



See how the men's basketball team did against Nebraska. Sports, page 4



Fall break days will change next year. Tomorrow in News



Speakers discuss the separation of church and state. Page 7

Residential Services tweaks dining plan

By Michael Carroll
Staff Reporter

Beginning next semester, students will have the option to use their meal plan swipes at Sub Connection in Smith Hall, a university official said Wednesday.

Craig Allen, director of Residential Services, said this change to the meal plan is the result of students voicing concerns about not

being able to use their swipes at a dining location on the east side of campus.

"Students have told us, 'I'm on the other side of campus, how come I can't use the swipe at Sub Connection?'" Allen said.

Allen said the new program, called Simply To-Go, will be available to students at the start of the spring semester.

The food options at Sub Connection will be different for students who decide to use

their swipes, Allen said. Students will be able to choose from a number of pre-packaged food options including salads, sandwiches, fruit, cookies and drinks, Allen said.

Students who want to select food from the regular menu will still have to use their Frog Bucks, he said.

Allen said there will be a four-hour time period in which swipes can be used at Sub Connection. Restrictions once that swipe is

used will also apply, he said.

"You can use a swipe there between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.," Allen said. "If you use your swipe there, you wouldn't be able to come to Market Square and use it for three hours."

Convenience for students is at the heart of this change, and TCU and Sodexo are ab-

SEE DINING · PAGE 2

GONE PHISHING



A "phishing" shark chases Super Frog and students Wednesday outside the library to promote e-mail safety.

KRISTIN BUTLER / Staff Photographer

Study: Lots of adjuncts could hurt universities

By Logan Wilson
Staff Reporter

Universities that rely heavily on part-time faculty may be hurting the quality of education that students receive, according to three recent studies.

During the 2007 fall semester, 60 percent of TCU faculty worked full time, according to the Office of Institutional Research's Fall 2008 Fact Book. That rate is well below peer schools Southern Methodist University and Baylor University.

Despite the research, federal data suggest that universities continue to hire more part-time, or adjunct faculty members. In 2003 about 46 percent of college faculty members worked part time, which is up from 22 percent in 1970, according to the Education Department.

This news may be especially troubling for universities that are hiring more adjunct faculty members as a way to cut budgets during the current economic downturn.

Although the economy is affecting TCU, Chancellor Victor Boschini said, it will not affect how the university hires faculty.

"Because of our size, we don't need droves of part-time people every fall," Boschini said. "The last school I worked at was a large state school [Illinois State University], and every fall we would hire over 1,000 part-timers, and then lay them off and then rehire them."

SEE ADJUNCT · PAGE 2

Obama's campaign sets example, professor says

By Michael Carroll
Staff Reporter

President-elect Barack Obama's campaign that focused on change was so successful that it may soon lead to a change in the way businesses of all types go about marketing themselves, a professor in the Neeley School of Business said.

Stacy Landreth Grau, an associate professor of professional practice in marketing, said the Obama campaign's ability to reach out to voters, especially young disenfranchised voters, was a stroke of marketing genius.

Tufts University's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement reports that Obama received 66 percent of young votes as opposed to 32 percent for McCain.

"He was the first one that used social networking and used it in a very smart way," Grau said. "Honestly, in such a smart way that corporations and non-profits need to look at Barack Obama to figure out how the heck they could use that for their own purposes."

Grau said it was more than just good marketing that got Obama elected.

"I don't want to say that marketing and advertising were the only things

SEE OBAMA · PAGE 2

HARDCOVER FICTION BEST SELLERS

- 1 Divine Justice by David Baldacci
- 2 Salvation in Death by J.D. Robb
- 3 Swallowing Darkness by Laurell K. Hamilton
- 4 The Gate house by Nelson DeMille
- 5 Extreme measures by Vince Flynn
- 6 The Lucky One by Nicholas Sparks
- 7 Midnight by Sister Souljah
- 8 The Brass Verdict by Michael Connelly
- 9 The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
- 10 A Good Woman by Danielle Steel

—New York Times



Drilling isn't so bad after all. Opinion, Page 3.

PECULIAR FACT

SAN BENITO, Texas — A newly elected constable was questioned by sheriff's deputies after allowing a friend to fire his county-issued handgun into the air at a party. Neither man was charged.

—KGBT-TV

TODAY'S WEATHER

63 36
HIGH LOW
Sunny

Tomorrow: Sunny
54 / 39

Saturday: Partly Cloudy
58 / 49



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

Campaign aims to stop hackers

By Kristin Butler
Staff Reporter

Technology Resources is warning the university that if an e-mail looks fishy, it's probably phishing.

The Technology Resources Center is taking action against phishing attacks by tagging potential phishing e-mails and spreading awareness, said Jim Mayne, director of information security services.

Phishing e-mails appear to be from banks, an organization such as eBay or even from TCU asking for personal information and passwords, Mayne said. TCU receives about 140,000 e-mails per day and of those, 4,000 to 5,000 are quarantined and cleaned. But 200 to 300 corruptive e-mails are still entering the system, said Phillip Howell, a Technoical Services administrator.

Phishing e-mails are sent out by groups that are usually getting paid to send out spam, Mayne said. Once hackers access a person's account, they can get to information such as financial and banking records, passwords and other people's e-mail addresses and information.

Hackers send e-mails from a TCU account to other TCU accounts asking for the users' password or date of birth, Mayne said. The attackers will send an e-mail from an address that appears to be legitimate, such as customer support or financial services.

When hackers first connect to an e-mail account, they will send out spam immediately because they do not know how long they will be able to use the account, Mayne said. He said hackers will delete content from the mailbox or make a copy of it, and they will block e-mails from TCU to lower their risks of being caught.

When people send out their personal information, they are not only hurting themselves, but they are also compromising everyone else in their contact list because those e-mail addresses may get hacked as well, Mayne said.

Howell said when an e-mail comes through a TCU account it is inspected for spam, viruses and phishing content. Normally, TCU can detect and reject certain e-mails, but when attackers send out spam from within the network, it cor-

Phishing Tips

- It might be phishy if:**
- It has a generic greeting
 - It comes from a suspicious e-mail address
 - It has numerous grammatical errors
 - It asks for personal information
- What to do if you get bit:**
- Change your password on the account and any account you have with the same password
 - Monitor all financial information and credit reports

SOURCE: JIM MAYNE, director of information security services

rupts the network and is harder to detect, Howell said. When e-mails from university accounts are sent out to other e-mail providers, they usually end up getting blocked, he said.

It takes a lot of work to get TCU e-mail removed from the black lists, Howell said. On average it takes four to six hours to

SEE PHISHING · PAGE 2

Nursing school expands simulation labs

By Jackie Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

Students in Harris College of Nursing have more room to practice their technique thanks to the expansion of simulation labs and additional simulation manikins.

Mary Beth Walker, assistant director of simulation lab, said the Harris College has divided the simulation labs in order for nursing anesthesia students and undergraduate nursing students to have their own practice areas.

"A simulation manikin has working parts that will respond to a student's response to an underlying problem or a

set of vital signs," Walker said.

Terri Jones, clinical assistant professor of nurse anesthesia, said students in the nurse anesthesia program use simulation labs as well but focus more on training.

The nurse anesthesia program is different from the nursing undergraduate program in that nurse anesthesia students have all had prior experience or training as a nurse, Jones said.

According to the page for the university's school of nurse anesthesia, the program is an advanced program for professional nurses who are working toward a graduate degree.

"We use similar tools as the under-

graduate but it's a different model of training," Jones said.

Students in the nurse anesthesia program work on patients through simulation before working in a clinical environment, Jones said. Nurse anesthesia students work on more critical-care scenarios, Jones said.

"Once the students work in a clinical environment they are brought back to the simulation labs to identify areas in which they need extra work," Jones said.

The nurse anesthesia labs have had upgrades, including the addition of au-

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NEWS

DINING

continued from page 1

sorbing the extra cost of the meal plan addition, Allen said.

"What we're able to do now is provide them that convenience that people said they wanted," he said.

Depending on its success, the experiment with Sub Connection could eventually lead to other changes being made to the meal plans, Allen said.

"We'll see how well this goes, and then we'll evaluate if we want to have Simply To-Go at other locations," Allen said. "For now, we're going to go with this location because it provides coverage for the east side of campus."

Rick Flores, general manager for Dining Services, said Sodexo will be prepared to handle the adjustments made at Sub Connection.

"Right now we're just doing an evaluation and making sure we have the facility and the equipment to be able to take care of something like that," Flores said.

Flores said that because of the change to the meal plan there is some concern about reversing Dining Services' efforts to cut back on waste and help the environment.

"All of a sudden we're talking about using take-out packaging again," Flores said. "It's a matter of balancing out that part of sustainability with convenience for the students."

Sophomore prebusiness major Albert Rayle, creator of the Facebook group "Petition against TCU's new meal plan," said he hopes this initial change to the plan will eventually lead to students being able to use swipes at all on-campus dining options.

"It's a pretty big change that I didn't think they'd be making until next year," Rayle said. "They're slowly making progress, very slowly, but it's definitely a step in the right direction."

Allen said an announcement regarding future changes to Pond Street Grill, a dining location with poor traffic because of this semester's new meal plan, will be made sometime next month.

"We haven't yet finalized that," Allen said. "It will be changed."

OBAMA

continued from page 1

that led to his victory, because obviously he has a lot of substance," Grau said. "However, when you look at the way he put together that campaign it's pretty amazing."

Adam Schiffer, an assistant professor in the political science department, said displeasure with the incumbent party had more to do with Obama's victory than good marketing.

"As a political scientist, I generally tend to downplay the importance of marketing," Schiffer said. "We tend to believe that elections are determined by the bigger, long-term factors such as the state of the economy and the approval of the current president."

With a tanking economy and one of the least popular presidents ever, all indicators

pointed to a Democrat victory, Schiffer said.

Schiffer said marketing did play some sort of role in the election, but it wasn't the deciding factor.

"I think he would have won anyhow, but I think he certainly rewrote the rules on how to market yourself," Schiffer said.

Mike Wood, an advertising professional-in-residence, said Sen. John McCain had a lot of things working against him in the election, especially the age factor.

"You're not going to get the youth market to vote for a 72-year-old and elect the oldest U.S. president in history," Wood said. "It isn't going to happen."

Liz Slagle, a sophomore political science major and president of the TCU Democrats, said she believes Obama's campaign did a much better job

than McCain's of reaching out to young voters.

"I think that's one of the main reasons why he won," Slagle said. "If you look at everything, you can tell that his outreach to the youth is actually phenomenal."

Grau said anyone who is marketing something must find a competitive advantage. Finding a message that resonates with the consumer — the voter in this case — is important, she said. Obama did that with his message of change.

"In almost two years he never deviated from that message," Grau said.

Grau said Obama's meteoric rise to the presidency was unlikely for a number of reasons.

"Two years ago here's this guy who is completely unknown to anyone outside of Illinois with the exception of the fact that he made a great

speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004," she said.

Not only was he relatively unknown, he was a black man with a name that a lot of people found to be unsettling, Grau said.

Obama then went up against and defeated two of the world's most well-known and well-connected politicians in Sen. Hillary Clinton and McCain. Clinton and McCain's campaigns focused on each candidates' experience, but in each case it was no match for Obama's unwavering message of change, Grau said.

"If you look at John McCain's campaign and if you looked at Hillary Clinton's campaign, it's very similar in that they sort of never found a message that they could get some traction with," Grau said. "Barack Obama stayed with change."

PHISHING

continued from page 1

clean up after a phishing attack, he said.

Technology Resources is beginning to tag e-mails that are potential phishing e-mails, Howell said, but some spammers are staying one step ahead.

"Spammers can continually change enough of the message to evade pattern matching that Technology Resources creates," he said.

If a legitimate e-mail contains phrases that phishing e-mails usually entail, it could contain a tag, Mayne said.

"In the end, we are trying to do the best we can technologically to stop the spam and the phishing, but nothing is going to be foolproof," Mayne said. "We really need the users to stop and think about what the e-mails are saying, what they are reading and make an educated determination of the legitimacy of the e-mail."

ADJUNCT

continued from page 1

We don't have to do that here."

But Boschini also said he doesn't necessarily agree with the information reported in the studies.

"I don't like those kinds of generalities because I think it doesn't take individual differences into account," Boschini said. "I think there are some part-time professors that could blow the socks off of me as a full-time professor and vice versa. I think you have to look at the person."

The studies suggest that adjunct faculty members are either unwilling or unable to spend time helping students outside the classroom. This could be because the university doesn't provide enough incentive to do so or because most adjunct faculty members have to spend time at another job to make a living.

The National Education Association estimates that part-time fac-

ulty members spend 91 percent of their time instructing, compared with about 61 percent for full-time professors.

Jenn Angelo, a sophomore nursing major, said even though her adjunct professors don't spend much time on campus, they are easy to contact if she or other students need help outside of the classroom.

"They let us call them at any time," Angelo said. "We all have their cell phone numbers."

She also said her adjunct professors are able to provide her with valuable information about the medical field that most full-time professors can't.

"They're at the hospitals every day so they know what's going on now as opposed to what happened 10 years ago," Angelo said.

Jan Ballard, an adjunct faculty member in the art department, said each week she only has one designated office hour, but she spends about five more hours in

her office than is required.

"I tell my students that they can come in their pajamas because I'm usually in my office early in the morning," Ballard said.

She also said there are certain benefits that students can get from adjunct instructors that full-time professors may not be able to provide.

"The real world experience definitely, but also the experience of working with clients on a daily basis," Ballard said.

Boschini agreed and said that there are some fields, such as nursing and journalism, in which it's better to have a mix of part-time and full-time professors.

"It's great to have the full-time professors, and you need them, but it's wonderful to have somebody out there who's the editor of a newspaper or a copy editor or something and teaches one class because you get a real world experience I can't give you," Boschini said.

The studies also suggest that part-time faculty members are generally hired at the last minute and with little scrutiny. That is not usually the case at TCU, Boschini said.

The university can plan ahead and accommodate for at least 1,550 freshmen and about 9,000 total students every year, he said.

"It doesn't fluctuate that much," Boschini said. "Where it would fluctuate a lot is mainly with the freshman class. If we got 40 extra kids, which we did two years ago, you might have to hire one more person to teach basic English or something like that, and that would be at the last minute."

Boschini said adjunct faculty are a valued part of the university, and there are no plans to change the university's hiring practices.

"There's definitely a place for adjunct faculty members, and I

NUMBERS

Percentage of full-time faculty

60%

TCU

91%

Baylor

85%

Southern Methodist University

think their place is that they enrich the program and that they help fill out some voids that we can't always fill," Boschini said.

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The Skiff View

Meal plan changes sign of compromise

Dining Services' initiative to change the meal plan should be applauded.

Pre-packaged food options including salads, sandwiches, fruit, cookies and drinks will now be available at Sub Connection, and changes in the way Pond Street Grill operates are in the works.

While it doesn't fully integrate Sub Connection into the "swipes" portion of the meal plan, it is a step in the right direction.

The Simply To-Go program will help students with busy schedules grab lunch and continue with their lives.

Students don't always have time to sit down and eat in the middle of their day, something the current meal plan does not address. The acceptance of meal plan swipes at Sub Connection will also help alleviate the heavy load of traffic that hits Market Square during peak hours.

Also, while concern has been raised about sustainability regarding the use of to-go materials, it is ultimately more important that students have a variety of places to eat rather than a lack of trash.

As long as students are responsible with their waste and recycle, there should be minimal impact on TCU's environmental efforts.

What's more, the introduction of Simply To-Go shows that the administration listened to what students wanted. Those in charge listened to feedback and are working on creating even more options to better serve the students.

Introducing an entirely different meal plan was a massive undertaking for TCU. Perfecting it will take time, but a commitment to the requests of the student body can only expedite the process.

News editor David Hall for the editorial board

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

YOUR VIEW opinion@dailyskiff.com

Poor game attendance is because of fans, not university

I am writing in response to an opinion article published in Wednesday's Skiff about how TCU should be treated as a 'football school.' The writer states that "TCU needs to allow for a 'football atmosphere' to overtake the campus and the fans." He says this "requires" students being allowed to storm the field, "extreme tailgates" and "die-hard fans."

Now I agree that our fan base for football should be bigger. I love football. I am at every game, most of the time covered in paint and jumping around. But I don't base going to the games on whether I can storm the field, or whether there is an "extreme" tailgate prior to the game.

Like the writer, I also have been at TCU for two years, and I personally have seen no change in attendance at the football games in the last three football seasons, despite that fact that the student tailgate was moved from Brachman to the Commons. In fact, I believe there were less fans at the games before the tailgate was moved because most students preferred to stay at the tailgate for the majority of the game.

As for sportsmanship, the writer spends most of the article, in his words, "drilling sportsmanship," saying that "the hatred of our rivals must overwhelm us for just one day without anyone telling us to 'play nice.'" He then turns around and says good sportsmanship is important. He states that when TCU beat No. 8 BYU, the fans were not allowed to "get rowdy and have fun." On the contrary, the fans were allowed to get rowdy, and they were allowed to have fun. Trust me, I was there, as close to the field as I could get, being as loud as I could and there was

no one there telling me that I was not allowed to have fun. The writer's definition of fun must be being allowed to storm the field, and if that is the case, then yes, it's true, the fans were not allowed to "have fun." Now regardless of the reasons behind not being able to storm the field, whether it be safety or sportsmanship, we're not allowed to. Get used to it.

The writer says that most of the schools with big fan bases are "state schools" with a lot of students who "lose their minds when their team scores." He says this is because they have the passion and the support of the universities. If TCU didn't support sports attendance, they wouldn't let us go. If they didn't support our attendance, there would be no reason to have sports of any kind at TCU. The fact is, they do, in fact, support students attending sports events on campus. Just because you don't like certain rules set in place does not mean that the university does not support us. The reason there is low attendance at our football games has nothing to do with an "extreme" tailgate or being allowed to storm the field, it's because our students obviously just don't care about football. While this is unfortunate, it's true. I'm one of those "die-hard fans screaming at every football game," and I am joined by at least 15 of my friends who do the same thing. The only thing we need to improve attendance are fans who just love football and want to support our team. Go to the games because you want to, because you enjoy it and because our team deserves our support, not because there is an "extreme" tailgate or storming the field

Caitlyn Murphy is a junior radio-TV-film major from Fort Worth.



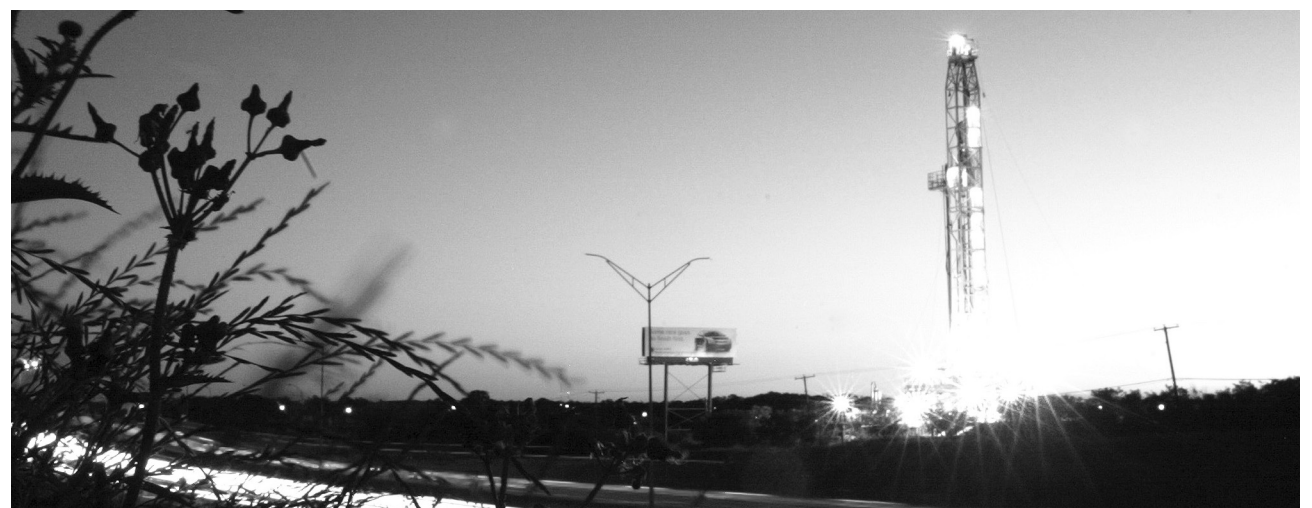
Robert Slack is a sophomore theatre major from El Paso.

On-campus drilling smart



Each week, I sit down at my computer and start spilling out my opinion about an issue that seems to get my feathers ruffled. I take this time and opportunity for granted because utilizing a computer is such a commonplace task these days. This week when I sat down, I couldn't help but think about energy.

Energy is what fuels our choices, actions and lifestyles, yet the smallest things such as turning on or off a light, typing an article or cranking up the heat on a cold night are left unappreciated. We are currently in an energy craze, yet as a society we are so detached from our sources. When I stand on the escalator in the bookstore I haven't the slightest thought about what makes the stairs move or where the energy is coming from. My coffee has its origins from my coffee pot that is plugged into my wall, not the oil rig, gas drill, hydro power plant, nuclear plant or wind turbine. We want the energy and we want it cheap, but we don't want to see what it is or where it is coming from; no way, not in my backyard.



A natural gas rig runs drills in April 2007 near Quicksilver Resources in Fort Worth.

ecologically-disturbed site. Drilling in an urban space is sparing the environment and all the plants and animals that reside in a natural habitat.

Fourth, we will be getting cheaper, homegrown gas rather than getting it overseas.

Fifth, we would be taking responsibility for our actions as energy consumers. And last, I hate to say this, but gas is a step cleaner than oil. So it certainly isn't natural, clean energy like photovoltaics or wind turbines, and it still aggravates my environmental senses, but it is loosening our grip on oil.

So, there actually are benefits to drilling on campus. This is making the best of a bad situation. People must come to the point in their life where they either decide to keep on with their dirty energy dependency — politically and environmentally — or take the drill and put it in an area that is already ecologically disturbed.

I am certainly no advocate for extensive, unnecessary energy consumption, but I have struggled through this issue for a while now, and have tried to rationalize how this can be a positive experience for us all at TCU. I am guilty of using my computer and occasionally leaving lights on, but I am willing to pay for these actions. I support urban drilling versus ecosystem damaging drilling.

Gretchen Wilbrandt is a junior environmental science major from Woodstock, Ill.

U.S. must fill educational commitment to military members

American citizens recognize that our soldiers serving during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have made a great sacrifice for our country. Nearly all Americans agree we owe them our full support with finding jobs, providing needed medical care and other support so they can successfully reintegrate when they return to civilian life. Helping these men and women gain the skills and credentials they need to succeed in a competitive labor market is both appropriate recognition for their service and a social responsibility.

In addition to their desire to serve their country, about three-quarters of men and women in uniform indicate that education benefits were a key incentive for enlisting. However, in reality, most GI Bill education benefits go unused for a number of reasons. Many have trouble transferring credits that they have already earned from previous higher education experiences or institutions. Some are confused about

what benefits are available to them and how to use them.

Traditional higher education often does not afford those in military service the flexibility or platform to manage their studies while serving in the military, particularly when they are also juggling family and job obligations. Many are transferred from base to base, often making it difficult to continue their education. Even military students studying online often need additional flexibility to be successful.

College education for our military is critically important both while soldiers are in the service and when they return home as veterans. Today's military is highly skilled, and soldiers on active duty have a much better chance of promotion if they are pursuing higher education. Returning veterans look to college as a means to re-enter the civilian workforce. Once they obtain a degree, the chances

of advancement in the military or in the civilian workforce are greater.

Our military has a strong culture that promotes and rewards civilian education. The military often provides selected officers with fully funded advanced educational opportunities while on active duty. When I served in Vietnam, officers like me received educational assistance from the military while serving our country. Enlisted personnel, however, returned home to start new lives and relied on GI educational benefits. Today, they still rely on these benefits, in addition to the support of their colleges, to advance their education.

Institutions of higher education should be prepared to dedicate dollars and support services that address the unique challenges of both active duty and veteran soldiers. The GI Bill has gone a long way to address the rising cost of tuition, yet many of our servicemen and women still

have to pay out of pocket to supplement the cost of tuition.

I am proud that the institution where I teach, Kaplan University, recently reduced its online tuition rate for veterans and active-duty service members, allowing their military benefits to cover tuition costs fully. The university also implemented flexible leave policies to help them complete their education and meet the demands of a military lifestyle. I encourage other higher education institutions to dedicate similar efforts in supporting military students and veterans.

Today, thousands of our fine military personnel are returning to civilian life after serving our country around the world. These service people and their families have made major sacrifices for our country. Just as we have provided significant benefits for our returning servicemen and women since World War II, a grateful nation owes our current soldiers full edu-

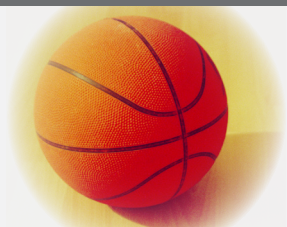
cational benefits to help them successfully integrate into civilian life.

We need to fulfill the educational commitment that we made to these young men and women. We need to ensure that access to higher education is available to those that want to pursue their studies and that unreasonable barriers do not block their way.

Throughout the coming months as the new presidential administration evaluates its priorities and considers issues related to troop withdrawal and redeployment, please join me and make sure that our veterans are on the agenda to ensure a strong military and a strong economy. They have earned our gratitude and support.

Nick Halley is a retired U.S. Army brigadier general who was a combat leader in Vietnam, Grenada and Desert Storm. This column was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

SPORTS



See how the women's basketball team does against UTA. Tomorrow

MEN'S BASKETBALL NEBRASKA 62 · TCU 50

ROUGH START



Freshman guard Kavon Rose makes a shot during the game against Nebraska at the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum on Wednesday night.

PAIGE McARDLE / Staff Photographer

Horned Frogs lose home debut

By Brian Smith
Staff Reporter

The Horned Frogs' shooting woes continued Wednesday night as they fell to the Nebraska Cornhuskers 62-50 in front of 3,922 fans at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Despite a solid defensive effort, TCU made just 10 field goals for the entire game. Senior forward Kevin Langford led the Horned Frogs with 19 points, but no other player scored in double digits for TCU. The team shot 15.8 percent from 3-point range and did not make a three-pointer in the first half.

The Horned Frogs shot 28 percent for the game and went almost 10 minutes without scoring a field goal in the second half. Junior guard Edvinas Ruzgas hit a 3-pointer from the baseline to end the drought with 3:25 remaining in the game. Prior to that shot, the last field goal the Horned Frogs made was a layup by Langford at the 13:02 mark.

"When you play a good team like Nebras-

ka, when you do get an open shot, you've got to make them pay," head coach Jim Christian said. "And that usually leads to momentum. We just could not get any momentum or rhythm offensively all night."

In a foul-filled contest, TCU shoot more free throws, 38, than field goals, 37. Four different Cornhuskers accumulated four fouls during the game. Officials called a total of 47 fouls on both teams, but Christian said officiating did not affect the game.

"The officiating was fantastic. It had nothing to do with that," Christian said. "It had to do with our basketball team executing and making shots."

The two teams jostled for control early before Nebraska took over. With the score tied at 19 and six minutes left in the first half, the Cornhuskers scored 13 of the next 15 points and led 37-24 at halftime.

"We came out intensely, and then we wilted and got a little discombobulated; took a few bad shots," Langford said. "But you know, that's just the game. That's the way it

Men's Basketball Game

What: TCU vs. McNeese State
When: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum

happens with a young team and new guys playing together."

The Horned Frogs battled back in the second half, cutting the Nebraska lead to seven with 7:15 left before Cornhusker guard Toney McCray nailed a 3-pointer to stretch the lead back to double-digits.

Langford said the team felt confident it could win the game despite being down for the majority of it.

"We felt like we were in the game the whole time," Langford said. "Coach Christian was telling us, 'One play at a time,' especially when we came out of halftime."

Ultimately, though, the Horned Frogs could not generate enough offense to hang with Nebraska down the stretch.

TCU VS. AIR FORCE MATCHUPS

Frogs to win big against Air Force

By Billy Wessels
Sports Editor

Quarterbacks

TCU: Sophomore quarterback Andy Dalton is coming off one of his worst games of the season against Utah, completing just 16 of his 37 pass attempts and throwing two costly interceptions on drives at the end of the second and fourth quarters. But it's worth noting that he threw nine touchdowns and no interceptions in the three games prior.

Air Force: Freshman quarterback Tim Jefferson has played in eight of the Falcons' 11 games this season. Jefferson has completed 35 of 59 passes so far this year and has thrown five touchdowns compared with three interceptions. Air Force's run-happy offense gives Dalton the edge here.

Advantage: TCU

Running Backs

TCU: Both teams run the ball effectively. TCU is averaging 4.5 yards per rush, while Air Force is averaging 4.6 yards per attempt. Junior tailback Joseph Turner, the Frogs' leading rusher, missed the game against Utah because of injury, but head football coach Gary Patterson said he is back to running 100 percent.

Air Force: The Falcons have had 17 different players run the ball so far, and five different players have more than 300 yards rushing. Senior fullback Todd Newell leads the team with 585 yards and four touchdowns.

Advantage: Push

Wide Receivers

TCU: Seven different players caught passes during the game two weeks ago, but once again sophomore Jimmy Young stole the show,

Football Game

What: No. 15 TCU vs. Air Force
When: Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
Where: Amon Carter Stadium

making six catches for 97 yards. Young is still dominating the rest of the team with 49 catches and 826 yards receiving.

Air Force: Patterson said he didn't want to look foolish by getting prepared for the run and having Air Force throw over the top of the Frogs, so don't expect too many big passing plays from the Falcons. Sophomore Kyle Halderman leads the team with 256 yards and three touchdowns.

Advantage: TCU

Offensive Line

TCU: The Frogs' front five have done a good job this season of keeping people from getting to Dalton, but last week the quarterback was taken down four times. Junior left tackle Marshall Newhouse was All-Mountain West Conference Honorable Mention last season.

Air Force: The offensive line for the Falcons has allowed just two sacks all season, partially because the Falcons run the ball twice as often as they throw it. Junior right tackle Chris Campbell has helped the Falcons become one of two teams to have more than 3,000 rushing yards this season.

Advantage: TCU

Defensive Line

TCU: The defensive front for the Frogs has helped them to the nation's best run defense ranking, allowing 39.5 yards per game. Junior defensive end Jerry Hughes, who has 14

SEE MATCHUPS · PAGE 5

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

After big weekend, team readies for UTA

By Brian Smith
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team will continue its run through a gauntlet of in-state opponents when it faces off against the University of Texas at Arlington at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Fresh off a big upset over No. 3 Maryland, the Lady Frogs still have plenty of room to improve, especially on the boards, head coach Jeff Mittie said.

"I think our rebounding was awful," Mittie said. "What we've seen on film is that there are some things I think that we can teach better."

Rebounding aside, the Lady Frogs' effort against Maryland and the University of Texas at

Women's Basketball Game

What: No. 24 TCU vs. UTA
When: Today at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum

San Antonio this weekend was enough to get them voted into the 24th spot of the Associated Press Top 25 poll this week.

"It's where you want to be," Mittie said about the team's rank. "It doesn't change anything, though, for game night. We're still the same team that nobody thought was any good a month ago."

Although he had concerns about his team's rebounding effort, Mittie did give credit to its offensive performance.

"I thought we were really strong with the basketball," Mittie said. "That's an area we had been sporadic with, but I was pleased with our decision making."

Junior guard TK LaFleur, who sat out last season after transferring from the University of Nebraska, was key to the Lady Frogs' upset of Maryland by scoring a game-high 28 points. For her effort, LaFleur was named

SEE BASKETBALL · PAGE 5

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Driver's supremacy ruins chase

By Sarah Rothschild
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — For a fourth consecutive year, the Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway shaped up to be more of a coronation than a drama-filled race to the championship.

Jimmie Johnson needed only to finish 36th Sunday to win his third consecutive Cup title, making most of the Chase for the Cup field irrelevant. Since the Chase started in 2004, the leader heading to Homestead has won the championship every time.

"There's nothing exciting about the Chase," said Darrell Waltrip, a three-time Cup champion and current FOX analyst. "They created the Chase to create some excitement. It just hasn't done it."

Four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon countered: "You look at other sports with playoffs, and we had to create some kind of a playoff system. And so far this is the best thing that's been put in place."

NASCAR introduced the Chase to try to create suspense and drama the entire season. The first time, it worked to perfection.

Five drivers had a shot to win the title going to Homestead, three drivers — Gordon, Kurt Busch and Johnson — battled for the championship until the last lap. Busch finished fifth in the Ford 400 and edged Johnson for the title by eight points. It remains the closest finish in NASCAR's 60-year history.

Every year, the margin between the leader and runner-up going into the finale has widened.

That margin, combined with Johnson's dominance the past three seasons, is raising questions about the effectiveness of the Chase and whether it needs

to be tweaked.

"I don't know what would be better than we've got," said Richard Petty, a seven-time champion and self-described proponent of the Chase.

NASCAR resets the standings after the 26th race and theoretically gives 12 drivers a shot at the title in a 10-race shootout. Drivers are seeded based on regular-season victories, earning a 10-point bonus for each win.

In the past four years, the Chase has produced two different champions than there would have been with the old points system, introduced in 1975. The points were cumulative, based on drivers' performance in all 36 races.

Johnson would only have one title if NASCAR still used the old format. Gordon would have six, one fewer than Petty and Dale Earnhardt Sr. Last year under the old system, Gordon would have finished with a 353-point lead over Johnson, and four years ago he would have beaten Johnson by 47 points.

But Gordon's not complaining.

"You have seasons like I've had where you would have won the championship under the old format, and you have seasons like this where Kyle Busch gets penalized because of it, but yet it helps other guys," he said. "All in all I think it's great for the sport. I just would like to win one."

Still, many drivers are opposed to NASCAR tinkering with the Chase.

"How do we understand what to change and how to make it better if we can't watch it and look at it for seven years or eight years and see how it's working?" Chase driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. said. "We shouldn't keep changing and changing until we stumble on the right spot and the right

options and the right ways to have things."

Chase driver Jeff Burton suggested that the only way NASCAR could guarantee plenty of suspense at Homestead would be to adopt a similar format to other sports.

"If we want to make a championship so that every single year is going to be a knock-down drag-out, the only way to do that is to eliminate teams," Burton said. "The same way you do to get to the Super Bowl. . . . The NCAA Tournament, that one game means everything because you have two teams. That's not to me how we judge a champion here."

Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of competition, said the sanctioning body is pleased with the Chase. He said it has generated excitement during the regular season as teams focus on qualifying for the Chase, and it has allowed NASCAR to stage a postseason like other major sports.

Peaking during the Chase is the one issue being hotly debated. Busch's 207-point lead over Edwards shrunk to 30 points before the Chase opener at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Busch, 23, has eight Cup wins in the regular season that established him as the title favorite, but he never was a factor. A broken sway bar doomed Busch in the Chase opener, and he finished 34th. He dropped from first to eighth, 74 points off the lead. In the second race, his freefall continued. A blown engine relegated Busch a 43rd place in the race and 12th place in the Chase, 212 points behind.

"I wrote us off after the second week," Busch said. "It's frustrating to have to come to the race-track every week and not have a shot for a championship."

MATCHUPS

continued from page 4

and 43 tackles, has been named a Sporting News Today's Midseason All-American.

Air Force: So far the Falcons have recorded 29 sacks and are averaging 135.8 rushing yards allowed per game. Senior defensive end Jake Paulson has 48 tackles and 14 sacks through 11 games this season.

Advantage: TCU

Linebackers

TCU: This will be the last home game together for one of the best linebacker trios in the nation. Seniors Robert Henson and Jason Phillips will be leaving junior Daryl Washington behind to fill their shoes. Phillips leads the team in tackles, 70, and tackles for loss, 11. Phillips also has 48 career starts, the most of any current Frog.

Air Force: Air Force has the No. 35 total defense in the nation, allowing 320 yards of offense per game. Sophomore linebacker Ken Lamendola leads the Falcons with 101 total tackles and has 2.5 sacks so far this season.

Advantage: TCU

Defensive Backs

TCU: The passing defense for the Frogs has been improving throughout the season, allowing just four teams to throw for more than 200 yards against them. Senior safety Stephen Hodge will be playing his last home game for the Frogs and currently leads the secondary with 66 total tackles and seven tackles for loss.

Air Force: The secondary for the Falcons has allowed 184.2 passing yards per game through 11 games this year and has allowed five teams to throw for 200 or more yards against them. Junior safety Chris Thomas is second on the team in tackles with 82. He has six sacks and four passes defended.

Advantage: TCU

Special Teams

TCU: Two missed field goals cost the Frogs' their game against Utah, but Patterson said he has had his team work on the kicking game by adding extra pressure to kicks during practice. Sophomore wide receiver Jeremy Kerley is back to full health and could be back to returning punts this week.

Air Force: Similar to Utah, Air

QUARTERBACKS



Dalton



Jefferson

LINEBACKERS



Phillips



Lamendola

RUNNING BACKS



Turner



Newell

DEFENSIVE BACKS

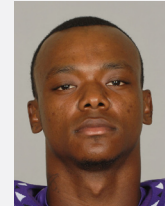


Hodge



Thomas

WIDE RECEIVERS

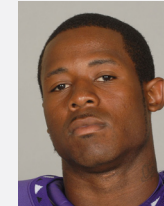


Young



Halderman

SPECIAL TEAMS



Kerley



Harrison

OFFENSIVE LINE



Newhouse



Campbell

COACHING



Patterson



Calhoun

DEFENSIVE LINE



Hughes



Paulson

PREDICTION

The seniors have the chance to tie for the winningest class in school history, and they won't disappoint. TCU wins 38-10.

Force has a player who both punts and kicks. Senior kicker Ryan Harrison has made all 33 of his extra points and has made 21 out of 24 field goal attempts this season. Harrison has also made 35 punts, with an average of 38.5 yards per kick.

Advantage: Air Force

Coaching

TCU: This will be Patterson's 99th game as the head coach for the Frogs. A win would give the Frogs their sixth 10-win season since 2000. The Frogs have allowed

their opponents into the red zone 17 times this season and have allowed points on just 11 of those drives.

Air Force: Troy Calhoun is in his second year coaching the Falcons and has a 17-7 record so far. Calhoun is 11-4 so far in the Mountain West Conference, giving him the fourth highest winning percentage of coaches in the conference, behind Patterson, Bronco Mendenhall at Brigham Young University (2005 to present) and Urban Meyer at Utah (2003 to 2005).

Advantage: TCU

BASKETBALL

continued from page 4

Mountain West Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week.

"I like the fact that she got to the rim some and got to the free throw line," Mittie said about LaFleur. "She really mixed up her game well."

This is the first of five games the Lady Frogs will play in the next nine days. Because so many games are packed in to such a short amount of time, Mittie said that film study will be crucial to the team's improvement.

"When you don't have practice time, it's hard to correct mistakes, and it's easier to drift into some bad habits or drift back into some habits that you've been trying to change," Mittie said. "That's why we're really going to try to use film."

In addition to LaFleur, sophomore guard Helena Sverrisdottir put up solid numbers in both contests over the weekend. Sverrisdottir scored 18 points against Maryland and followed it up with a 19-point, 10-rebound performance against UT-San Antonio.

UTA beat SMU 85-79 in its only game so far this season, and the Lady Frogs have beaten the Lady Mavericks 12 consecutive times. But Mittie said UTA does provide some challenges.

"They'll be sound defensively, and they probably have as much team speed as anybody we've faced all year," Mittie said.

After UTA, the Lady Frogs will take on Sam Houston State and the University of Houston at home before heading to the Caribbean Challenge tournament in Cancun, Mexico.



Junior guard Eboni Mangum follows through on a shot during the Lady Frogs' 73-60 victory over the University of Texas at San Antonio on Nov. 16. TCU will host the University of Texas at Arlington tonight at 6:30.

LINH DANG / Staff Photographer

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Fisher, McGrady raise Darfur awareness

By Janis Carr
The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — Wall Street falters followed by a \$700 billion bailout. The economy struggles as retailer after retailer announces bankruptcy.

A new president is elected. California catches on fire.

With each new week, a new crisis seems to arise, pushing the African region of Darfur further from the world's consciousness. But there are those, such as Lakers guard Derek Fisher and Houston's Tracy McGrady, who refuse to let the ongoing conflict and genocide disappear from view.

At a screening for his documentary "3 Points" last week, McGrady recently called upon human rights activists, movie executives and fellow players to help raise awareness

about Darfur, where more than 500,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million more have been displaced since fighting started four years ago.

McGrady's film is about his trip last year to the Darfurian refugee camps in Chad, where he is hoping to build schools. He said he was "touched" by the children's plight.

But he needs funding and support, which is why he is asking his fellow players to watch the documentary. McGrady didn't have to ask Fisher twice.

Fisher, who has viewed the documentary, has been involved in the support for Darfur since learning about it last year, having made a public service announcement and hosting a roundtable, along with former Laker Ira Newble and actor Don Cheadle, on the subject last spring.

He admits, though, keeping the issue at the forefront is difficult.

"You to be sensitive to what people choose to do and what they need to do," Fisher said. "We understand that with everything that is happening around the world, it can be difficult to look outside their own lives and circumstances to help others."

Like McGrady, Fisher isn't slowing down his fight for justice in the Sudan. He continues to mobilize individual groups, such as Aid Still Required, to spread the awareness about Darfur.

"We want to let people know that a lot of great things are taking place in the region," Fisher said. "But our challenge is that just because it's not in the news, for people not to think that everything is OK or that the work needs to stop now."

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**YOUR EXPECTATIONS
BECOME YOUR
EXPERIENCE**

Speakers discuss separation of church, state

By Katie Martinez
Staff Reporter

Despite the fact that religion plays an important role in the lives of Americans, everyone benefits from the separation of church and state that is afforded by the Constitution, a religion professor and a Christian agency representative told students at a discussion on religion and politics Wednesday.

Ron Flowers, emeritus professor of religion, and guest speaker Stephen Reeves, legislative counsel for the Christian Life Commission, spoke about the dangers of blending religion and politics in an intimate gathering of about a dozen students in Robert Carr Chapel.

A Pew Research Institute Survey released just before the 2008 election found an increasing number of Americans are questioning the role of religion in politics, and both speakers said the change was encouraging.

"I would love to say that it was because of great principles and moral values and the like," Flowers said. "But I think it's because the IRS is breathing down their neck."

Flowers said the Internal Revenue Service can become a problem for a church if the church openly supports a political candidate because it jeopardizes the tax exemptions that are afforded to churches and charitable organizations.

Both speakers said they felt that some Christians underestimate the benefits of secularization.

"The idea of the separation of church and state as being hostile to religion could not be more wrong," Flowers said. "Rather, it is designed to allow religion to flourish."

Flowers pointed to the churches of Europe, which he said are funded with tax dollars, as



Stephen Reeves, right, legislative counsel for the Christian Life Commission, listens to a question from a student Wednesday in Robert Carr Chapel along with emeritus professor of religion Ron Flowers.

an example of why secularization is key to the success of religious organizations.

"They have lower attendance rates and less income coming in because people feel that they have already done their part with their tax dollars," he said.

Reeves, who is an adviser to the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said even though the increasing tendency to mix religion in government and politics is bad for the country, it is even more detrimental to churches.

Reeves said partnerships between church-based charitable organizations have existed for 100 years or more, but the 2001 faith-based initiatives removed some important safeguards that were designed to protect both government and religious organizations.

The initiatives, which effectively rewrote the laws pertaining to government funding of faith-based charities, were a major issue during President George W. Bush's 2000 campaign and were signed into law via an execu-

tive order during his first year in office.

Reeves said it was unfortunate that church-based charities were being used as a political tool and that all the faith-based initiative conferences were held in swing states.

"One of the major changes we saw with the initiatives is that religious organizations are no longer required to set up a separate 501c3 to accept government funds," Reeves said.

The 501c3 tax exemption is a status afforded to churches and organizations for the greater good, such as charities, museums and universities.

The changes in law cause serious problems for both church and state, Reeves said.

"On one hand, for the church, they now have government eyes following the government money into places they didn't have a right to before," he said. "The other side of that is if no eyes are following it then you could have that money being spent on inherently religious projects, and I don't think that is right either."

Yearbook still going despite national trend

By Melissa Hawkes
Staff Reporter

A new trend is sweeping across college campuses — the discontinuation of school yearbooks.

According to news reports, at least five colleges have announced the discontinuation of their yearbooks since the end of last year, including the University of North Texas and Purdue University, whose yearbook had been in publication for more than 100 years.

Despite the trend, The Horned Frog, TCU's yearbook, seems to be standing strong.

Kathy Hamer, The Horned Frog adviser, said most freshmen show up to get their picture taken. As students get older, the turnout rate decreases, except for senior year when students want their graduating class yearbook, Hamer said.

About 2,000 to 2,400 students purchase The Horned Frog each year, Hamer said.

"Larger schools have a harder time because they do not have the close relationships we have here," she said.

Calls to Taylor Publishing Company, the publisher for The Horned Frog, were not returned.

Rich Stoebe, director of communications for publisher Jostens Inc., said about 1,000 colleges and universities across the country publish traditional yearbooks.

"There has been a decline in college yearbooks that began a number of years ago," Stoebe said.

Mallory Burkett, editor-in-chief of The Horned Frog, said it is disheartening that some universities no longer have a yearbook.

"We are all very aware of how things are going and we are worried about it," Hamer said. "We just hope ours holds solid."

Some experts blame social networking Web sites such as Facebook for taking away from the yearbook, but Hamer said those Web sites cannot replace the role of the yearbook in documenting what goes on at the university.

Stoebe agreed. He said he does not think Facebook or MySpace played a significant role in the decline of college yearbooks.

"A yearbook is a keepsake for decades and captures the story of a unique year," he said. "Social networking sites are more in-the-moment."

The Horned Frog has been in print since 1898 and was named The Horned Frog before athletics adopted the mascot. Each yearbook costs \$62 and comes with a two-hour-long DVD supplement that features video footage from the entire year.

This is the first year students can purchase a yearbook online. Traditionally, students would order a yearbook after getting their photo taken.

Esther Volmer, a freshman speech-language pathology major, said she wants a yearbook so she can look back and remember her freshman year. "The university will definitely be different when I am a senior and I want to be able to look back at the changing campus."

'Stonewall 2.0' generation rallies for gay rights in California

By Lornet Turnbull
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — In 1969, gays at a small New York City bar called the Stonewall Inn staged a revolt against harassment and launched the gay-rights movement of a generation.

Nearly 40 years later, a nation of young people awoke to find that even as the U.S. had elected its first African-American president, voters had stripped gays of the benefit of marriage in California and preempted any such attempts in Florida and Arizona.

And so it began — Stonewall 2.0 — a new generation's revolt of the status quo.

In the last 10 days, gays and their supporters, stunned and angry over the passage of Proposition 8, have hardly left California streets, where their protests of the same-sex marriage ban have led to sometimes

ugly confrontations with those they blame for their loss.

Their movement is now national, with planned demonstrations Saturday expected to draw thousands in cities across the country.

The revolt is being led not so much by graying street warriors who took on the establishment following the Stonewall riots but by young people — gay and straight — using cellphones, text messaging and Web sites like Facebook and MySpace to quickly assemble armies of foot soldiers.

They came of age after many of the nation's big battles for rights had been fought and have friends of all races and sexual orientation. Many are young enough to have parents who are openly gay.

"For us, Proposition 8 was a wake-up call that rights are not something we can take for granted," said Taylor Malone, a sophomore at Eastern

Washington University.

Twenty- and thirtysomethings, some politically active for the first time, are coming to this movement energized and inspired by Barack Obama's campaign for president. Like Malone, many handed out fliers, canvassed neighborhoods and made phone calls on Obama's behalf.

"For me it was sobering, the excitement of Obama winning by such a large margin — I was so very proud — and then learning that three states had passed gay-marriage bans," Malone said.

Two days after the election, University of Washington law professor Peter Nicolas, who teaches a class on gay rights and the Constitution, responded to an e-mail from a student distraught over Prop. 8's passage.

"I understood his disappointment but told him that in the years since I've been teaching law... we've had

substantial progress.

"The thing is, older people are used to discrimination — not that we accept it, but we are not surprised by things like Prop. 8."

For younger people, he said, discrimination is less accepted.

This new movement comes five months after the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of gay marriage. Through Nov. 4, more than 18,000 couples were married there.

With Prop. 8's passage, gays have taken their fight back to the courts, where three lawsuits now challenge its legality.

Supporters of the gay-marriage ban, meanwhile, say they are prepared to defend it court. They criticize protesters, saying while they claim to cherish tolerance, they've trampled the rights of others, including black and Hispanic voters and church groups.

"No matter your opinion of Prop-

osition 8, we should all agree that it is wrong to intimidate and harass churches, businesses and individuals for participating in the democratic process," Ron Prentice, chairman of ProtectMarriage, said in a statement.

In the meantime, the street protests continue, driven by people like Amy Balliett, 26, who launched an Internet site, jointheimpact.com, where people in 150 cities can sign up to join Saturday's demonstrations.

Balliett, a lesbian, said she and her friends weren't getting much response from gay-rights organizations they e-mailed after Prop. 8 passed. "So I said, 'Why wait for them to get the ball rolling? Let's just do it ourselves. Let's have a national protest.'"

She and others sent e-mail and text-message blasts to everyone they knew — starting a chain reaction. By Thursday, more than 2 million

people had visited the site.

Along with legal and legislative strategies, she said, people in the movement need to "speak to our opponents, normal, average everyday people like us."

For years, longtime Seattle activists Bill Dubay and George Bakan have groused about whether a new generation of activists would pick up the torch.

They are encouraged by what they see.

Bakan recalls the old days, when activism involved taping notices to lamp posts and getting mailings out weeks in advance to ensure people would show up.

"There's this new grass-roots movement, a new wave of energy at the basic level, where people are speaking for themselves about their rights and denial of rights," Bakan said.

"It's long overdue."

NURSING

continued from page 1

divisual equipment and two simulation manikins, Jones said.

Walker said before the expansion, students were not only sharing space but simulation manikins as well. In addition to the expansion of the simulation labs, new simulation manikins have been acquired, Walker said. One simulation manikin in particular emulates the birthing process, Walker said.

According to the Laerdal Web site, a manufacturer of simulation

manikins, simulation manikins and babies cost roughly \$27,000 each. The nursing and nurse anesthesia labs have simulation manikins from Laerdal and another simulation manikin manufacturer, Meti, Walker said.

The models used by nursing students in Harris College cost more than \$27,000 because of the additional accessories needed for training, Jones said. The manikins are funded through nursing student tuition, Jones said.

"The nursing graduate students need to work on the simulation manikins as part of their in-depth

training, which is why it's part of their tuition cost," Jones said.

According to the Laerdal Web site, simulation manikins by Laerdal can be ordered with attachments for wound training and other trauma related injuries.

The simulation manikins are life-size and have the ability to breathe, blink and speak with the use of a microphone attached inside the simulator, Walker said. The simulators can be programmed to generate the symptoms of an overdose, pneumonia and other medical conditions based on the scenarios,

Walker said.

"In the simulation labs the scenarios range from a patient who comes in with a drug overdose, or a victim of a motor vehicle accident," Walker said. "It helps for students who have never seen a birth before, or have never seen a movie of a birth before."

Students in Harris College use the simulation labs in conjunction with their classes, Walker said. During the simulation labs students not only practice their technical skills but also work on their communication skills, Walker said.

Ashley Franklin, faculty associate of the simulation labs, said the experience in the practice rooms gives students an opportunity to use what they learn.

"It's a great chance to offer patient safety and apply principles of didactic courses," Franklin said.

Junior nursing major Melissa Greany said students appreciate the expansion and improvements.

"It's better now that we don't have to share space with everyone," Greany said. "There's more room to learn."



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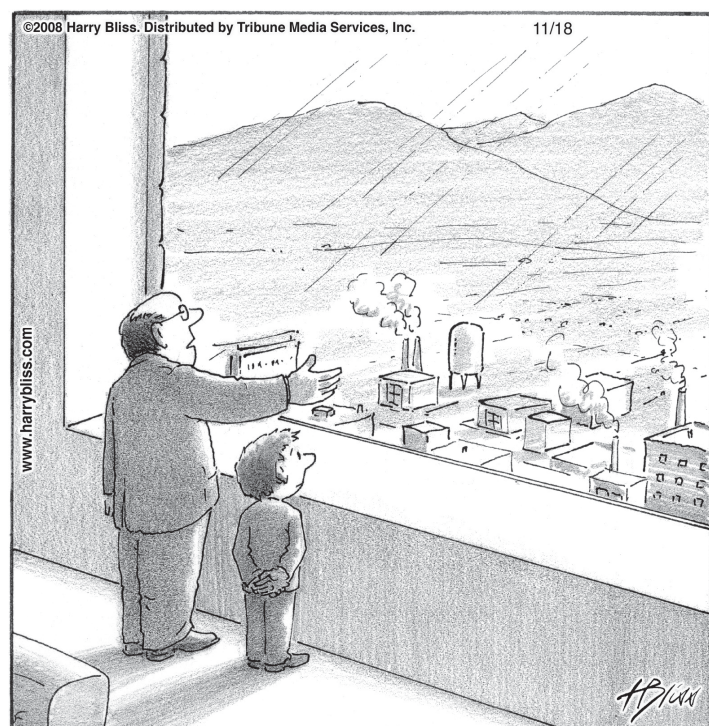


Today in History
 Twenty-four high-ranking Nazis go on trial in Nuremberg, Germany, for atrocities committed during World War II on this day in 1945.
 — History Channel

Joke of the Day
 Q: Why did the guy get fired from the orange juice factory?
 A: He couldn't concentrate.

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



"Someday, my dimwitted son, all this will belong to your sister."

MoreOn TV

by Jay Schiller and Greg Cravens



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

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 Solutions

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

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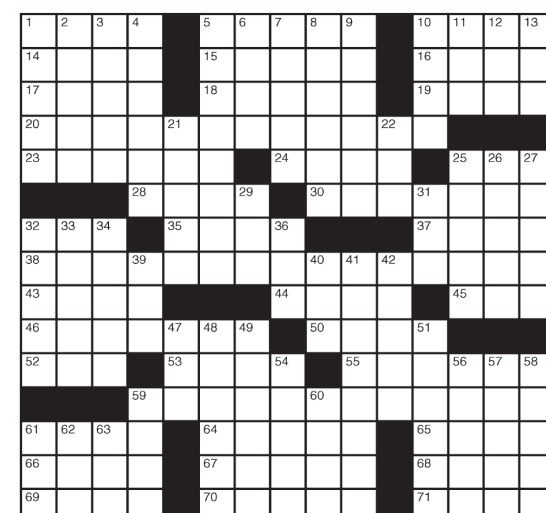
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Unruly locks
 - 5 Korbut and others
 - 10 No-no
 - 14 Beige shade
 - 15 Apply blusher
 - 16 Bad day for Caesar
 - 17 At the peak of
 - 18 Districts
 - 19 Zippo
 - 20 Start of practical advice
 - 23 Sound setup
 - 24 Mets stadium
 - 25 Turkey mister
 - 28 Theda of silents
 - 30 Free from restraint
 - 32 McBain and McMahon
 - 35 Give credit to
 - 37 Electrical unit
 - 38 Part 2 of advice
 - 43 Pelvic bones
 - 44 Mafia leader
 - 45 B-way sign
 - 46 Napoleon's birthplace
 - 50 British knights
 - 52 Half an African fly?
 - 53 Board joint
 - 55 Violent weather
 - 59 End of advice
 - 61 Manicurist's tool
 - 64 "Jurassic Park" star Sam
 - 65 Skater Lipinski
 - 66 Coll. major
 - 67 Clarinetist
 - 68 Uptight
 - 69 Tanguine
 - 70 Acapulco bread?
 - 71 Bread choices



By Stanley B. Whitten
 Madison, WI

11/20/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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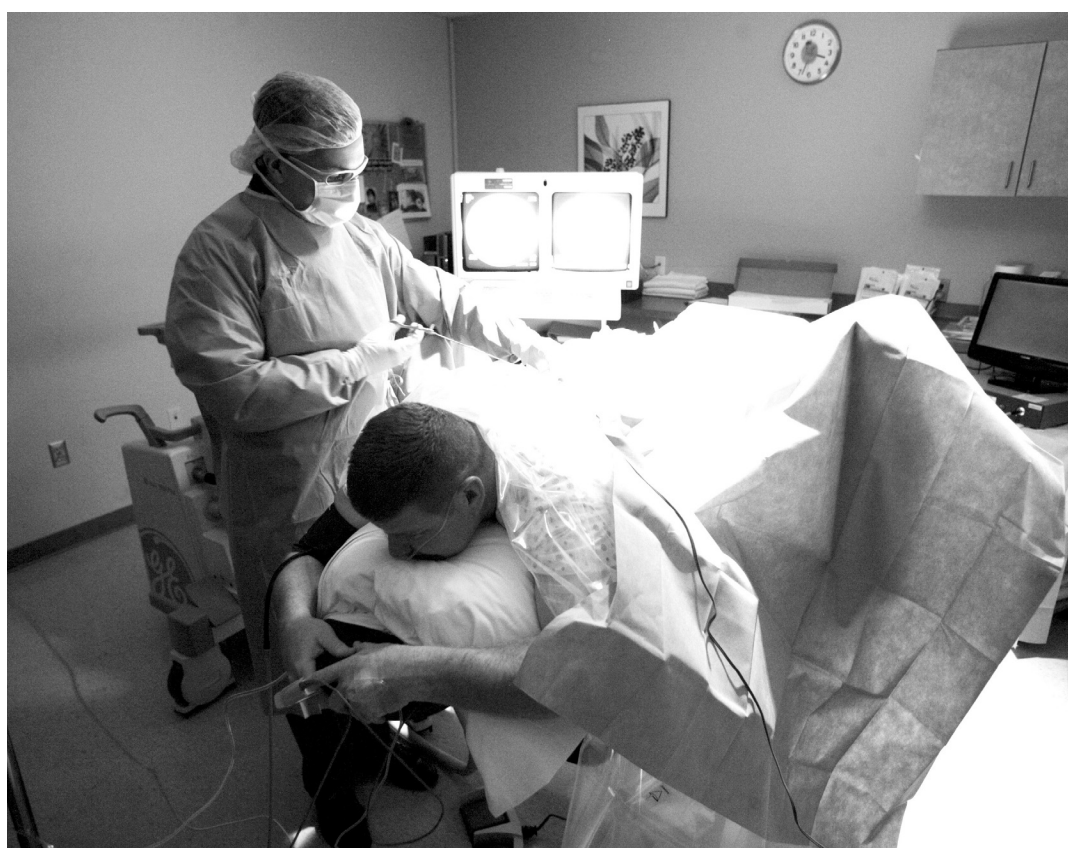
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PATRICIA BECK / Detroit Free Press via MCT

Dr. Louis Bojrab performs an Elliquence Disc-FX procedure on Bradley Scott at Michigan Pain Specialists on Oct. 27 in Ann Arbor, Mich. The procedure costs about \$4,100, or about \$10,000 less than a regular back surgery.

Procedure uses cameras to help back pain patients

By Patricia Anstett
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Bradley Scott woke up pain-free a couple of weeks ago for the first time in two years.

The stabbing pain in his leg is gone. He now walks more than a mile a day.

But the biggest difference Scott notices is he finally can sleep through the night. Before, his back pain was so bad he awoke every two hours when he slept.

Scott, 41, of Riverview, Mich., credits his pain relief to a new minimally-invasive procedure he had recently that heats, shrinks and removes tissue from the bulging discs that caused his severe back and leg pain.

The introduction of the Disc-FX procedure is the latest refinement in techniques for herniated or so-called bulging discs, one of the most common health problems in America. More than 250,000 Americans undergo surgery each year for low-back pain.

The procedure uses a small camera inserted into a thin tube that allows a doctor to see how the disc protrudes on nearby nerve endings in the back. Another tool inserts a wand with a heating tip that shrinks the inside of the disc so it doesn't protrude.

Elliquence LLC of Oceanside, N.Y., received federal approval to market the system in 2006 but only recently has begun to train doctors in the technique. Milford Medical Supplies Inc., a medical device distributor, is working with doctors in Michigan to provide the first round of training and education.

Like many new technologies, it faces hurdles getting insurers to pay for it. It costs about \$4,100 for the Disc-FX procedure, compared with as much as \$15,000 for back surgery.

While doctors say they are hopeful the procedures will be reimbursed, Blue Cross Blue Shield

of Michigan, Michigan's largest insurer, covering seven of 10 people in the state with health insurance, said it considers the Disc-FX procedure investigational. It will not be covered if physicians bill them for it, spokeswoman Helen Stojic said.

On Sept. 1, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan also stopped paying for a similar procedure called nucleoplasty, after concluding it was not widely successful, Stojic said.

Dr. Louis Bojrab, an Ann Arbor and Brighton interventional anesthesiologist whose center, Michigan Pain Specialists, offers an array of pain treatments, considers Disc-FX an improvement, despite its newness.

"I tell my patients this is brand new and they should feel free to say no," said Bojrab, before the one-hour procedure he performed on Scott on Oct. 27. Any alternative to surgery is welcome, because scar tissue can form where doctors remove disc material or fuse bones.

"It is the bane of neurosurgery," Bojrab said. "The surgery can do everything exactly right and you still have to heal."

As many as 30 percent of people who undergo the Disc-FX procedure still may need surgery, Bojrab and others say.

Dr. Jawad Shah, a neurosurgeon at Flint's Insight Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience, said while Disc-FX "is not for everybody, it's far preferable to full fusion procedures" to remove herniated discs. The treatment alleviates leg pain 95 percent of the time and is about 70 percent successful in relieving all low-back pain, he said.

He has performed nearly 20 of the procedures in the last four months. "I tell people up front there's a possibility they won't get better. But it's definitely safer." Most patients so far have been helped by the procedure, he said.

Dr. Dennis Dobritt, an in-

terventional anesthesiologist who directs Tri-County Pain Consultants, with offices in Royal Oak, Livonia and Novi, said patients need to know that "there is no convincing data that proves one technology is better than another for this problem, although this device has many advances that make it potentially better."

That's what Scott was betting on.

He expects greater relief in the weeks ahead. He attributes his back pain to long hours driving for his job as a sales representative. His Health Alliance Plan insurance turned him down this summer for a nucleoplasty procedure.

"It is the bane of neurosurgery. The surgery can do everything exactly right and you still have to heal."

Louis Bojrab
Ann Arbor and Brighton interventional anesthesiologist

Bojrab offered the Disc-FX treatment to him for free because Scott was his first patient using the new procedure, which is not an uncommon practice.

Steroid injections helped Scott before he had the procedure, though they felt like "a fireball going into your back" and the pain returned as the drugs wore off a couple of months later, he said.

"When I did any activity, I would get pain radiating into my butt like a lightning bolt," he said. "It felt like someone stabbing you with a knife."

Scott has returned to work and begun physical therapy.

"It's getting better every day. As far as energy level and sleep, it's huge. That's the biggest difference I notice."

Islamists' resurgence in Somalia deals setback to U.S. terror fight

By Shashank Bengali
McClatchy Newspapers

NAIROBI, Kenya — Al-Shabaab, a radical Islamist group that U.S. officials say is tied to al-Qaida, has methodically seized much of southern Somalia and is poised to take the capital, Mogadishu, as the country's internationally-backed government nears collapse.

The rise of al-Shabaab — from the Arabic word for "youth" — in many ways represents the very scenario the Bush administration sought to avoid two years ago, when it quietly backed an invasion by Somalia's neighbor, Ethiopia, to drive a federation of hard-line Islamic courts out of Mogadishu.

The invasion aimed to forestall a Taliban-style regime that could have become an East African haven for jihadists. But diplomats, regional analysts and former al-Shabaab fighters say that it's fueled a diverse Islamist insurgency that's now stronger and more sophisticated than ever and seems bent on retaking control of the country.

American officials "are fearful" of a return to hardline Islamist rule in Somalia, according to one official who wasn't authorized to discuss the subject publicly. "There's no question that (the insurgency) is more violent than it has been in recent history, and we are extremely concerned about that," the U.S. official said.

Of several insurgent factions claiming territory in southern Somalia, the most powerful is unquestionably al-Shabaab, whose leaders claim allegiance to Osama bin Laden and rule based on a strict form of sharia, or Islamic law.

In recent months, their forces have been bolstered by the arrival of foreign-trained jihadists and by ready supplies of cash, weapons and mercenaries flowing easily through one of the most lawless and impoverished regions of Africa.

"There's no question that (the insurgency) is more violent than it has been in recent history, and we are extremely concerned about that."

U.S. Official

The group has recruited perhaps hundreds of fighters from across the permeable border in Kenya, paying young, jobless Muslim men upward of \$100 a month and promising large sums to the families of martyrs, say Kenyan ex-militants.

They're also joined by a small but influential number of jihadists from Arab countries who train the mostly young and inexperienced Somali fighters in suicide bombing and other tactics, the fighters say.

Despite nearly two decades of chaos and militia rule, foreign fighters are a new phenomenon in Somalia and a sign that al-Shabaab is "becoming more dangerous," said Richard Barno of the Institute for Security Studies, a South Africa-based think tank. Analysts credit al-Shabaab's foreign wing with plotting five coordinated car bombings in northern Somalia last month that killed at least 31 people — the worst terrorist strike in the country in recent memory.

Analysts say it's unclear if al-Shabaab's links to al-Qaida are operational or mere bluster, but CIA director Michael Hayden last week identified Somalia as a region where al-Qaida was forming new partnerships. In March, the State Department designated al-Shabaab as a terrorist organization that included "a number of individuals affiliated with al Qaida" and that "many of its senior leaders . . . trained and fought with al Qaida in Afghanistan."

U.S. officials accuse the group of sheltering suspects in the 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya

and Tanzania, which killed more than 220 people. The Pentagon has launched several air strikes inside Somalia against suspected terrorists, including Aden Hashi Ayro, a top al-Shabaab commander and reputed al-Qaida operative, who was killed in a U.S. strike in May.

In backing the Ethiopian invasion two years ago, Bush administration officials made similar allegations about leaders of the Islamic courts, including Hassan Dahir Aweys, a hardliner who commands a militia from his base in neighboring Eritrea. But in a sign of a softer approach this time around, the U.S. official said that American envoys had met with allies of Aweys in recent months.

Aweys's forces have sometimes fought alongside al-Shabaab against Ethiopian forces and secular, clan-based militias. In a recent interview with McClatchy Newspapers, Mukhtar Robow, an al-Shabaab senior commander, said that he and Aweys "have a common enemy and are pursuing a common goal in the struggle to liberate our country" from Ethiopian forces.

While Robow accused the United Nations and the African Union peacekeeping mission of siding with the Somali government — his fighters have attacked peacekeepers and are suspected of murdering and kidnapping aid workers — he denied a global or anti-American agenda.

But he expressed allegiance to bin Laden's world view and said that his fighters, if called upon by Islamic militant groups in other countries, would "join them to liberate them from Americans' interference in their affairs."

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