



See how the swimming and diving teams did in their meet against BYU.

Sports, page 10



Dining plan's failure is similar to financial crisis in terms of predictability. Tuesday in Opinion



Princeton Review ranks the Neeley School of Business among the best business schools. Tuesday in News

Study: Educators more likely to donate to Dems.

By Chance Welch
Staff Reporter

Donations from TCU faculty to presidential campaigns have nothing to do with the way students are taught, several professors said.

The site fundrace.huffingtonpost.com showed that on the list of individual donors who identified their employer as "Texas Christian University" or "TCU" there were five Republican donors, who gave a total of \$4,231, and 13 Democratic donors who gave a total of \$13,634.

Several professors who appear on the list declined to comment, citing issues such as impartiality in the classroom. One TCU employee who appeared on the list, Janet Spittler, an assistant professor of religion, said the donations don't have an effect on the kind of ideas discussed between faculty and students in class.

"I would never advocate a candidate from the front of a classroom, but I think the idea of preserving the notion that I am as a professor, am somehow perfectly objective is impossible," Spittler said. "I would rather be open and encourage the open exchange of

ideas, particularly with students outside of the classroom. It doesn't come up a lot in ancient Greek class, but I don't think it's necessary and I don't think it's particularly helpful to try to conceal my perspective on political or social justice issues."

The list shows Spittler gave \$466 and \$517 in separate donations to Barack Obama's campaign. Spittler, who has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago where Obama taught at the law school, lived in Chicago's Hyde Park area near the Obama family until 2007. Spittler said specific issues like global warming and intelligent design are probably important

within the education sector, but that part of Obama's presidential platform about making college more affordable is attractive to professors.

The list comes on the heels of data that show college faculty and other educators donated more than 11 times to Barack Obama than to John McCain. According to the report, the Obama campaign raised \$19,345,775 compared to \$1,646,670 for the McCain campaign.

That data was compiled by the Center for

SEE DONATIONS · PAGE 2

TOP DVD SALES

- 1 Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
- 2 Iron Man
- 3 Sleeping Beauty
- 4 You Don't Mess With the Zohan
- 5 Sex and the City: The Movie
- 6 The Happening
- 7 Forgetting Sarah Marshall
- 8 Transformers
- 9 Indiana Jones: The Complete Adventure Collection
- 10 I Am Legend

—Billboard



Find out the candidates' views on same-sex marriage, the environment, the war on terrorism and health care. Features, page 5

PECULIAR FACT

HANOI, Vietnam — Faced with mounting public criticism, Vietnam's Health Ministry suspended a widely ridiculed plan to ban short, thin and small-chested motorbike drivers.

— Associated Press



Halloween is overrated. Opinion, Page 3

TODAY'S WEATHER

81 58
HIGH LOW
Sunny

Tomorrow: Partly Cloudy
82 / 58

Sunday: Mostly Sunny
83 / 58



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

HEAD ON



ROSE BACA / Staff Photographer

A sport utility vehicle sits on the sidewalk in front of Moudy Building on Thursday after it collided into another car and skidded over the curb.

Two cars collide outside Moudy Building

By Travis L. Brown and
Chelsie French
Staff Reporters

Two cars collided outside the Moudy Building on Thursday, leaving a mess of glass and fenders in the middle of University Drive.

Senior communication studies major Nicole Price, who witnessed the accident,

said a silver Toyota Corolla that was making a left turn onto Princeton Street collided with an oncoming black Volvo XC90 at about 5 p.m. Wednesday. A Fort Worth Transportation Authority bus was stopped in the inside lane before the crosswalk of the intersection, blocking the view of both drivers, Price said. The cars hit head on as the Corolla was making the turn, sending the Volvo onto the curb and into a small

tree on the sidewalk, Price said.

The Corolla's front end was smashed, causing the car to spin back into the left turn lane, facing the opposite direction.

A Fort Worth police officer said neither driver was severely injured. The driver of the Volvo said she suffered minor scrapes and bruises.

The driver of the Corolla declined to comment.

Group that aims to help stray cats on

By Jackie Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

Librarian Cari Alexander had no idea how difficult helping TCU's local strays would be when she developed Frogs and Cats Together, a feral cat organization, four years ago.

Frogs and Cats Together at TCU aims to lower the feral cat population by conducting a trap, neuter and release program. In this program, stray cats are spayed or neutered and released back into the community in an attempt to keep them from breeding.

According to the Web site for the Feral Friends Animal Rescue and Assistance, there are an estimated 65 million feral cats living in the United States, and 350,000 live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The City of Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Division suggests pet owners spay and neuter their pets to control the animal population.

Frogs and Cats Together is responsible for

fixing 48 cats and kittens and lowering the cat population from 10 to eight cats on campus, Alexander said. Trap-neuter-release is a more favorable solution than euthanasia because of a vacuum effect, she said.

"The vacuum effect says if you move out a bunch of cats, a bunch more will move in," Alexander said. "If there is food, water or shelter cats will be there and is why all college campuses have them."

The organization continues to seek official recognition from the university, Alexander said.

Campus organizations can opt for several methods to be recognized by the university as an official organization, Omar Estrada Torres, assistant director for TCU Leadership Center and Student Development Services, said.

"Any group on campus, Frogs and Cats Together included, that is interested in obtaining official university recognition must complete an application for recognition with

the Office of Student Organizations," Torres said.

"Once that application is completed, our office conducts a comprehensive review of the application, and determines their eligibility for recognition," Torres said.

Because the organization is a faculty-run organization, it has not received official status from the university, Alexander said.

"We don't have a stable amount of student involvement," Alexander said. "Students come and go and the foundation of our organization is the faculty and staff."

Campus organizations need to have continuous student involvement to maintain official status, Alexander said.

Alexander said another issue that has kept the organization from becoming an official organization is potential liabilities or health risks to students. A large population of stray animals poses health and sani-

Students start online bookstore

Site's founder says it will offer affordable books

By Kristin Butler
Staff Reporter

The TCU Barnes and Noble Bookstore is facing competition from students offering to sell cheaper books and deliver them for free.

Josh Dennis, founder of Frogbookstore.com, said expensive books at the TCU Bookstore prompted him to start his own business, which launched last week.

"I want to help students and created a business that makes it easier and cheaper for students to buy books for classes," the junior entrepreneurial management and finance and real estate major said. "This way students won't get frustrated."

Dennis said because he is a TCU student, he has been in the position of buying books and spending too much money, so he wants to cater to the typical TCU student's needs. All students have to do is go to the Web site, type in the course and department numbers, and he and a team of three will find the specific books TCU requires for the class, he said.

Dennis said the Web site is registered as a small business through the Tarrant County Courthouse.

"I have a passion for entrepreneurship and saw an opportunity and jumped to it," Dennis said.

The books are supplied through a part-

SEE BOOKSTORE · PAGE 2

University wins three clean air awards

By Melissa Hawkes
Staff reporter

The university walked away with three awards granted by the North Texas Clean Air Coalition.

The three awards received were Employer of the Year, the Community Impact Award and the Commute Initiatives Award.

"Winning the Employer of the Year Award really shocked me because there is a lot of competition, and for TCU to go across all the categories and win was surprising," said Dr. Tim Barth, a psychology professor and committee member of the NTCAC.

Ken Morgan, director of the TCU Energy Institute, said the university is a large operation, with 8,000 to 10,000 people working for it.

"When you have that many and you see all the programs because of the student interest, the faculty interest, the Institute of Environmental Studies and the Energy Institute, it added up pretty good on paper," Morgan said.

Jennifer Cohen, project director for the NTCAC, said TCU is definitely a

SEE CATS · PAGE 2

SEE CLEAN · PAGE 2

NEWS

DONATIONS

continued from page 1

Responsive Politics, a non-partisan group who operates the Web site, www.opensecrets.org. The site posts donor information about all of the presidential candidates from the major parties as well as fundraising information for members of Congress. The numbers were calculated from Political Action Committees (PACs) and individual contributions of more than \$200 as reported to the Federal Election Commission.

Adam Schiffer, assistant professor of political science, said there's a valid argument for more academic diversity in classrooms, but this doesn't support that case. Schiffer said he didn't donate to either candidate's campaign and doesn't have the income to give significantly.

"Even if, let's say I did give \$1,000 to Barack Obama, so what? The proof is in the pudding," Schiffer said. "How are my classes? Am I fair to all students? Does my syllabus reflect a diversity of scholarship on American politics? None of that has anything to do with what I do in my personal life any more than what restaurants I take my wife to."

Schiffer said there's not much to be determined from the data. He said a professor can keep political activities in his or her personal life separate from their job but that most professors stay out of fundraising and volunteering.

"We tend to be fairly non-active for the most part considering that in colleges you have some of the nation's foremost experts on politics, it's actually surprising how little we do," Schiffer said.

More could be learned by seeing how different academic departments donate to the presidential campaigns, Schiffer said. Schiffer said professors who teach English and other humanities and social sciences classes will lean to the left, but professors in the business school will lean toward Republican candidates.

Thomas Moeller, assistant professor of finance, said he doesn't have any numbers but most professors in the

Donations from the Education Sector

Barack Obama - \$19,345,775
Hilary Clinton - \$4,295,204
John McCain - \$1,646,670
Total to all of the presidential candidates - \$28,774,299
Democrats - 86.9%
Republicans - 12.8%
 -Center for Responsive Politics

Neeley School of Business are probably more conservative based on their experiences in their careers. Moeller said there are many in the business world who cross over to teaching and still vote for conservative candidates.

"I think there's a traditional view of the Republican as low taxes, deregulation and for businesses, that's appealing. For people who work at businesses they see that as an advantage and often times vote accordingly," Moeller said.

Moeller said public funding is a large part of the education sector, and Democrats are more likely to be in favor for more government funding for education. Professors and other educators will be leaning toward the party who wants to put more money into the education system, Moeller said.

Eric Cox, an assistant professor of political science, said Obama has been making gains in many voter demographics as well as some that aren't considered friendly to democratic candidates like voters in the military. Cox said he hasn't donated to either presidential campaign this election.

Cox said it remains to be seen if the high numbers are a result of a steady stream of donations to the Democratic candidate or if this is a unique election. He said the data is an incomplete picture of how college faculty gives because it doesn't figure in individual donations under \$200.

Massie Ritsch, communications director for the Center for Responsive Politics, said campaigns have to report donors who have given more than \$200. The group can't do analysis for smaller donors because there is no data for donors under \$200 in FEC reports.

CLEAN AIR

continued from page 1

leader in the Tarrant County area and other businesses call TCU for advice about how they can start implementing cleaner initiatives.

The Commute Initiatives award was received because of the university's transit pass that gives every faculty, staff and student a free transit pass for the Trinity Railroad Express and the T, the bus system in Fort Worth, Morgan said.

He said the Community Impact

Award was based on the university's effort to work with the community and demonstrate going green on campus by recycling and implementing programs such as the purple bike program.

This is TCU's first year to take part in the event, and Morgan said he hopes TCU will win even more awards next year. He said the University of Texas at Arlington wants to take part in the competition next year, and he hopes more universities will follow in the clean air effort.

The NTCAC is nonprofit organization designed to reach out to the business community, to educate, engage and recognize it for all their voluntary effort in cleaner initiatives, Cohen said.

She said the NTCAC is compiled of nine counties in the North Texas area. The NTCAC gave out 13 awards and 24 companies competed for the awards, Cohen said.

Air quality in North Texas is not at the level it should be at, according to Environmental Inspection Agency standards and if North

Texas can't get back to EPA standards then there will be sanctions against the area, Barth said.

Cohen said EPA standards only allow a certain number of particles per billion to be emitted into the air in North Texas, such as particles in car smog. The standard is 85 parts per billion. Currently, North Texas emits 92 particles per billion, so Tarrant County does not meet the standard, she said.

In 2010, the EPA plans to adopt an even lower standard of 75 parts per billion, Cohen said.

CATS

continued from page 1

tation risks to the population in the form of opened trash bags or potential fleas, which is why there is a need for other programs, Alexander said.

"A common misconception is that these cats harbor fleas and will scratch anyone who tries to touch them," Alexander said. In addition to this misconception, the organization cannot shelter or maintain cat colonies as they are not an official organization, she said.

"There are other things we can do like campus education, better maintenance of the colonies, low-cost spay and neuter help, build a Web site to direct people to help with their animals," Alexander said.

Anne Thomason, a representative for the city of Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Division, said it is working with the society as part of a pilot program for other organizations that aim to lower the feral cat population in Fort Worth. Results from the program will allow amendments to a city ordinance that regulates the number of orga-

"A common misconception is that these cats harbor fleas and will scratch anyone who tries to touch them..."

Cari Alexander
 developer of Frogs and Cats Together.

nizations and how many cats they can take care of, Thomason said.

A new ordinance is still under consideration at the Fort Worth Law Department, Thomason said. Thomason declined to provide details about the ordinance under consideration. Under the current ordinance, stray animals, or animals without the care of an owner, can be impounded at any time, according to the Fort Worth City Code and Charter.

BOOKSTORE

continued from page 1

nership with wholesale book dealer Texas Book Company, he said.

A single package will be delivered to any the dorm, apartment or house in the TCU area free of charge, Dennis said. Books will be delivered within 14 business days and students can return a book they do not need or want within 30 days.

The campus bookstore has a similar offer that allows students to submit a request online, and bookstore employees will find the books students need.

Dennis said he guarantees 20-60 percent savings compared to bookstore prices. He said his business will also help students find a way to sell back the books because the store does not offer buyback through the site.

Liisa Lewis, manager of the TCU Bookstore, said she would not comment until she had looked at the Web site.

Dennis said that as an incentive, for each person a customer refers, they will get \$10 toward their next order at Frogbookstore.com. If his

revenue goes as planned, he said he will be hiring more students to work with him.

Caitlyn Nygaard, a junior graphic design major, said that not being able to buy the books on send-home would be her only problem, but avoiding the book buying hassle would be great.

"I don't live on campus, so it would be a relief to not have to stand in long lines to purchase heavy books," she said.

Rachel Schulte, a junior fashion merchandising major, said she is unsure of buying books online because unlike the bookstore she does not have someone to ask to make sure the books are correct.

She said the fact that Dennis' Web site allows for a money back guarantee and book returns makes her feel more at ease about using the site.

Solomon Yisa, a freshman pre-business major, said he is afraid of technical difficulties through the site but because it is run by TCU students he is more likely to trust them.

"If the site makes it easier and cheaper for students, why not use it?" Yisa said.

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

Students' Web bookstore creatively addresses need

The Neeley School of Business has a strong entrepreneurial background. It seems only natural, then, for the TCU Bookstore to have some competition from one bright business student.

Horned Frog entrepreneur Josh Dennis, who founded Frogbookstore.com, and a team of three, claims to offer 20 to 60 percent discounts off the Barnes & Noble bookstore on campus and free delivery straight to the student's door, provided it's in the TCU area. Students just type in their course and department numbers and wait for the package to show up.

Dennis saw an area of need on campus and filled it with a savvy business idea that could give the TCU bookstore a run for its money — literally and figuratively.

Putting a college education to good use is, after all, why TCU attracts some of America's brightest minds. If it happens to butt heads with a revenue-driven university entity, that's just a hazard of producing smart students.

Books from the university are already too expensive, and students are tired of shelling out the money for them — Daily Skiff opinion columns can attest to that — and it's about time somebody stepped in to give students some relief from dropping the price of a down payment on a new car for books each semester.

Bills are starting to pile up on just about everybody nowadays, and students can use every opportunity they can get to shave a bit of the cost off an already rising TCU education.

Students should take advantage of good old American capitalism and check prices on Frogbookstore.com before emptying their wallets for books from the corner of Berry and University. At a campus that's trying to go green, it doesn't hurt to save some either.

Managing editor Joe Zigtema for the editorial board.

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

Halloween lame holiday, waste of effort, expenses



PATRICIA ESPINOSA

Halloween. Most take full advantage of this unique holiday, for lack of a better word. It's a night full of spooks, tricks, treats and booze. This is the time of year that supposedly anyone, young and old, can enjoy to its fullest potential.

The fun begins when it's time to show off your final purchases and hope that the one person you can't stand isn't wearing the same outfit, or worse, looks better in it.

Unfortunately, I'm not most people. To me, Halloween is the most unenjoyable time of the year. It's so overrated and a complete waste of time, at least at my age.

When I was younger, I couldn't wait for Halloween. I could pretend to be somebody or something else, and it was cool. However, I never did understand why my mom would get so frustrated with me around this time.

That is until now. I completely understand why it was such a hassle to find a costume, buy candy, stay up late, mingle with people you don't know and for what? Sure, it's a great time for children; dressing up in fun outfits and

hanging out with your friends is fun. There's not a care in the world, and your mom and dad take care of everything. But now that I am in college and have to handle Halloween all on my own, my views of this grand festivity have changed.

Every year, I have to find a costume that, no matter what time of year it is, will cost me a good \$40. This means I have to find time out of my already busy schedule to fight the crowds at costume shops to find the costume I want in my size. Only it never really works out that way. You claw your way through a mob of last minute shoppers to an open space at the counter, furiously pointing out the outfit you want to the lady who's about to give the last one to the young lady next to you. Great. Now all that's left is for her to try it on with her non-deodorized arm pits, leaving half of her orange face around the collar for you to admire as you get second dibs on it.

Is it worth it? Not when you know that, regardless of how cute the costume may be, you're going to walk into a dressing room that's as big as the sorority house closets with a mirror that makes you look 50 pounds heavier. Five characters later, you're pulling out your credit card to pay for a costume you settled for. Fantastic.

The shopping... that's only the beginning. The fun begins when it's time to show off your final purchases and hope that the one person you can't stand isn't wearing the same outfit, or worse, looks better in it. Don't get me wrong, the parties are fun, to an extent. But honestly, to me, it's just another party. Only this time, people can dress as provocatively as they like without feeling like a total sleaze. At the end of the night, at my age, you get no candy, and you have a \$40 costume that you can't wear next year. Because, let's face it, been there, done that.

Halloween. It can be fun when you're young. But seriously? Why don't we just all cut out the sugar coating and just be real: you want to dress up in a less-than-appealing outfit to get completely annihilated and take goofy pictures. Fine. Just definitely not for me. Nope. I'll be spending my Halloween with some great friends, hanging out, doing what I want to do, and I'll have \$40 extra than you.

Opinion editor Patricia Espinosa is a junior broadcast journalism major from Mission.



Wayne Stayskal is an editorial cartoonist for the Tampa Tribune.

YOUR VIEW opinion@dailyskiff.com

Political cartoons should focus on issues

Is there no one else at The Skiff who can draw? I have yet to see an editorial cartoon from Lana Blocker that was anything but a blatantly personal attack on Sen. Obama. Where are the editorial cartoons slinging arrows at Sen. McCain?

I appreciate editorial cartoons and political commentary, but today's cartoon plays loose and fast with the line between genuine criticism and purely fictional fear-mongering. The best editorial cartoonists lampoon the idiosyncrasies and inconsistencies of all sides of an issue without resorting to half-truths and mischaracterizations. Ms. Blocker has jumped right past that into purely

personal attacks against Sen. Obama.

The Skiff ran an editorial yesterday by a writer asking the electorate and the media to focus on the issues — might I recommend he have that conversation with his colleague writing editorial cartoons for The Skiff?

Pete Wann is a TCU Apple server administrator from Fort Worth.

Next president needs plan for Russia

While Russia endlessly complains about America's growing influence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, it is making a brazen attempt to buy allegiance from Latin American states that are generally thought to be firmly ensconced in the United States' backyard.

Typical for Russians, they are none-too-subtle about this. They are making their intentions plain and show no reticence about describing their true motivation: Payback.

"These visits and maneuvers can be interpreted as an asymmetrical response to Washington," said Vladimir Davydov, director of a Russian research institute focused on Latin America. He made these remarks to the Russian newspaper, Kommersant.

Russia should be high on the list of countries the next president needs to cultivate after eight years of destructive Bush administration diplomacy. Unlike Iran, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Pakistan and other problem states, Russia's leaders at least have the ability to act reasonably and follow through on what they say — if they believe Washington is being sincere.

For now, though, the relationship is tumbling from bad to worse. Kommersant also reported Russia has offered to "bring back Russian military facilities" to Cuba.

Russia last brought significant military facilities to Cuba in 1962, spawning the Cuban missile crisis. That brought the world to the brink of nuclear war, and Cuba would have been the first nation hit. This time, understandably, the paper said Cuba was "cool to the idea." Almost certainly, Russia does not intend to position nuclear weapons in Cuba. Still, Russia feels equally aggrieved today by the American decision to deploy elements of a missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic. It has threatened to point nuclear missiles at those two states, and some Russians have offered dark warnings of possible invasions. After the invasion of Georgia in August, that no longer sounds like a hollow threat.

So, by their logic, aren't they entitled to station some equipment in Cuba — right now? While both nations plunge headlong toward a new Cold War, each side denies that is the case. Thomas Shannon, a cool-headed assistant secretary of state, asserted that the United States "has no intention of reviving Cold War images or Cold War rhetoric.

After the invasion of Georgia in August, that no longer sounds like a hollow threat.

This is a conflict that the region has thankfully left behind." Russian officials have made similar observations.

But somebody forgot to tell the region — or least its leftist members.

Historically, the United States has neglected Latin America — except when it wants to meddle, invade or castigate its leaders. That has been no less true during the Bush Administration. Four nations — Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia — have turned cold and hostile toward Washington. In recent weeks, two of them, Venezuela and Bolivia, have expelled their U.S. ambassadors. Russia is courting all of these countries, and others, with arms sales, money and varied offers of aid.

Even Colombia, Washington's closest ally in South America, has fallen for Russia's blandishments. The U.S. is providing Colombia with \$236 million in aid this year, most of it for the military. And yet, Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos visited Moscow this month, hoping to hop on the gravy train. He said he wanted to discuss "better relations in defense." Venezuela is buying fighter jets, tanks and armored vehicles from Russia and is in discussions about purchasing submarines. The Venezuelan government also says it wants to start a nuclear-energy program. Russia has agreed to help. Venezuela insists that it is interested only in peaceful uses of nuclear fuel. But haven't we heard that before? Russia is providing Bolivia with military helicopters and, incredibly, help with drug enforcement — in a country whose president, Evo Morales, is also president of the nation's coca growing unions. That is certain to be faux enforcement.

In Ecuador last week, Nicolai Patrushev, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, said his country wanted to collaborate with Ecuadoran intelligence "to expand Moscow's influence in Latin America and offer a counterweight to the United States," the BBC reported. Ecuador's leaders appeared to like the idea.

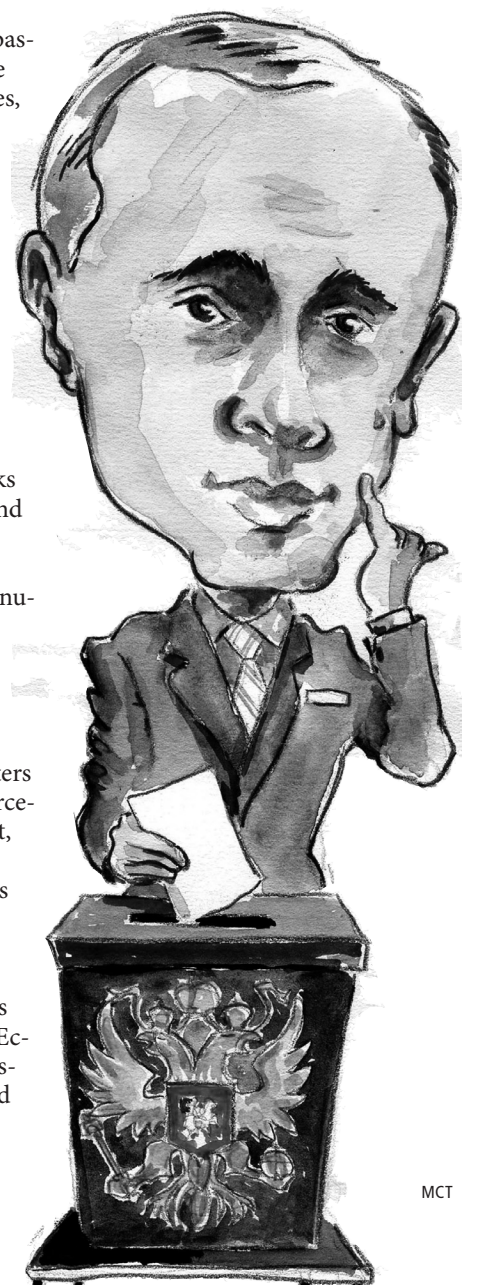
The United States seems to be complacent about all of this. It could be that with the end of the

term so near, the State Department is willing to fight only the most urgent fires.

Shanon, the assistant secretary of state, dismissed the problem, saying: "There is no doubt about who holds the preponderance of military power in the Caribbean." But this is not about military power. It's about political alliances and influence. Russia is making significant headway across Latin America while Washington stands aside.

They must be grinning in Moscow right now.

Joel Brinkley is a former foreign correspondent for the New York Times.



MCT

NEWS

Some cast ballots from afar while fighting for country

By Bonnie Rochman
McClatchy Newspapers

RALEIGH, N.C. — More than six decades ago, a soldier voted for the first time.

"I received my ballot yesterday to vote," Roland Stancil wrote to his family in Raleigh in a letter dated Sept. 5, 1944.

"I hope the war will be over before winter. Things look real good for us at present. Well, Mama, do not worry. I'll write as often as possible."

Sometime in the next six weeks, Stancil sent his ballot back across the ocean, from southern France where he fought with the 157th Infantry Regiment, to North Carolina, much as soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan are doing now.

Stancil, 21, never discovered the outcome of his first election. He was wounded Oct. 20 and died a day later, though his family didn't learn of his death for nearly three weeks.

In that interim period of uncertainty, Stancil's family wrote him constantly. After his death, 10 of those letters trickled back to the family's home on West Street, near downtown. "Return to sender," they were stamped — beneath that was scrawled "DECEASED."

Grief-stricken, Stancil's mother collected the letters, unopened, and stuffed them, along with all of her son's correspondence, into his army duffel bag.

Sixty-four years came and went. Two months ago, Stancil's sister, Edith Crumpler, decided to open those letters. So one late August evening, she settled into a chair in her living room and unsealed the past.

The irony of her decision to open the letters now, so close to this year's presidential election, was not lost on her.

"A ballot from the battlefield," she mused. "These letters are almost sacred. It's like reading a book I've never read."

The oldest of six children, Jesse Roland Stancil dropped out of



SHAWN ROCCO / Raleigh News & Observer via MCT
Edith Crumpler, 79, holds an army bag of her brothers' letters from WW II.

Broughton High School to go to work at a mill making hosiery. He was drafted in July 1943. After basic training at Fort McClellan in Alabama, Stancil was shipped to North Africa, Italy and France. In letters home, he wrote often of his desire to be a good soldier.

Edith Crumpler — his only sister — paid scant attention to the letters, a teenager at the time.

She didn't know her mother had saved them all, pulling them from Roland's duffel bag and secreting them in a footlocker in her bedroom. It was only after Ada Stancil's death in 1963 that Crumpler found them.

Busy raising her own children by then, Crumpler set them aside once again.

At the end of August, for no particular reason, Crumpler decided to see what stories awaited inside the yellowed envelopes.

She pulled her brother's old duffel bag from her closet and began to read.

The most surprising words she found were her own, written Nov. 8, 1944. She had mailed that letter the following day, at 2:30 p.m., according to the postmark.

"Well, Roland, it looks like Roosevelt is in for another term in the White House. Mama and daddy voted yesterday. Mrs. Ida Parish said your ballot got here alright," Crumpler wrote, referring to a neighborhood woman who worked at the polls. "I'm glad you got to vote for the one you wanted."

Meltdown will put strain on next president's 100-day sprint

By Mike Dornig
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — Ever since Franklin Roosevelt took office with the passage of a torrent of historic legislation, the first 100 days of a new presidency have taken on a mythic significance as a moment to set the tone for a new White House and enact signature laws.

But with the huge cost of the Wall Street bailout and a ballooning budget deficit that could be worsened by recession, resources will be sharply constrained this time. Restoring the economy's overall health will be the overwhelming task of the new president and Congress, drowning out most other priorities.

Barack Obama's agenda includes a national health care plan, a middle-class tax cut and major investments in alternative energy, education and infrastructure. But he has brushed aside questions about potential trade-offs among his priorities once elected, leaving considerable ambiguity about how he would proceed.

John McCain's promise to extend the Bush tax cuts and add new tax breaks for corporations and investors is certain to run into a roadblock if Democrats expand their control of Congress as expected.

The Republican's health care plan is even less likely to pass since it relies on eliminating a popular tax break for employer-provided health care, which would be anathema to a Democratic Congress.

"Both of them have promised many policy initiatives," said James Pfiffner, a public policy professor at George Mason University and author of a book on presidential transitions. "But it's highly unlikely either one of them could get a lot of important legislation through Congress in the first year, particularly when Congress is so polarized."

Either candidate would, of course, have considerably more leeway to pursue his strategy in Iraq, given the powers of the commander-in-chief. Yet the new president still may have to adjust course in Iraq to accommodate changes on the ground and the responses of regional powers such as Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Both campaigns have quietly set up transition planning operations to prepare for a new administration.

"But it's highly unlikely either one of them could get a lot of important legislation through Congress in the first year, particularly when Congress is so polarized."

James Pfiffner
Public policy professor

tion, with Clinton White House chief of staff John Podesta leading the process for Obama and Reagan administration Navy Secretary John Lehman managing it for McCain.

The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget found that — even assuming the sometimes-dubious savings the campaigns claim — both the Obama and McCain plans would add more than \$200 billion to the federal deficit by 2013. And that estimate was compiled in September, before the candidates announced costly new economic stimulus proposals.

Obama has resisted telegraphing much about how he would

choose among his goals, though he has given some indications. In one debate, he ranked energy independence as his highest domestic priority, followed by health care reform and then education; McCain declined to rank his priorities when asked the same question, saying Americans had the capacity to tackle these priorities at the same time.

Responding to a donor's question at a fundraiser in May, Obama said his top goals for his first 100 days in office would include proposing legislation on his health care plan by "March or April" and an immediate "signal to the world" on the nation's commitment to alternative energy.

That signal could be something less ambitious than the \$15 billion-a-year energy plan Obama touts on the campaign trail. Obama might make a dramatic personal appearance at the international climate change negotiations scheduled to begin in December, or order the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The advantage of such acts: neither requires public money or congressional approval.

Obama also mentioned completing the advance military planning to begin withdrawing troops from Iraq.

McCain has said he will propose a one-year freeze on all discretionary spending not related to defense or veterans. That initiative, too, would face steep odds in a Democratic-controlled Congress.





Beyond the financial constraints, the White House must deal with a Congress that moves slowly on major legislation and has difficulty tackling more than one big issue at a time. Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton are widely viewed as having squandered opportunities by pursuing a muddle of initiatives at the outset, while Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush benefited from lean, focused agendas.



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FEATURES



Is ABC's "Life on Mars" the best new show of the season, or should you change the channel?
Next Friday in Reviews



THE ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT

By Valerie Hannon
Features Editor

What's at stake:

The next president will be attending a conference next year in Denmark with other heads of state, as world leaders continue to work on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol to address the problem of global warming, said Michael Slattery, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies.

One of the biggest domestic issues the next administration faces is the nation's water supply, as infrastructures in major cities are deteriorating and water supplies are dwindling, Slattery said.

Reducing carbon footprints and finding renewable energy sources are also major considerations for the next president, Slattery said.

Like the previous administration, the next president will have difficulty implementing environmental policy because other issues such as the economy take precedence, but the nation will benefit in the long run, Slattery said.

"What people fail to understand is that the planet provides a whole host of goods and services free of charge," he said.

Obama says:

According to his campaign Web site, Obama and running mate, Joe Biden, created the New Energy for America plan that, among other things, will invest \$150 billion in private efforts for cleaner energy in the next 10 years.

At the second presidential debate Oct. 7 in Nashville, Tenn., Obama said he supported finding alternative energy sources, including nuclear power and reducing drilling.

"So what that means is that we can't simply drill our way out of the problem," Obama said. "And we're not going to be able to deal with the climate crisis if our only solution is to use more fossil fuels that create global warming."

"We're going to have to come up with alternatives, and that means that the United States government is working with the private sector to fund the kind of innovation that we can then export to countries like China that also need energy and are setting up one coal power plant a week."

McCain says:

At the second presidential debate, McCain said he supported nuclear power as an alternate energy source.

"I was on Navy ships that had nuclear power plants," McCain said. "Nuclear power is safe, and it's clean, and it creates hundreds of thousands of jobs. And I know that we can reprocess the spent nuclear fuel. The Japanese, the British, the French do it. And we can do it, too."

"We can move forward and clean up our climate and develop green technologies, and alternate — alternative energies for — for hybrid, for hydrogen, for battery-powered cars, so that we can clean up our environment and at the same time get our economy going by creating millions of jobs."

According to his campaign Web site, McCain said he would promote a "cap-and-trade system."

A climate cap-and-trade mechanism would set a limit on greenhouse gas emissions and allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit, similar to the successful acid rain trading program of the early 1990s, according to McCain's Web site.

GAY MARRIAGE

By Courtney Ortega
Staff Reporter

What's a stake:

With the definition of marriage, as well as who gets to define it, up for debate, same-sex marriages have the country divided on the separation of church and state.

Currently, California, Connecticut and Massachusetts are the only states that legally recognize same-sex marriages.

Yet with the country's economy on a downturn and issues such as the Iraq war taking precedence, some consider that the issue of same-sex marriages is a minimal concern.

Jay Adcock, sophomore philosophy major and co-founder of the Philosophy Club, said with so many issues to consider, the topic of same-sex marriage should not be the defining factor in someone's presidential pick.

"It hasn't affected my decision," Adcock said.

Sophomore philosophy and English major Tyler Hall agrees.

"While this is still an issue, it is not one of great importance at this time," said Hall, co-founder of the Philosophy Club.

Shelly Newkirk, vice president of the Gay Straight Alliance and a sophomore social work major, said the election is important in picking a president that will represent the interest of all people.

"It's about more than just marriage," Newkirk said.

TERRORISM

By Victoria Maranan
Staff Reporter

What's at stake:

The Iraq war has proved to be longer than the Civil War and American involvement in World War I and World War II.

Jim Riddlesperger, professor of political science, said whoever assumes the presidency, for this coming election and succeeding elections, will have a different approach on the war on terrorism.

"Terrorism will remain as an ongoing management issue for all U.S. presidents in the foreseeable future," he said.

Riddlesperger also noted that when it comes to this issue, the difference between the United States and other nations is that other countries have been putting up with terrorism for decades while the U.S. started since Sept. 11.

Obama says:

Obama opposed the war in Iraq, and ending it is one of his top priorities if he assumes the position of commander-in-chief.

He believes Afghanistan is the main battleground since al-Qaida operations in that region have increased recently.

The New York Times reported Obama that promises to pull troops out of Iraq within 16 months of being inaugurated in 2009. Military experts believe it is possible to withdraw the troops from the region at the rate

of one to two brigades a month, enabling the Obama administration to get them out of Iraq by summer of 2010, according to Obama's Web site.

The Illinois senator believes setting a time frame for troop withdrawal would force the Iraqi government to pull itself together and enable the U.S. to send more troops to Afghanistan.

Obama said he will leave a limited number of troops in Iraq to continue counterterrorism operations in the region and provide security for American diplomats and personnel.

McCain does not agree with Obama's plan to schedule the withdrawal of the troops because he says al-Qaida in Iraq has not been defeated yet, the Times reported. But McCain projects he will get most of the troops out by 2013.

According to the McCain Web site, the United States would risk recently projected gains if it withdrew American troops before Iraq is back on its feet. His campaign also points out that a strategy similar to Obama's failed when it was used in 2006.

McCain believes it is in America's best interest to help the Iraqi government.

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HEALTH CARE

By Brittany Adams
Staff Reporter

What's at Stake:

In a Wall Street Journal-NBC Survey, almost 50 percent of the American public said the cost of health care is the top economic concern, according to National Coalition on Health Care's Web site.

The total spending on health care in 2007 was \$2.3 trillion, which is \$7,600 per person. Health care spending is predicted to increase at similar rates for the next decade, according to the NCHC Web site.

In 2007, employer health insurance premiums increased by 6.1 percent, according to the NCHC Web site. The annual premium for an employer health plan, covering a family of four, averaged nearly \$12,100, while the annual premium for single coverage averaged more than \$4,400.

According to the NCHC Web site, experts say the health care system is challenged with administrative expenses, inflated prices, poor management and inappropriate care, waste and fraud. These problems increase medical care and health insurance costs.

According to the NCHC Web site, policy-makers and government officials both say health care cost must be controlled, but they do not agree on the ways to improve health spending and insurance premiums.

David Conner, a vice president at Bowen, Mittlett & Britt which is an insurance brokerage and risk management consulting firm, said, "With either candidate, we could see higher taxes to cover the new costs."

"If Obama is elected, we will see socialized medicine and everyone will have insurance, and with McCain, you will have more uninsured, but he wants to give us a tax credit for our health care costs," Conner said.

Obama Says:

According to Barack Obama's Web site, he wants every American to have health care. Obama wants to establish a National Health Insurance Exchange, which will allow individuals and small businesses to buy affordable health care coverage with options ranging from private to new public plans. According to Obama's Web site, he said he wants people with preexisting health conditions to be covered by insurance as well as lowering their insurance costs. Obama said he wants to lower drug costs by increasing the number of generic drugs available to the people, according to his Web site.

McCain Says:

According to his Web site, John McCain said he wants to make health care affordable and available for every American. Along with making insurance portable from job to job or job to home, McCain said on his Web site he would like to make it more portable by allowing everyone to go across state lines to obtain the best insurance. He wants to improve the quality of insurance to meet people's needs. McCain wants Americans to choose their own insurance that is best for their needs. Every family will receive a \$5,000 tax credit, and individuals will receive a \$2,500 tax credit, according to his Web site. McCain wants to promote more research for chronic diseases, especially in regard to prevention. According to his Web site, he also wants to promote more programs about anti-smoking by working with businesses and insurance companies.

NEWS

As oil prices start to decrease, Venezuelans may feel crunch

By Tyler Bridges
McClatchy Newspapers

CARACAS, Venezuela — They line up early, before sunrise, beside a massive metal fence to wait for a government grocery store named for a 1960s Venezuelan revolutionary to open.

These poor Venezuelans come for food, made cheap by subsidies from their nation's immense oil wealth. If residents of the Venezuelan capital's impoverished Catia neighborhood wonder whom to thank, murals of President Hugo Chavez watch over them as they wait.

"The government pays for the subsidies, and that's why we elected the president, and that's why we love him," said Medarda Romero, 66, setting down a black garbage bag full of food. "He cares about the poor. Previous presidents didn't."

Venezuela's government gets 50 percent of its income from oil revenues, however, and now falling oil prices threaten to force Chavez to scale back the food subsidies and other government programs he's used to lift millions of Venezuelans out of poverty.

Not only could this make life harder for the poor but it also could threaten Chavez's political power, because his popularity depends at least in part on his free-spending anti-poverty programs.

"Shortages of food won't help Chavez," said Pedro Atencio, a 40-year-old factory worker, as he waited in line outside the "mercal," as the grocery store is known in Venezuela. "People would become unhappy. That wouldn't be good for him."

International oil prices peaked at \$147 a barrel in July but have dropped to below \$70 amid the worldwide financial crisis. Venezuelan oil generally sells for about \$10 per barrel less than the inter-



Venezuelan customers buy basic needs at a store in Caracas, Venezuela, on Oct. 18. IVAN GONZALEZ / MCT

national price. Ramon Espinasa, formerly the chief economist for the Venezuelan state oil company, now consults for the Inter-American Development Bank, a public-policy organization in Washington. He estimates that the government's profits from oil exports will drop to \$41 billion this year from \$52 billion last year.

Forecasters expect Venezuela's economy to begin weakening shortly after the Nov. 23 state and local elections. Chavez has boosted government spending in advance of the elections to keep the economy buoyant.

J.P. Morgan estimates national income will grow by 2.5 percent next year, down from 6 percent in 2008 and 8.4 percent last year. Barclays Capital projects anemic 1.5 percent growth in gross national product in 2009.

"He has to reduce spending," said Alejandro Grisanti, who heads Barclays' Latin America research department in New York.

"There's no other way. It will hurt his popularity."

What happens in Venezuela has wide ramifications. It's the fourth-biggest supplier of oil to the United States.

Chavez has used oil as a strategic tool to win influence throughout Latin America with his anti-globalization and anti-Bush administration message.

Venezuela provides subsidized oil to Cuba and a dozen Caribbean countries, and Chavez also regularly gives cash or loans to friendly leftist governments in Bolivia, Argentina and Ecuador.

He's dismissed suggestions the declining oil price will hurt Venezuela's economy.

"Should the oil price stabilize between 80 and 90 dollars — more than enough," he said last Saturday. "In the face of the global crisis, I guarantee Venezuelans the country will not be held back ... Venezuela has enough social, financial and technological resources to march on with economic growth."

How to fight terror

Where the presidential candidates stand:

Iraq	McCain Considers Iraq "central front" and has no firm timetables for withdrawal	Obama Withdraw most troops by the end of 2011; keep small focus to target al-Qaida-allied extremists
Afghanistan	Pledges sending more troops; wants to apply "surge principles"	Send some 20,000 more troops to fight al-Qaida and the Taliban
Figuring out terror	Would create a new U.S. information agency and an intelligence agency; aims to get America's message to the world	Convened advisory group of more than 70 experts to develop multi-pronged strategy to fight terror
Getting others involved	Calls for more training of allies that are combating terrorism within their borders	Send more diplomats and aid experts to countries; start \$5 billion program to boost cooperation with other countries

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau

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McCain, Obama disagree on how to fight terrorism

By Jonathan S. Landay
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — When it comes to fighting terrorism, John McCain and Barack Obama share some common ground. Both promise to intensify cooperation with other nations, boost U.S. intelligence-gathering and bolster homeland defenses.

There also are profound differences in their approaches, however, beginning with Iraq.

Obama's strategy hinges on withdrawing most of the 152,000

U.S. troops from "the wrong battlefield" of Iraq by the end of 2011 to deprive al-Qaida and other groups of what he charges has been their best recruitment and propaganda tool.

The U.S. occupation, Obama declared in August 2007, encourages terrorist attacks, "ties down our military, busts our budgets, increases the pool of terrorist recruits, alienates America, gives democracy a bad name and prompts the American people to question our engagement in the world."

While Obama would keep a small U.S. force in Iraq to target al-Qaida-allied extremists, he'd send some 20,000 more American troops to fight al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan, which the Democrat calls "the war we need to win."

McCain also pledges to send more troops to Afghanistan. However, he considers Iraq the "central front" in a global struggle with radical Islam. Defeating its violent adherents, he says, is "the national security challenge of our time."

The Republican nominee argues that a premature U.S. withdrawal would turn Iraq into a "failed state" where al-Qaida-allied extremists could establish sanctuaries in which to plot a takeover of the Middle East and new terrorist strikes.

"Their ultimate goal is not Iraq. Their ultimate goal is us," the Arizona senator asserted in April 2007. "They want to destroy us, and if we leave, they will follow us home."

McCain and Obama start from different places in their overarching approaches to terrorism.

McCain doesn't appear to have a comprehensive strategy, instead making counter-terrorism a facet of individual policies toward Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. McCain's campaign never responded to McClatchy Newspa-

pers' repeated requests to speak to a counter-terrorism adviser, so his approach had to be deduced from his interviews, speeches and writings.

Writing last year in Foreign Affairs magazine, McCain promised to "employ every economic, diplomatic, political, legal and ideological tool" to help moderates in the Muslim world counter extremist ideology and propaganda.

In a number of speeches, however, McCain has made it clear U.S. military power would be "the most important part" of his approach, arguing that the "ruthless" use of military muscle can "change permanently the mindset" not only of terrorists but also of ordinary Muslims who sympathize with them.

Obama convened an advisory group of more than 70 experts last year who developed a multi-pronged strategy based on the idea that fighting terrorism requires more than military power — which often proves counterproductive by causing civilian casualties — including law-enforcement, diplomatic and poverty-alleviation components.

"The overall philosophy is to move away from a predominantly military approach," said Obama campaign adviser Richard Clarke, who served as the Clinton administration's top counter-terrorism official and remained in the job early in the Bush administration. "That means using the military when appropriate."

In an August 2007 speech, Obama said he'd send more diplomats and aid experts to countries that were wrestling with terrorism and would start a \$5 billion program to boost cooperation with other countries on intelligence-sharing, border security, policing and anti-corruption programs.



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Tighter budgets may hinder candidates' plans for veterans

By Chris Adams
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Even as the country heads into an era of tighter budgets, John McCain and Barack Obama are united on giving more help to the nation's veterans and overhauling the agency that cares for them.

McCain, one of the nation's most celebrated veterans, and Obama, who never served in uniform but became an advocate for veterans issues soon after entering the U.S. Senate, generally agree that the Department of Veterans Affairs does some things well and other things quite poorly.

And while veterans issues have come into the limelight only briefly during this election, the two campaigns have sparred over how best to improve access to the VA's health care system.

"We expect whoever becomes president to take care of America's

veterans," said Joe Davis, a spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the oldest major veterans' advocacy group in the country.

The country has an estimated 24 million veterans, with World War II and Korean War veterans rapidly dying off and soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan quickly adding to the rolls. Vietnam veterans, many now in their 60s, are the largest group and are steadily increasing the VA's health care tab.

The VA's budget has risen substantially in recent years, driven by an increasing number of veterans receiving disability payments for mental and physical injuries suffered while in the service, and by the cost of the VA's health care operations. Those two functions make up the vast majority of VA operations, although the department also funds veterans' education and insurance benefits, as well as a nationwide network of cemeteries.

When it comes to the VA's disability

compensation system, the candidates and major veterans groups are in agreement: The VA system is broken.

The agency has been struggling with a backlog of claims that has hovered near 400,000 for the past few years. The time it takes to process a new claim is about 180 days, far higher than the department wants.

In addition, both candidates say that the government needs to fully fund the VA's far-flung health care system, and they both support a bill now in Congress to approve VA medical funding a year in advance to allow for smoother operations.

However, expanding veterans' access to health care is also a point on which the candidates disagree.

The VA treats 5.6 million veterans at more than 150 hospitals and more than 800 clinics scattered across all states. The system has undergone a major transformation over the past decade, boosting outpatient and pre-

ventive care in its growing network of outpatient clinics.

While the transformation has generally received favorable reviews from medical experts, there still are pockets of the country where veterans have trouble getting in for treatment. In western states and rural areas, veterans sometimes have to drive for hours to reach the nearest clinic or hospital. In other locations, waiting times may be far longer than the VA itself considers acceptable.

McCain wants to provide a veterans care "access card," which is intended to allow veterans to access private doctors if they aren't able to get into a VA facility in a timely manner. He said it would be a supplement to VA care, not a replacement for existing programs.

The Obama campaign has criticized McCain's plan, saying it would take resources and patients out of the VA system, thus hurting the economies of scale that let the VA provide cost-effective care.

Taking care of our veterans

Where the presidential candidates stand:

	McCain	Obama
Processing claims	Complete review of how claims are processed and how disabilities are evaluated	Hire additional claims workers, revamp training system; upgrade paper claims systems to digital
"Priority 8" veterans*	Wants to aggressively increase capacity while adjusting income tests to gradually absorb veterans	Says he would sign an executive order allowing those veterans into the system immediately
Getting care	Provide veterans with access to private doctors when they are not able to get to a facility	Wants to keep resources and patients in the system to keep the system cost-effective
Additional care	Supports increasing monthly education benefit	Wants to recruit more mental health professionals

*Veterans that have not been allowed into the VA's healthcare system because they make too much money and don't have severe enough disabilities
Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau

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MCT

Report details list of threats to newly endangered Cook Inlet belugas

By George Bryson
McClatchy Newspapers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Declaring Cook Inlet beluga whales an endangered species — as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration did this month — was only the first step toward protecting them. Now federal biologists are trying to figure out exactly what's endangering them.

The newly released "Conservation Plan for the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale" — a 128-page report compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service — takes a preliminary stab at the question, listing 18 possible threats to the local whale population.

Five of those threats would pose a "high" risk of jeopardizing the belugas were they to occur, the study says. Among them are two natural dangers: disease and strandings of whales on mud flats.

Three are man-made dangers: whale poaching, food reduction (by damaging salmon habitat or over-fishing) and unnatural noise in the water (such as offshore drilling, pile-driving in the construction of a Knik Arm bridge or expansion of the Port of Anchorage).

The report also lists as "unknown" the impact on belugas that might result from three man-made dangers: oil and gas spills, systematic water pollution (including the partially treated sewage Anchorage discharges into Cook Inlet) and environmental change (such as ocean warming).

"Certainly oil and gas development and all in-water activities that might introduce pollutants are a concern," says Fisheries Service biologist Brad Smith, one of the conservation plan authors.

Listing the Cook Inlet belugas as endangered — federal biologists estimate there are only 375 of the animals left — means any federal agency that authorizes activities in the Inlet must first determine whether such actions will hurt the whales.

Smith foresees several current activities requiring approval, starting almost immediately, and that's where the conservation plan might apply.

Next year, for example, the federal Environmental Protection Agency will consider renewing the city's special waiver to discharge partially treated sewage into the Inlet. Now the EPA will have to consult with the Fisheries Service first to see if that agency approves.

On the positive side, Smith said, tissue samples taken from local belugas so far show only low levels of contamination from heavy metals and certain other toxic contaminants, like PCBs and DDT.

Cook Inlet beluga whales had much lower levels of PCBs and DDT than whales sampled off St. Lawrence Island, and about half the concentrations of whales off Arctic Alaska, the conservation plan says.

But now the agency will be taking a closer look at beluga tissue for other contaminants, like fire retardants and pharmaceuticals, Smith said. If discovered, they could prompt a closer look at the city's sewage out-fall.

Construction noise at the Port of Anchorage could also pose a problem. Belugas are highly dependent on their sense of sound, which allows them to locate prey

and predators in murky water. Noisy pile-driving operations at the port, where the city is in the process of filling in about 135 acres of Knik Arm, are known to cause problems for the whales.

The agency has already begun working with the port and the municipality to set special conditions on their permits to require full-time whale observers whenever they're driving pilings.

"We established safety zones" for the whales, Smith said. "And whenever observers see beluga whales that are about to enter those zones, they are on their walkie-talkies and they order a shut-down."

One threat that's now listed as "low" is the traditional harvest of Cook Inlet belugas by Native Alaskans. That's because hunting is no longer allowed and won't be until the five-year average of the beluga population starts growing again, Smith said.

The agency began curtailing the subsistence harvest almost 10 years ago, assuming that action alone would allow the population to bounce back. But it didn't. So now it's examining the other 17 threats.

Even natural disasters, like the occasional stranding of belugas on the mud flats in Turnagain Arm, are worrisome because their total numbers are now so low, the conservation plan says.

More than 700 belugas have become stranded in upper Cook Inlet since the Fisheries Service began keeping track in 1988. A majority usually survive. In the past five years, however, 53 belugas have died from strandings.

Sometimes it's the fault of killer whales, the beluga's only ma-



Onlookers follow a pod of beluga whales passing Point Woronzof on Sept. 26 in west Anchorage, Alaska. ERIK HILL / Anchorage Daily News via MCT

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SPORTS

Phillies end championship draught with Game 5 win

By David Murphy
Philadelphia Daily News

PHILADELPHIA — It ended as it should have, with a perfect closer dropping to his knees and lifting his arms to the heavens, with a bat making contact with nothing but air, with 46,000 people waving and jumping and screaming in front of seats they never had a chance to use.

It ended after 25 years, plus 48 hours, at 9:58 EDT on a frigid October evening.

It ended with camera bulbs popping and police lights flashing and all of it melting into a beautiful Technicolor bliss as a sea of white jerseys spilled out of the dugout and onto the mound.

A sentence that has been 28 years in the making can now be written:

The Phillies are world champions.

"It's not easy in Philadelphia," veteran lefthander Jamie Moyer said as the Phillies celebrated a 4-3 victory over Tampa Bay that gave the city its first major sports championship in 25 years. "But when you win, it makes it that much sweeter."

It came at the end of one of the most calamitous 48-hour periods in the history of the World Series, one in which Game 5 was suspended in the middle of the sixth inning Monday night during a downpour. But it could not have finished more appropriately, with a double by nine-year veteran Pat Burrell setting up the winning run in the seventh and closer Brad Lidge shutting down the ninth to record his 48th consecutive save of the season.

The final out came at just before 10, on a slider that has carried Lidge to greatness, one that Rays hitter Eric Hinske did not come close to hitting.

"It's honestly very hard to control my emotions right now," said Lidge, who saved his seventh game of the postseason. "This is

so incredible. I'm so happy to be here. I thank God, Jesus Christ, my family. These fans are amazing. I couldn't be happier right now."

Said backup catcher Chris Coste: "You couldn't write it up much better."

The previous 24 hours had been a study in patience, one last unforeseen challenge for a team that has spent all season overcoming them. When they took the field late Monday afternoon for what was supposed to be the crowning moment of their careers, destiny seemed at hand. They had won their first two games at home, taking a 3-1 lead and putting themselves in position to become just the second team in the wild-card era to win the World Series while going undefeated at home. The only other squad in their company was the Yankees, an organization with a history far different than the one the Phillies were trying to erase. Their ace lefthander was on the mound, a 24-year-old superstar with a chance to set a postseason record for wins.

Then came the wind, and then the rain, and then the tarp, and then the sudden realization that if they were indeed to take the final step to championdom, they would do so in a fashion never before seen.

But by the time the Phillies took the field Wednesday night and the crowd took their seats and Geoff Jenkins led off the game (sixth inning) with a monster pinch-hit double off the wall in centerfield, all the events of the previous two days — and, for that matter, the previous two decades — faded into the background.

The wind chill in the 30s, the upstart Rays, the two-day layoff between innings — gone.

"It was so cold, and once we got out here, we didn't feel cold anymore," Coste said. "It was like the energy of the stadium brought it from feeling like the



The Philadelphia Phillies' Jimmy Rollins holds up the World Series championship trophy as he and his teammates celebrate a win over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 5 of the World Series at Citizens Bank Park on Wednesday.

30s to feeling like it was 75. That's what it felt like when we got out here. It was incredible. Our crowd basically warmed us up."

Even after Rays outfielder Rocco Baldelli negated the run Jenkins ultimately scored with a solo home run in the top of the seventh, the emotion refused to run dry.

Burrell, whose performance and imperfections have cemented himself into Philadelphia lore, led off the seventh with a double to the deepest part of the ballpark. After exiting the game for pinch-runner Eric Bruntlett, who later scored the winning run on Pedro Feliz' single, he was met with a thunderous roar.

"To be able to help this team and to give this championship to this city, this is a dream come true," said Burrell, who first broke into the big leagues as a 23-year-old outfielder playing for a Phillies team that finished

69-93. "I don't have the words to express it."

Afterward, they partied. Bill Giles, the Phillies' longtime chairman. David Montgomery, the team's longtime president. As beers popped and champagne flowed in the clubhouse afterward, Burrell stood in the middle of it all, gazing at nothing in particular with a towel covering his mouth.

The journey that started in 1980 came to its much-anticipated conclusion Wednesday night. It did so thanks to a cast of homegrown talent and cast-offs. Bruntlett, the "other guy" in the trade that brought Lidge to Philadelphia in the offseason, scored the winning run. Outfielder Jayson Werth, signed as a little-known free agent in 2007 coming off a potentially career-ending wrist injury, hit .444 for the series.

And then there was Cole

Hamels, the young lefthander, the one-time top prospect, who earned the series MVP despite watching his stellar, six-inning outing cut short due to Monday's rain.

"We're losers no more," first baseman Ryan Howard said. "The organization, we're winners. Nobody can take that away from the city of Philadelphia, and nobody can take that away from us."

High above it all, the wind still blowing, the city lights still shining in the background, a solitary red banner hovered silently, enjoying its final few moments alone.

1980.

"This is for Philadelphia," Charlie Manuel said as he was presented with the Commissioner's Trophy.

Never before has a manager been so right.

FANTASY

continued from page 10

Morris' as well as LaMont Jordan's injury situations are murky. Faulk has steadied the ship, as he has done many times over the years. If he's taken, look in to BenJarvus Green-Ellis, the rookie should see a good amount of playing time this weekend.

Kolby Smith (RB-KC): A high ankle sprain will leave Jamaal Charles on the bench for at least a week but probably more. Larry Johnson has been having all sorts of trouble and is about to have his ominous "Come to Jesus" meeting with the mighty commissioner Roger Goodell. So it appears Smith will have the backfield all to himself for a while. Stash him on your roster and see what he can do against the Bucs.

Week 9 Matchups:

New York Jets at Buffalo Bills: Buffalo got roughed up by the Dolphins last weekend but the Jets didn't exactly blowout the lowly Chiefs who were sans Johnson. If Pennington can throw on these guys, then logic dictates Favre should be able to shred them deep. As a result Laveranues Coles and Jerricho Cotchery should have big days. Marshawn Lynch will have his usual good but not great game, while the rest of Buffalo's starters scramble to catch up to the Jets breakneck pace.

Dallas Cowboys at New York Giants: Marion the Barbarian will set the pace for the game again this week, but keep an eye out for Bollinger. Reports out of Dallas are he could see some playing time quick if Johnson can't start appealing Jerry Jones by targeting his new friend Roy E. Williams and his old friend T.O. It will also be interesting to see if Plaxico Burress can get out of his own way for five seconds and help Eli survive in what should be a defensive struggle Sunday.

Arizona Cardinals at St. Louis Rams: Kurt Warner returns to St. Louis almost matching the MVP form he had a few years before he left the Rams. Watch the running back situation in this game. For the Cardinals, Tim Hightower continues to siphon more carries and goal line looks from Edgerrin James. Meanwhile the Rams' Steven Jackson looks like he could be limited in this game, so the name you'll need to know is Antonio Pittman - he rushed for 83 yards in Jackson's stead last week. Of course, with the way these teams are built, it could become a high scoring affair quickly so continue starting Larry Fitzgerald and Donnie Avery.



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SPORTS

Read about the Horned Frogs' game against the UNLV Rebels. Tuesday in Sports

SWIMMING AND DIVING

A STROKE BEHIND



Sophomore Garrett Weaver races in the 200 fly against BYU on Thursday in the University Recreation Center indoor pool. Weaver placed second in the event. PAIGE McARDLE / Staff Photographer

Women lose, men drop close one

By Billy Wessels
Sports Editor

For the men's swimming and diving team, it came down to the last race to decide a victor.

Trailing by one point, the 400-yard freestyle relay would be the decisive race for the Horned Frogs.

Unfortunately for TCU, the Brigham Young Cougars posted a time of 3:07.47, less than three seconds ahead of the Horned Frogs, to win the men's meet 153-147.

"The men had them on the ropes" head swimming and diving coach Richard Sybesma said. "It was great because they (BYU) were the second-best team in the conference last year and we feel like we are a much better team."

The men's team wouldn't have been in that position if it weren't for two stellar performances.

Sophomore Edgar Peyro won the meet's last individual race to

pull the team within one point going into the relay.

"Everybody was telling me that I had to do something to help the team at the end," Peyro said. "When you have such great teammates to support that support you every step of the way you just got to go all out."

Senior diver R.J. Hesselberg recorded a new school record 380.1 points on the three-meter dive, shattering his previous school record of 375.8.

"I just went in, I just had fun with the event and everything just came together," Hesselberg said.

On the women's side of the event, two wins by senior Kate Rosen were not enough to pull out the win, losing 182-118.

"I was happy with that. I was a little surprised," Rosen said of her performance. "I was proud of our team, how we got behind each other and really encouraged each other throughout the meet."

Sybesma said the women's team

Women's Meet

What: TCU vs. Colorado State
When: Nov. 7, 6 p.m.
Where: University Recreation Center

has vastly improved from last season.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of them," Sybesma said of his women's team. "We had several lifetime best times. Even though BYU is ahead of us, they were conference champions last year. Our team has raised the bar quite a bit from where they were last year."

Despite the loss, the coach said his team took confidence away from this meet.

"When you put a team on the ropes like that, you begin to feel like you are a better team," Sybesma said. "I think (the team members) see themselves as a better team and that helps us down the road."

FOOTBALL



Senior linebacker Jason Phillips tackles a Wyoming player Saturday at Amon Carter Stadium. TCU defeated Wyoming 54-7. PAIGE McARDLE / Staff Photographer

Coach says Saturday's game will be test for Frogs' defense

By Billy Wessels
Sports Editor

After the Horned Frogs' dominating 54-7 victory over the Wyoming Cowboys, the team is now prepared to face the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"I said before the season that I believed UNLV was the most improved team in the league," head coach Gary Patterson said. "This is year four for (Rebel head coach) Mike Sanford, and you can start seeing a lot more character."

Patterson said the Rebels' offense has the most athletic personnel the Frogs' have seen since they played the University of Oklahoma.

"They've got three or four really good wide receivers. Ryan Wolfe is unbelievable," Patterson said. "They get the ball to him in a lot of ways. Casey Flair is a senior and Frank Summers is a big running back. Michael Johnson was a quarterback

in high school who is playing wide receiver, and they have him returning punts and kicks. He's a very fast, explosive player."

But the Frogs' offense has vastly improved since the return of quarterback Andy Dalton to the starting lineup, and Patterson said the team is moving the ball down the field more effectively of late due to a reduction in penalties.

"We've been able to drive the ball. The only thing that held us back early in the year was penalties," Patterson said. "Those are things that are hard to overcome, and they were more mental instead of physical penalties."

Overall, Patterson said he was excited about the offense that has vastly improved from where they were a year ago.

"I said before the season that I thought this offensive line could be as good as the 2005 group, and I think they are, if not better," Patter-

son said. "I also think our wide receivers are coming into their own, like we had during the Quently Harmon, Michael DePriest and Cory Rodgers era. We just didn't have anybody we could go to a year ago to help a young quarterback."

The coach said with the season winding down there are several goals his team can still accomplish.

"I don't know if it's the favorite part of the season, but you're always more fired up when you're playing for something," Patterson said. "That's the best part about the end of the season. It's a lot easier to motivate your kids when they have something to play for."

TCU vs. UNLV

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.
TV: CBS College Sports Network

FANTASY FOOTBALL

Teams riddled with QB injuries should have gone for Culpepper

By Erick Moen
Staff Writer

Daunte Culpepper is a weird guy.

In the past he has fired his agent, become his own agent, declared himself 80 percent healthy, declared himself 100 percent healthy, tried to package himself with Randy Moss and most recently, decided he is ready to return to football.

His fickle personality aside, however, he is a serviceable quarterback, which leads me to ask a question: Why hasn't he been signed to a roster during a season that has seen more high profile QB injuries than any in recent memory?

He would have been a good fit in New England throwing the ball deep to Randy Moss. He surely could have helped the Chiefs find

a solution, maybe even a permanent one. Not to mention Detroit, Cincinnati and even Seattle.

Instead the Patriots shut the door immediately, and the Chiefs closed their investigation into him this week. I'd love to hear from their scouts as to why they think Matt Cassel or Tyler Thigpen is any better.

But before we get into this week's stuff, here are my thoughts for the week:

1. I didn't know it was possible for an arm to erode that quickly over such a short amount of time. Brad Johnson is the antithesis of Brett Favre. I never thought I'd say this, but bring on Brooks Bollinger.

2. See I told you. L.T. is fine. Not so sure about the rest of the Chargers, though, or the Colts for that

matter.

And now the main event: this week's top three waiver wire adds and the matchups to keep an eye on.

Waiver Wire Adds:

Ted Ginn Jr. (WR-Mia): He looked primed for a break-out season as the Dolphins No. 1 – and for all intensive purposes, only – wide out. It took until week 8, but Ginn finally formed a rapport with Chad Pennington and put up some major fantasy points. His seven catches for 175 yard performance last week could just be the beginning.

Kevin Faulk (RB-NE): The Patriots' backfield has followed its quarterback's lead injury wise. Laurence Maroney is on IR and both Sammy

SEE FANTASY • PAGE 8

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