos."

"Everywhere you walked was just debris," she said about the town in the Appalachian foothills.

Yolanda Corona's family was left wondering where to live after the storm blew out their living room windows, knocked down the chimney and sent a tree through the roof.

Ten relatives were gathered in Corona's home watching television Tuesday night when the wind hit.

"We thought we were going to die. We were just so scared. We didn't have time to do anything. We all just listened and prayed for our lives," Jessica Vargas, Corona's 18-year-old granddaughter, recalled Wednesday morning.

Nobody was seriously hurt, though Corona had some cuts on her leg. The storm making its

way through a big chunk of the nation brought a bit of everything: Strong winds, rain, tornadoes and even some snow for parts of the Midwest. A blizzard warning was in effect for parts of North Dakota, where the National Weather Service reported as much as 8 inches had fallen.

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Karen Hawkins, Carla K. Johnson, Tamara Starks and Lindsey Tanner in Chicago; David Aguilar in Detroit; John Flesher in Traverse City, Mich.; Tom Davies in South Bend, Ind.; Jeannie Nuss in Columbus, Ohio; Doug White-man in Cleveland, Ohio; Gretchen Ehlke in Milwaukee; Sofia A. Mannos in Washington D.C. and Jim Suhr in St. Louis contributed to this story.



CHUCK BURTON / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Pieces of the roof and ceiling lay on the floor of a bedroom in a damaged home in Vale, N.C., Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

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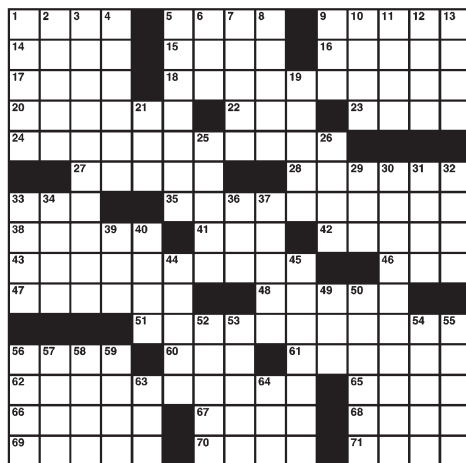
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 - See 12-Down
 - Pararescue gp.
 - Organic compound
 - Hanker for
 - Poet who wrote, "And if they are popular / The phone they monopolize"
 - Libertarian slogan?
 - Rich sponge cake
 - Pithy saying
 - NFL game
 - Finish an ascent?
 - Buying outing
 - Cones and prisms
 - Farm expanse
 - Tidy up in a wood shop?
 - Grads
 - Sandwich request
 - Untrusting
 - Floor an oppressive boss?
 - Useful
 - Proved false
 - "Star Wars" saga nickname
 - Code creator
 - Fabric fold
 - Günter's gripe
 - Radio abbr.
 - 300-pound president
 - With 9-Across, fairy tale ender
 - Great American Ball Park team
 - Checker's dance
 - Flying prefix
 - One of 24 in unjour
 - Sci-fi writer
 - Frederik
 - Sheltered side
 - "That's my take"
 - Desperate
 - Charon's river
 - da-
 - pretentious
 - Juice: Abbr.
 - Orch. work



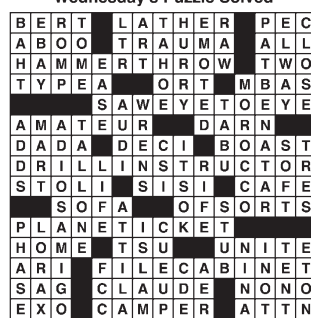
By Jascha Smilack

10/28/10

DOWN

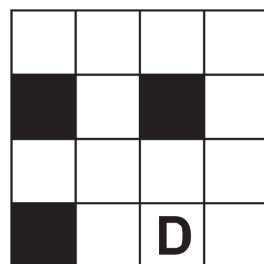
- Airway termini
- Stern with a Strad
- Noodle topper
- Useful
- Proved false
- "Star Wars" saga nickname
- Code creator
- Fabric fold
- Günter's gripe
- Radio abbr.
- 300-pound president
- With 9-Across, fairy tale ender
- Great American Ball Park team
- Checker's dance
- Flying prefix
- One of 24 in unjour
- Sci-fi writer
- Frederik
- Sheltered side
- "That's my take"
- Desperate
- Charon's river
- da-
- pretentious
- Juice: Abbr.
- Orch. work

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



(c)2010 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 10/28/10

- Flirt
- NYSE, e.g.
- Stride
- Caustic
- Edible part of a pecan
- Doo-wop syllable
- Like some supplements
- Building girder
- Many Nissan autos
- Busybody
- John with Grammys
- Green dispensers
- Wrangler, for one
- Copernicus's sci.
- Bonus, in adpeak
- Peke, e.g.
- One might be bummed, briefly



"Dusseldorf, Germany"

How to play:

Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a single continuous spelling path that moves horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter will appear only once in the grid.

Wednesday's Solution



"Lagos, Nigeria"

Sample



"Freeze"

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

Directions

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

See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Wednesday's Solution

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

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TELEVISION

Ads shrink to hold attention, meet budgets

By Emily Fredrix

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — And now, a word from our sponsors. A very brief word.

TV commercials are shrinking along with attention spans and advertising budgets. The 15-second ad is increasingly common, gradually supplanting the 30-second spot just as it knocked off the full-minute pitch decades ago.

For viewers, it means more commercials in a more rapid-fire format. For advertisers, shorter commercials are a way to save some money, and research shows they hold on to more eyeballs than the longer format.

"It used to be that the most valuable thing on the planet was time, and now the most valuable thing on the planet is attention," says John Greening, associate professor at Northwestern University's journalism school and a former executive vice president at ad agency DDB Chicago.

So instead of seeing a lengthier plot line, viewers are treated to the sight of, say, the popular "Old Spice man" riding backward on a horse through various scenes for just 15 seconds.

Or the "most interesting man in the world," the suave, rugged, Spanish-accented character pitching Dos Equis beer, appearing just long enough to turn his head and weigh in on the topic of rollerblading. (Verdict? A deadpan "No.")

The number of 15-second television commercials has jumped more than 70 percent in five years to nearly 5.5 million last year, according to Nielsen. They made up 34 percent of all national ads on the air last year, up from 29 percent in 2005.

Commercial-skipping digital video recorders and distractions such as laptops and phones have shortened viewers' attention spans, says Deborah Mitchell, executive director of the Center for Brand and Product Management at the University of Wisconsin. Viewers are also watching TV streamed on sites like Hulu, where advertisers have less of a presence.

So companies figure: "Why spend money on anything longer anyway? Plus, if they're going to skip our ads, at least we have a better chance of them seeing something if it's really short."

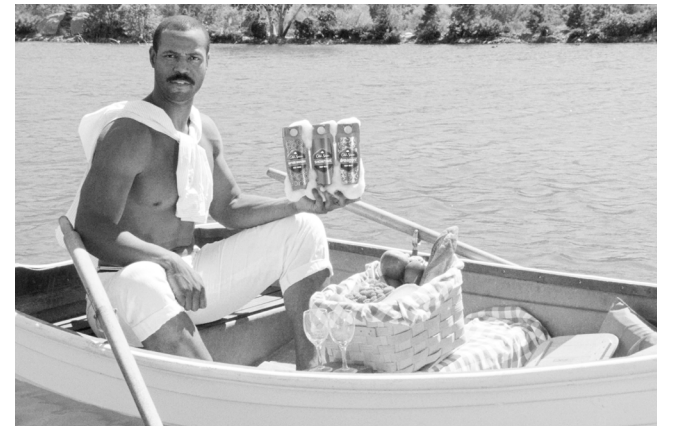
Fifteen-second ads cost about the same per second as longer ones but, of course, cost half as much. A 15-second ad on network TV cost about \$20,000 on average last year, according to Nielsen.

"It becomes a very seductive thing to get your message out there at half the cost," says Mike Sheldon, CEO of advertising agency Deutsch LA, a unit of Interpublic Group.

On average, about 5 percent of an audience viewing a 15-second commercial will give up on it. The number jumps to about 6 percent for 30 seconds and 6.5 percent for 60 seconds, says Jeff Boehme, chief research officer for Kantar Media.

Previously, 15-second ads were mostly edited versions of 30-second spots, but that's changing. Advertisers are making shorter commercials as stand-alones. The length is ideal to remind people of products, stores or prices, but not to introduce them.

More than half of commercials run by packaged-goods companies and 60 percent of fast-food ads are 15 seconds, according to Kantar. The advertisers simply show a picture of the products, flash a price and the brain knows what the marketer means.



PROCTOR & GAMBLE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this video frame provided by Procter & Gamble (Old Spice) and Wieden+Kennedy, a 15-second Old Spice commercial segment is shown.

Take the new campaign for Burger King, which is selling its breakfast options. A 15-second ad airing now features a mailman walking down the street carrying a plate of eggs, pancakes and hash browns. There's no verbal description of the product. Instead he sings: "Did you know that breakfast was served at Burger King? The ultimate breakfast platter. That's what I call delivering."

The shorter ads also mean marketers can be on the air more frequently, even within the same commercial break. For example: During a recent episode of CBS' "How I Met Your Mother," viewers were bombarded with five brief ads in just a minute and a half, including two spots for Dunkin Donuts sandwiched around a more traditional 30-second ad for Aetna.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

European officials say U.S. travel security measures are 'useless and overly intrusive'

By Robert Barr

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — European air officials accused the United States of imposing useless and overly intrusive travel security measures, calling Wednesday for the Obama administration to reexamine policies ranging from online security checks to X-raying shoes.

British Airways' chairman made the first in a wave of complaints, saying in a speech to airport operators that removing shoes and taking laptops out of bags were "completely redundant" measures demanded by the U.S.

He was joined less than 24 hours later by British pilots, the owner of Heathrow airport, other European airlines, and the European Union. The EU submitted formal objections to a program that requires U.S.-bound travelers from 35 nations to complete online security clearance before departure. It called the system burdensome and said it could violate travelers' privacy.

The EU said the U.S. Electronic System for Travel Authorization would process some 13 million registrations from Europeans in 2009 alone. The program applies to Europeans who don't need visas to travel to the U.S.

The EU said it was "inconsistent with the often repeated commitment by the U.S. to facilitate trans-Atlantic mobility and legitimate travel and trade in a secure environment."

British Airways chairman Martin Broughton told the annual conference of the U.K. Airport Operators Association that measures like separate examinations of shoes and laptops appeared to be unnecessary and were inconsistently applied in different airports.

"America does not do internally a lot of the things they demand that we do," Broughton said, calling on British authorities not to "kowtow to the Americans every time they

wanted something done."

"We shouldn't stand for that. We should say, 'We'll only do things which we consider to be essential and that you Americans also consider essential,'" the Financial Times quoted him as saying. BA confirmed that the report was accurate.

In Washington, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration said it "works closely with our international partners to ensure the best possible security. We constantly review and evolve our security measures based on the latest intelligence."

Colin Matthews, chief executive of BAA PLC, which owns Heathrow airport, says security on trans-Atlantic travel was subject regulations by European and U.K. authorities and the United States, and that led to some redundancies.

"We could certainly do a better job for customers if we can rationalize them," Matthews said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"There are some aspects which have been frustrating to everyone, but equally everyone understands we have to keep the passenger safe," Matthews said.

BA's rival, Virgin Atlantic, joined in complaints about the safety regime.

"We have said for many years that new technology is urgently needed to ensure that security checks in airports are effective but quicker and less intrusive on our passengers," Virgin Atlantic said in a statement.

Alan West, the security minister in the last British government, said a multinational agreement could make the checks "much less onerous."

Associated Press writers Eileen Sullivan, Robert Wielaard and Mary Lane contributed to this report.

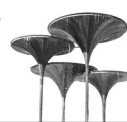


TOM HEVEZI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Passengers wait outside the North Terminal at Britain's Gatwick Airport in this Thursday Aug. 10, 2006 file photo following a security alert which closed European airspace.

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SPORTS



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS


TCU running back Ed Wesley (34) is brought down by Air Force's Chris Miller (3) with help from teammates in the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010, in Fort Worth, Texas.



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FOOTBALL

Cohen: Attendance not an issue

By Sara Humphrey

News Now

Attendance at TCU football games has been under scrutiny by ESPN.com in the past. Writers claimed the university was lacking in fan support, but last season's attendance rate at the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl should have proved skeptics, Director of Athletics Media Relations Mark Cohen said.

In a 2008 article on ESPN.com, reporter Graham Watson commented on Horned Frogs fan support writing, "TCU's fan support, or lack thereof..."

Watson also reported that when selecting bowl game match ups, each bowl committee uses its knowledge of fans willing to travel. She also quoted the executive director of the Las Vegas Bowl Tina Kunzer-Murphy who said the Mountain West Conference has "horrible travelers."

Cohen said he could not be more proud of attendance at last year's Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and that the turnout should have proved Watson wrong.

"Twenty thousand traveling to the Fiesta Bowl was a great statement," Cohen said. "I think it eliminated any doubts that people would have [about] whether TCU would travel to a bowl game half way across the country."

This season, the Horned Frogs sold out Amon G. Carter Stadium twice for two of the top-five highest attendances in TCU history. The Sept. 18 game against Baylor University ranked second in attendance with a crowd of 47,393 fans and Saturday's game against the Air Force Academy had the fifth-largest atten-

dance record of 46,096.

Cohen said attendance was 38,000 when the Horned Frogs played the University of Wyoming this year, which was played during the university's fall break.

"It's fall break," Cohen said. "The students are gone, there's four other Division I football games going on in the metroplex, the [Texas] Rangers had a playoff game, and we still had 38,000 in attendance."

According to the TCU Athletics Media Relations 2010 football fact book, TCU has an average of 43,021 attendees over the last seven football home games, 97 percent of Amon G. Carter Stadium capacity.

Cohen said he sees nothing but growth in attendance in the future of Horned Frog athletics.

"Now the kids that are growing up through elementary school...have only known TCU as a school that wins 11 games a year," Cohen said. "They are growing up seeing TCU winning."

The new stadium renovations, expected to take place after the last home game on Nov. 13, are only going to help bring more fans to the games.

"It is going to be a great place for fans to attend a game," he said.

During the 2011 season, while areas of the stadium are undergoing renovation, it will seat between 30,000 and 35,000 fans, he said.

When finished, Cohen said, it will seat around 40,000; however it was built to be expandable.

"Later, down the road, it could eventually seat 50,000," Cohen said.

NASCAR

Gordon to be sponsored by AARP

By Jenna Fryer

Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Rick Hendrick never panicked as the season stretched on and he still didn't have a sponsorship deal for Jeff Gordon.

Why? Because he always had a contingency plan to fall back on. It gave him the ability to be discerning when it came to the four-time NASCAR champion.

Then came the potential pairing with the AARP Foundation, which began talks on a sponsorship program with Hendrick Motorsports in September. The deal quickly fell into place, and the foundation's "Drive to End Hunger" campaign was announced Wednesday as Gordon's primary sponsor for the next three years.

"We had a deal in our pocket. It was a verbal agreement," Hendrick said of the second suitor, which he refused to identify. "But this one came only faster, quicker and had more potential."

More potential for both sides.

The cause-related sponsorship is the first of its kind to step in as primary sponsor for a major race team. It's a good fit for Hendrick, who has devoted a considerable amount of time and money to

charitable causes.

The American Association of Retired Persons plans to use its sponsorship to raise both money and awareness of hunger in America. Statistics given by AARP on Wednesday said an estimated 51 million Americans who go hungry each night, and six million are over the age of 60.

"We had a deal in our pocket. It was a verbal agreement. But this one came only faster, quicker and had more potential."

Rick Hendrick

CEO of Hendrick Motorsports

Jo Ann Jenkins, president of the AARP Foundation, said the numbers are startling to most Americans, and a the partnership with Gordon should lead to increased donations. But earning charitable donations from NASCAR fans — according to demographics released by NASCAR in 2007, 53 percent of its fan base have an average income of below \$50,000 — could be difficult as they still try to recover from the recession.

SPORTS

ANALYSIS

'Perfect storm' needed for shot at title

Tori Cummings

When the new BCS polls were released this week, Auburn was the new No. 1 team after Oklahoma fell to then-No. 18 Missouri.

The No. 1 teams in the country have been falling like dominoes since Alabama lost to South Carolina on Oct. 9. That would mean it's only a matter of time before TCU takes over that No. 1 spot and we should start booking our tickets to Glendale and the title game, right?

I wouldn't count on it.

Since the inception of the BCS in 1998, mid-major teams have cracked the system five times. Utah, Hawaii and TCU each went to a BCS bowl game once and Boise State University has gone twice. However, none of these games were the title game. Mid-major teams have never been close to grabbing either of the top two spots in the BCS rankings, the only way to get in the national title. This year, however, BSU and TCU are threatening to mess up the system and break that impenetrable ceiling.

Everyone has been talking about TCU and BSU and the possibility of either team making the title game. Unfortunately for Horned Frog fans, voters still recall that unfortunate visual image of BSU beating TCU in last year's Fiesta Bowl. Unless BSU falls, which is highly unlikely given their schedule, TCU will have to hope a win over Utah will be enough to vault the frogs over the Broncos.

Even then, the Frogs may be looking on from the outside. What about the Frogs' schedule would convince voters to put them ahead of an undefeated Oregon or Auburn or even a one-loss Alabama team?

Just two weeks after losing the No. 1 ranking, Alabama has already climbed back to No. 6 in the AP poll and No. 7 in the BCS. They still have games against No. 1 Auburn, LSU and possibly the SEC championship game left to impress the voters. Those wins could be enough to catapult Alabama over TCU and BSU.

The BCS poll is a combination of human voting and computers. One-third of the poll is based on computer calculation and the remaining two-thirds is based on the Coaches' Poll and the Harris Interactive Poll. The human element can work in the Frogs' favor if they continue to be impressive on the field. The computer, on the other hand, probably won't help the Frogs.

Jerry Palm of CollegeRPI.com, along with other analysts, has concluded that BSU and TCU have extremely long odds of making the title game even if they are the only two undefeated teams in the nation. Computer rankings look beyond the record into things like strength of schedule, which is weak for both teams in comparison to teams like Alabama and Auburn.

The Frogs, as well as the Broncos, need a perfect storm if they're going to book a trip to Glendale. As things stand right now, TCU is projected to go to either the Rose Bowl in Pasadena or the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Both are respected BCS bowls that will bring in generous amounts of money for the school and Mountain West Conference. Unfortunately, the Frogs' chances to play for a national title this year are slim. They just have to keep fighting and prove they are a top-tier team and they will eventually get their fair shot at the title.

Tori Cummings is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Boise, Idaho.



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

TCU quarterback Andy Dalton (14) keeps the ball for a short run in the first half of the Oct. 23 game against Air Force.

NCAA

College athletes graduating at record rates

By Michael Marot

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA said Wednesday that college athletes are graduating at record rates and the latest numbers show major improvement among football and some men's basketball players.

The annual Graduation Success Rate shows 79 percent of all athletes entering college between 2000-01 and 2003-04 earned degrees within six years, matching last year's record mark. The freshman class of 2003-04 also graduated at a rate of 79 percent, matching the record of the past two years.

Federal numbers show the '03-'04 class graduated at a higher rate, 64 percent, than the overall student body, 63 percent. The NCAA's numbers are higher than those released by the federal government because the NCAA data accounts for transfer students who earn degrees. The federal rate does not.

The grad rate for football players jumped from 66 percent in the last report to 69 percent for players who entered college in 2003-04.

And while the overall men's basketball number, 66 percent, was the same as last year, the number of black basketball players who graduated increased three points from 2009, going from 57 percent to a record-high 60.

That's a 14-point jump since the NCAA first started calculating grad rates nine years ago.

Additional data shows grad rates at 18 of the top 25 schools in the BCS standings were at least 60 percent under the four-year measures. Stanford (86 percent), Miami

(81 percent), Iowa and Virginia Tech (79) and Missouri (71) posted the best scores. Only two schools, Oklahoma (44) and Arizona (48), fell below 50 percent in both measures.

But in men's basketball, 12 of the teams in the final Top 25 poll produced grad rates of 50 percent or worse under NCAA calculations. Four schools scored in the 30s — California (30), Connecticut (31), Michigan and Georgia Tech (36). Villanova and Illinois each had perfect scores, 100 percent.

Duke, the national champion, and Butler, the national runner-up, were both at 83 percent.

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TCU
DAILY
SKIFF



OPINION

Boise State and TCU have the chance to be a BCS buster.
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SPORTS

SOCCER

Soccer plays its last game of the season Saturday at home. Read more in the weekend preview. **Tomorrow**



RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ / MCT

TCU's Taylor Featherston hits a triple, driving in two runs against Baylor during the NCAA Fort Worth Regional Tournament at Lupton Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, June 6, 2010.

Coach disagrees with change in bat standard

By Nathan Wall

News Now

Recently, the NCAA changed the standard baseball bat used in college baseball, requiring baseball bats made with an aluminum composition, altering the way the balls come off the bats.

Jim Schlossnagle, head baseball coach for the Horned Frogs, said his team is getting used to the new way the ball comes off the bat, but thought last year's design was perfectly fine.

"Not every college coach had a vote in the way this went down, which is disappointing," he said. "There is some documentation of safety issues; I don't believe that. I thought the bats we had last year were perfect for college baseball."

The new bat is designed to make the sweet spot, the spot on a bat where contact allows for the best possible hit, much smaller than in previous years. The hope was to limit player and fan injuries as well as shorten the games to help fit a three-hour television window, he said. Schlossnagle said he that he wouldn't have voted for a change in bats if asked. He said that although he disagreed with the decision, every team in college baseball would have to make the same transitions as his team. He didn't think the new bats would affect his teams game plan too much and said it would help out his already strong pitching staff at home, in what was already considered more of a pitchers park.

The last time a change in bat design was made was after the 1998 College World Series final, in which the University of Southern California and Arizona State University combined for an astonishing 35 runs. Schlossnagle said the design of bat used in that game was ridiculous.

Junior outfielder Jason Coats said his team is already familiar with the new bat design, having used it in practice since the end of last season.

"Stats might be down a little bit this year," Coats said. "I mean, everyone's going to have to play with them so I don't think it's going to be that big a deal."

All hitters will have to do is keep their hitting mechanics in line, square up and hit the ball and their stats will be normal, Coats said.

Pitchers seem to be embracing the change in bat design.

Senior Trent Appleby, Horned Frog pitcher, said the ball doesn't fly off the bats anymore, which was great for him for a number of reasons.

"The ball doesn't carry as much as (it did with) the aluminum bat's...they say it's to make it safer, but it saves some home runs for me," he said. "You can put the ball in the strike zone more and just let the [hitter] put the ball in play because it's not gonna carry."

When asked if his first pitch of the 2011 season will be right down the middle, Appleby laughed and shook his head no.

"I'll definitely throw some more strikes, but you gotta keep them out of the middle," he said.

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