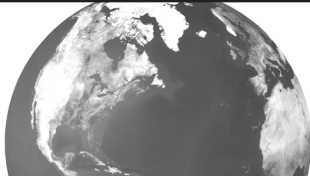
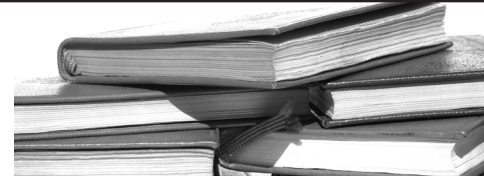




Football team ends season in win over Air Force. Sports, page 8



Americans should think about how they, not the government, can change the world. Next Tuesday in Opinion



What do Obama's education plans mean for students? Next Tuesday in News

Course retake policy passes next hurdle

By Kimmy Daycock
Staff Reporter

A Faculty Senate motion to modify the course retake policy will be considered by the University Council next semester.

The motion states that for each time a student retakes a course, each final grade from that course will be averaged and calculated into the student's GPA,

Nowell Donovan, provost and vice

chancellor for academic affairs, said when he receives the motion, it will go to the University Council for approval. The members of the University Council include all deans in the university, a wide variety of faculty and students, he said.

Even with some members of the Faculty Senate opposed to this motion, it still passed 25 to 10 with 35 senators voting. There was no option to abstain.

Blaise Ferrandino, Faculty Senate Aca-

ademic Excellence Committee chair, said TCU's policy states that a student may retake a course as many times as he or she wants, and the most recent grade will be calculated into the student's grade point average. However, there are some colleges within the university that have already implemented special policies in regard to how many times a student can retake a course.

This creates an inflated GPA for some

students, Ferrandino said.

Priscilla Morrison, a member of the Student Government Association Academic Affairs Committee, said the House of Student Representatives passed the original resolution written on the issue unanimously.

Candace Ruocco, SGA Academic Affairs Committee chair, wrote in an e-mail

SEE FACULTY SENATE · PAGE 2

TOP 10 MOVIES

		(millions of dollars)
1	Twilight	\$70.5
2	Quantum of Solace	\$27.4
3	Bolt	\$27
4	Madagascar 2: Escape 2 Africa	\$16
5	Role Models	\$7.2
6	Changeling	\$2.6
7	High School Musical 3: Senior Year	\$2
8	Zack and Miri Make a Porno	\$1.7
9	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	\$1.7
10	The Secret Life of Bees	\$1.3

— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

News: 'Green' burial gaining popularity, page 4

Opinion: People everywhere are ready for change, page 3

Sports: Women's basketball remains undefeated, page 8

DOUBLE DUTY



Manocher Dorraj (left), political science professor and author of "Iran Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Islamic Republic," and Jack A. Hill, associate professor of religion and author of "Ethics in the Global Village: Moral Insight for the Post-9/11 USA," sign copies of their books Monday in the TCU Barnes & Noble.

Professors sign petition supporting evolution ed

By Lauren Rausch and Rylee Nye
Staff Reporters

Two geology professors signed a petition to promote teaching evolution in public school science classrooms and prevent creationism from slipping into the curriculum.

Arthur Busbey, an associate professor of geology, and Helge Alsleben, an assistant professor of geology, put their name on the petition.

The petition is aimed at a committee from the Texas State Board of Education, which is revising the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum standards for science classrooms in 2008-09. These standards are for public school classrooms from kindergarten through 12th grade, a task that arises every 10 years.

The 21st Century Science Coalition released the petition in September to remove the phrase, "strengths and weaknesses" from the public school guidelines for science classrooms in Texas in reference to the study of scientific theories, sparking a debate between professors.

As of Monday, 588 scientists at Texas uni-

SEE SCIENCE · PAGE 2

Energy made from bacteria could be used at ranches

By Courtney Ortega
Staff Reporter

Fort Worth area ranchers could find themselves with a new source of energy in the coming decade.

A group in Cambridge, Mass., is developing fuel cells made from the bacteria that occur in soil or waste. The group's idea is centered on a microbial fuel based on a battery that makes small amounts of energy from items such as soil and manure that are common in the households of undeveloped countries.

Eric Brast, assistant director of the Institute of Ranch Management, said the innovation could be beneficial to the ranching community.

"It would definitely be huge for ranching in developing countries," Brast said.

Currently, there are operations in the Midwest that use a total loop system, where waste is fed into a machine that continuously powers part of their feed mills, Brast said.

Known as Lebone Solutions Inc., the company was founded by a group of Harvard undergraduates who met in an engineering sciences course at school. As of now, Lebone, which in the Sotho language means "light stick," has successfully been able to power cell phones and radios with microbial fuel.

Even though ranches across Texas employ the use of solar panels for pulling water, those in undeveloped countries do not have the materials or money to do so, Brast said. With the production of energy from soil and waste, those countries would be able to use solar panel for pulling water at a minimal cost, Brast said.

Stephen Lwendo, co-founder of Lebone, said the concept of microbial fuel cells would integrate into ranching.

"Countries such as Tanzania, where we visited as part of our research, are in need of a energy source for the production of food," Lwendo said. "So I can definitely see it being used for agricultural purposes."

Jason Faubion, assistant director of the Ranch Management Program, said Texas is home to some of the healthiest soils in the country, and the idea of using it for a source of energy sounds good.

But he said there are some concerns.

"My concern is in the mechanics, and whether or not the process of harvesting the bacteria from the soil would hurt the range and sod."

Jason Faubion
assistant director of the Ranch Management Program

"My concern is in the mechanics, and whether or not the process of harvesting the bacteria from the soil would hurt the range and sod," Faubion said.

Faubion said if not, the concept of microbial fuel cells could be a valuable enterprise among the ranching community in promoting an eco-friendly environment.

Lwendo said Lebone is currently focused on Africa and does not have a specific plan to bring its concept to the American market.

'F2CR' campaign stresses responsibility with alcohol

By Jackie Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

The TCU Alcohol and Drug Education Center and nonprofit Tarrant County Challenge Inc. have developed a social norms marketing campaign to dispel myths about alcohol consumption on campus.

Yvonne Giovanis, assistant director of alcohol and drug education center on campus, said the campaign was created to show students they have more options to live a responsible life.

The Freedom to Choose Responsibly campaign, or F2CR, was developed after studying the results of a spring 2008 survey concerning TCU students' feelings about alcohol consumption and responsibility, Giovanis said.

The survey found that 70 percent of students choose not to drink and drive.

According to the Web site for the American Medical Association, alcohol is the leading cause of death among youth after auto crashes.

Sparkle Greenhaw, director of alcohol and drug education center, said the survey asked students questions about their alcohol use and asked them to rate how much alcohol was consumed on campus. Greenhaw said the survey was conducted with a representative sample of 884 male and female students from different social classes and ethnicities.

"Through our social norms campaign we are slowly unveiling the realities of use," Greenhaw said.

Students' perception of the number of students on campus who consume

alcohol is higher than the actual number of students on campus who consume alcohol, Greenhaw said. The findings helped the organizations identify the perceptions and evaluate the statistics on alcohol consumption on campus, Greenhaw said.

According to the study, 1 in 4 TCU students choose not to have alcohol available at the parties they attend. This finding and others inspired the name and tagline of the campaign, Greenhaw said.

The campaign tagline is "Your expectations become your experience."

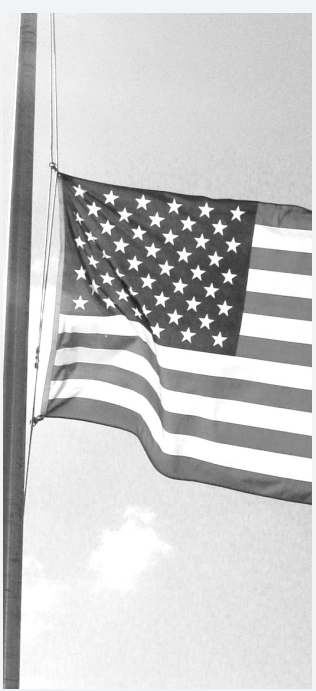
"We hope to normalize responsible behavior so that students will think to themselves that it is not normal to get behind the wheel after they have been drinking," Giovanis said.

The Alcohol and Drug Education Center has been placing advertisements for the campaign throughout the semester, Giovanis said. The advertisements included statistics found in the survey without revealing what was meant behind the numbers or the abbreviated name for the campaign, Giovanis said.

"In one of our advertisements, we put in the statistic about students who choose not to have alcohol at parties they attended, so the advertisement was F2CR 1 in 4," Giovanis said.

Greenhaw said other campaign promotion efforts include free T-shirts given to attendants at last Saturday's football game and future promotional giveaways. The meaning behind the campaign's

SEE F2CR · PAGE 2



A Utah city is violating the First Amendment. Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

RALEIGH, N.C. — Stopped. Cold turkey. North Carolina authorities say a shopper clubbed an alleged carjacker with a frozen turkey as he tried to steal a woman's car in a grocery store parking lot Sunday.

— Associated Press

TODAY'S WEATHER

70 45
HIGH LOW
Mostly Sunny

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy
71 / 53

Thursday: Few Showers
73 / 55



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

NEWS

SCIENCE

continued from page 1

versities and 777 other scientists across the state have signed the petition.

According to the petition, evolutionary theory is imperative to teaching biological sciences and evidence exists that support it beyond question.

The curriculum should "encourage valid critical thinking and scientific reasoning by leaving out all references to 'strengths and weaknesses,'" according to the petition.

Busbey said he signed the petition to prevent putting religion in the classroom.

"I want to make sure that students taking science in Texas are actually taking science," Busbey said. "The threat of having religious doctrine inserted into science curricula is something that, in my opinion, is intolerable in the modern world."

Alsleben said even though he is a strong believer in evolution, he signed the petition as a way to influence science classrooms for better teaching, not necessarily for evolution itself.

Alsleben said the current

guidelines, which include examining the strengths and weaknesses of scientific theory, could alter the credibility of science in the United States on an international level.

As a native German, he said the inclusion of intelligent design in science classrooms has been brought up as an issue that shapes views of American science education for his colleagues in Germany.

However, other faculty members have conflicting views.

Steve Woodworth, professor of history and self-proclaimed creationist, said serious science students are not going to delve into what is taught in kindergarten through 12th grade classrooms when choosing a college.

Woodworth said he knows and appreciates both professors who signed the petition but respectfully disagrees.

"In order to promote critical thinking, they choose to promote one side?" Woodworth said. "I don't agree with that."

Woodworth said he supports academic freedom where teachers are able to decide what happens in their own classrooms.

Charles Hannon, professor of computer science, said he also opposes the petition. He said this issue is not one of different attitudes of how teaching

"The real issue is that students are not coming into our science programs at TCU with sufficient preparation."

Charles Hannon
professor of computer science

should be done, but a clash of worldviews.

"The real issue is that students are not coming into our science programs at TCU with sufficient preparation," Hannon said. "So, I applaud their desire to try to fix that problem, but the way they are trying to fix the problem is really being driven more by an agenda than a real chance of being successful of doing that."

Hannon said he also opposes the statement made by the petition

that faith should be left at home.

"Everything is based on some level of faith," Hannon said. "There are sets of prerequisites that determine whether you believe in creationism or evolution. Those sets of presuppositions are going to determine not only what you are willing to accept, but also how you take your data, what you choose to be valid and invalid data."

While this controversial issue has sparked debate, Alsleben and Busbey both said they do not believe they put their reputations on the line by signing the petition.

Busbey said he based this on his belief that evolution is scientific fact, while Alsleben said he had no problem attaching his name to something that made a strong case for evolution.

Hannon said in the spirit of scientific inquiry, both sides should be studied.

"The point is when Einstein came along, everybody believed in Newton, and Einstein had to have the guts to go against that," Hannon said. "Openness and willingness to accept different viewpoints is always useful in science."

FACULTY SENATE

continued from page 1

that the resolution was passed Sept. 30.

Ted Legatski, Faculty Senate Student Relations Committee member and associate professor of professional practice in management, said he has had personal experience with how this policy affects students.

"I didn't actually retake because I went to a different university, but in essence, I was replacing courses with F's with similar courses, in this case with A's," Legatski said.

When Legatski was looking into graduate programs, he said he found that the graduate admissions put more emphasis on what he did in the last 60 hours of his undergraduate studies versus what he had done at the beginning of his college career.

"My concern is what's best for the TCU student who needs to recover from a disastrous semester, whether it was self-imposed or externally imposed," Legatski said. "All of us have the capacity to screw up and if that happens, there ought to be some method toward a recovery without having to go to some other school to finish your degree."

For instance, under TCU's policy, if a student takes a course and makes a D and then retakes the same course and makes an A, the A will be calculated into the GPA and will replace the D.

Ferrandino said if such student eventually applies to graduate school, the graduate admissions will average the D and the A and recalculate the student's GPA, which will make the GPA lower than what is on the student's transcript from TCU.

Patrick Miller, registrar and director of enrollment management, said TCU shouldn't be concerned with what other universities do or what graduate programs look at.

"There will be as many graduate schools that will take our grades and GPA as we present them as there are that recalculate them, if not more," Miller said.

Ferrandino said over the course of

last year, the Faculty Senate and SGA studied more than 50 institutions, primarily private institutions. The Academic Excellence Committee looked at multiple institutions' course retake policies and how they differed from TCU's policy, he said.

Some universities only allow students to retake courses they receive an F in, while others allow students to retake courses who received a grade lower than a B, Ferrandino said. The policies vary between institutions, he said.

According to the Office of the Registrar, data was gathered from the students admitted into the university in 2001 to 2002. There were 3,432 students admitted that year, which includes freshmen and transfer students. Even though the data showed that 27 percent of the students retook courses, only 2 percent of the courses at TCU were retaken, according to the report. Also, 61 percent of the courses retaken were lower division level.

Miller said the current policy has helped 15 to 20 students at each graduation to graduate.

Ferrandino said, however, if this motion becomes university policy, the registrar warned there could possibly be a small number of students that would not be able to graduate.

Miller said the policy changes are not a step in the right direction because it will affect whether some students will be able to stay at the university.

"I don't think it improves the TCU experience for students, and I think the small number of students who need to repeat courses will be denied the opportunity to learn how to be successful," Miller said.

Ruocco said because the motion passed in the Faculty Senate, it will be submitted as a recommendation to Donovan.

Donovan said for the motion to become university policy, the University Council has to discuss and vote on it. The majority vote will determine the outcome, he said.

Both Ruocco and Donovan said they hope to see the approved policy implemented in the upcoming academic year.

F2CR

continued from page 1

name and purpose was intentionally not released until this point in the semester, Greenhaw said.

Giovanis said the campaign's name was not released until this fall to catch attention and get the buzz going before they revealed the campaign.

The tagline demonstrates to students that how they expect to live their life is what their life experience will become, Greenhaw said.

"If you expect your life in college to be filled with drinking and parties then it will be filled with drinking and parties," Greenhaw said.

The survey and campaign were

"We're not prohibitionists; we're just saying you should use your head when it comes to drinking."

Larry Ellis
program director for Tarrant County Challenge Inc.

created in conjunction with Tarrant County Challenge Inc.

Tarrant County Challenge is dedicated to eliminating substance abuse in Tarrant County by identifying needs, educating the commu-

nity, mobilizing resources, promoting collaboration and advocating for sound public policy, according to its Web site.

Larry Ellis, program director for Tarrant County Challenge Inc, said the Department of State Health Services awarded \$150,000 to the organization, and in turn the organization offered help to the Alcohol and Drug Education Center on campus.

"Alcohol and binge drinking on campus is a hot topic, and we wanted to address those issues," Ellis said.

Working with the campus Alcohol and Drug Education Center has allowed the organization to draw attention to the consequenc-

es of drinking irresponsibly, Ellis said. The organization's stance is not abstinence but simply making better choices, Ellis said.

"We're not prohibitionists; we're just saying you should use your head when it comes to drinking," Ellis said.

The organization has used the entire \$150,000 of the awarded grant money to help the Alcohol and Drug Education center develop the F2CR campaign, Ellis said.

Ellis said Tarrant County Challenge Inc. has not only helped develop the F2CR campaign at TCU but also has helped create a similar campaign at Juan Seguin High School in Arlington.

Indulge

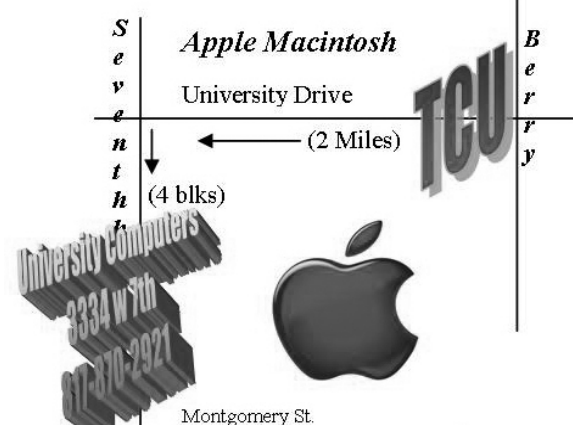
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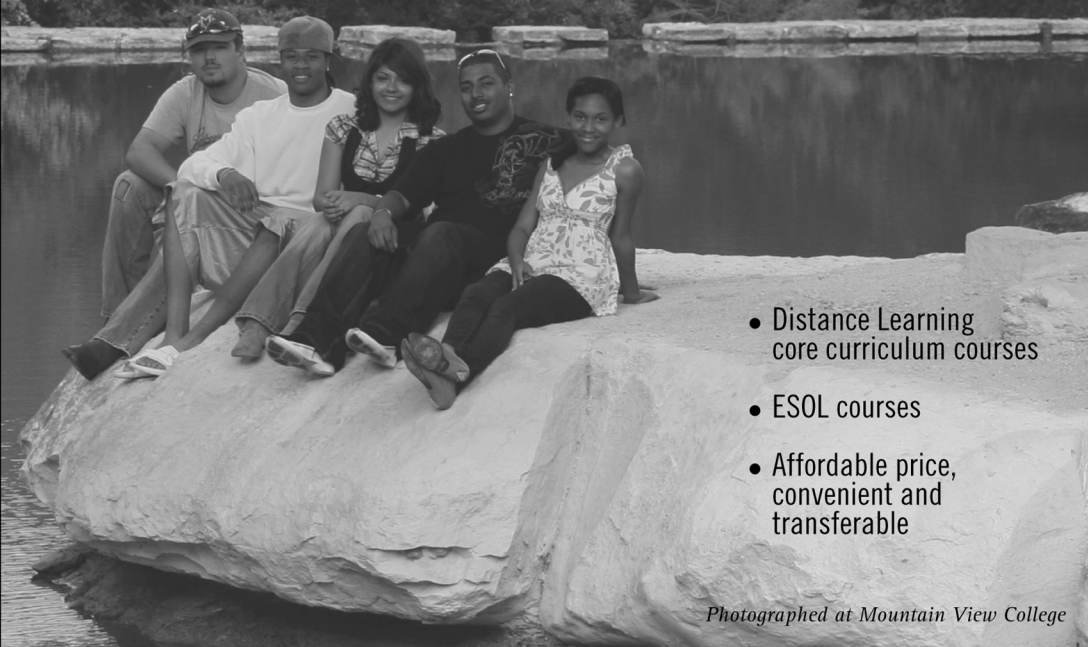
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OPINION

DAILY SKIFF

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The Skiff View

When times are hard, remember to give thanks

The financial crisis has left many unemployed and put a strain on homes in the United States and everywhere. Considering reports about layoffs, as well as budget and paycheck cuts in companies across the board, it may seem difficult to find things to be grateful for when many families are struggling to stay afloat. But despite these challenging times, you only have to look around to realize it's not all bad.

TCU students go to school in a beautiful campus, one that keeps changing and expanding to meet their needs. Sure, it has a high price tag, but the university administration makes sure to increase financial aid at the same rate as the rising tuition cost, which the trustees increased by only 5 percent for next year to help students' families cope with the economic slowdown.

The country is at the threshold of a new administration. Whether you agree or disagree with the president-elect's policies, you are part of a generation whose opinion has never been so valued as it is today. Your voice matters more than ever now that times are difficult, and living in a democracy is something to be grateful for. Students at this university are fortunate to be getting an education when others can barely afford to put food on their table.

Academic programs, such as study abroad, continue to expand, as well as the offerings of other departments on campus that have added majors, minors or courses to their curriculum.

The economic meltdown has put things into perspective for a lot of families, and this holiday season, students should reflect on what really matters. Be grateful for your parents' embrace or the comforting voice of a friend. Be grateful for the encouraging words of a professor or a stranger's kind gesture. Times may be difficult, but there is always a reason to smile.

News editor Julieta Chiquillo for the editorial board.

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

Freedom of religion abridged in Utah city



MICHELLE ANDERSON

The line of separation between church and state is often blurry. A recent Supreme Court case is dealing with this blurry line once again.

The Sumnum church wants to erect a monument inscribed with the Seven Aphorisms next to a monument inscribed with the Ten Commandments in a public park in Pleasant Grove City, Utah.

The church, founded in 1975, is derived from elements of Egyptian faiths and Gnostic Christianity. Followers of the religion believe Moses received two sets of tablets on Mount Sinai. The first set had the aphorisms, which were the principles of creation. Moses decided the people weren't ready for the principles of creation, so he smashed them. The next set of tablets were the Ten Commandments.

The mayor of Pleasant Grove City declined the president of the Sumnum church's request, and now the city faces a lawsuit stating that the city is required by the First Amendment to display the Sumnum church's monument. The Supreme Court heard the case Nov. 12.

The federal appeals court in Denver sided with the Sumnum church last year and ordered the city to allow the group to put up their monument.

The Sumnum church's followers say that it is a violation of their right to free speech for the city to deny them the right to erect a monument in a public park where a Christian monument already stands.

If the city is going to allow one religion to erect a monument, then it has to let every other religion to do so also. The city officials are absolutely violating the Sumnum church's First Amendment rights if they do not allow them to also build a monument.

In America, we have a separation of church and state. Some people may not like that other religions can say what they want, but if Christianity can have a monument, then other religions cannot be excluded. It is not the government's job to keep any religious group from having equal rights with any other religious group.

A brief from the Sumnum church in the Nov. 11 edition of the New York Times said, "The government may not take sides in a theological debate."

In America, people have the right to express themselves and their beliefs freely.

The government cannot discriminate against any group no matter how strange or out of the ordinary.

If the government does not want specific monuments in public, then the government should not let there be any monuments. It is not fair to accept some but reject others.

Imagine some of the other cases the Supreme Court has dealt with and what would have happened if the government oppressed free speech. America could still be segregated, or worse, still have slavery. Women could still be denied voting rights or equal opportunity in education and school.

America is about justice for all, not just a chosen few. Time and time again, the Supreme Court has had to go back to the roots of this country's constitution and remind U.S. citizens that freedom applies to everyone.

While the city officials in Pleasant Grove City have a viable argument that allowing this group to erect a monument in a public park could open the door to unfathomable clutter across the country of all kinds of monuments, the situation will come down to the Supreme Court's decision.

The city officials' argument seems weak. Their comment that by allowing this monument in a park will just end up cluttering parks all over the country with monuments is not a good enough reason to keep the Sumnum monument out.

Their argument is weakened further by the fact that there is a Christian monument already in the park that was donated. While officials say the Christian monument pays tribute to the Mormon heritage of the area, the Sumnum monument would also pay tribute to the heritage of the Sumnum religion, which was founded in Utah.

While this small religious might seem a little strange, its practitioners have the same rights as those of any other religion, especially in public.

Michelle Anderson is a senior broadcast journalism major from Tyler.



MCT



Wayne Stayskal is an editorial cartoonist for the Tampa Tribune.

People are ready for new leaders



BIBEK BHANDARI

As I browsed the world news the night after the declaration of the U.S. election results, I noticed a couple of changes.

The big change was in America, of course, with Barack Obama elected as the new president. But the U.S. wasn't the only country grasped by the change in government.

People in a country on the shores of the Indian Ocean and another amid the Himalayas were rejoicing in their share of change as well. But amid the glitz and glamour of the U.S. presidential race, historic changes in the Maldives and Bhutan passed unnoticed to many.

As many Americans witnessed history with their first black president, people on the other side of the globe in the Maldives cheered for their first new president in 30 years. In Bhutan, the Bhutanese celebrated the crowning of a new king.

So, what's the common thread among these newly-elected heads of the state? They're all young leaders striving to bring changes to their countries.

On Oct. 29, the island nation of Maldives, the world's smallest Islamic state located in South Asia, chose its new leader. Mohamed Nasheed, defeating

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who ruled the country for three decades.

The new president, Nasheed, locally known as Anni, is a former journalist who claims Gayoom imprisoned him for 13 years beginning in 1989. He is only the third president since the country became independent from Britain in 1965.

According to the BBC, in his inaugural speech, the 41-year-old leader promised to strengthen democracy and to combat poverty and drug abuse, a growing problem in the country. However, like Obama, his critics say he has little policy-making experience beyond his direct action campaigns against the then-government.

Transitioning to another change, let's look at Bhutan, also one of the world's newest democracies.

The country, which had no roads or currency until the 1960s and hadn't been connected to the Internet and TV until 1999, is opening itself to the world. After more than 30 years of strict rule, on Nov. 6, Bhutanese king Jigme Singye Wangchuck passed on the throne to his Oxford-educated, 28-year-old son Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

According to an article in The Times of India on Nov. 6, the new king has pledged to maintain his father's unique philosophy of improving "Gross National Happiness," and not common economic indicators, to ensure well-being in the "Land of the Thunder Dragon."

But one of the major challenges for him would be the Bhutanese refugee issue. According to United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees' "The State of the World's Refugees 2006," approximately 103,000 Bhutanese Lhotshampas — descendants of Nepalese, who moved to the southern lowlands of Bhutan in the 19th century — have been confined to several refugee camps in southeastern Nepal since 1990. They had been forced to leave the country by the former monarch in the early 1990s during a campaign to impose compulsory national dress and ban the Nepalese language.

Coming back to the United States, 47-year-old Obama has promised the country new hope and change. He faces the challenges of a rough economy and to end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan among others. Harshly criticized by his opponents for being inexperienced, Obama also falls on the bandwagon of the next generation leaders like in the Maldives and Bhutan.

In the past weeks, it suddenly seems like the world is ready for the next generation of leaders with fresh ideas and beliefs. These leaders have vowed for a new change in their respective ways.

Be it Obama in the U.S., Nasheed in the Maldives or junior Wangchuk in Bhutan, they've all promised to bring peace, progress and prosperity in their regions. They've pledged for a change, and now that they have the power, it's time for the world to watch these young leaders change the world.

Bibek Bhandari is a senior international communication major from Kathmandu, Nepal.

Obama job questionnaire too intrusive

BARBARA SHELLY

Job prospects in the newspaper profession are looking bleaker than a Sunday afternoon at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium, so I am seeking work with the Obama administration.

Might as well aim high, I figure. Maybe an assistant deputy secretary in the newly created Cabinet office of bailout supervision, or something along that line.

On the off chance that my appointment might require Senate confirmation or other high-level scrutiny, I am filling out the Big Questionnaire.

It's a project. A job in itself. Since transparency is said to be a priority with the new administration, however, I am sharing my responses to some of the 63 questions. The rest you can no doubt find on the Internet if and when my confirmation hearings get under way.

Question No. 8: Briefly describe the most controversial matters you have been involved with during the course of your career.

Sputter. There have been so many. A sports talk host trashed me on his show for weeks after I wrote that I liked Kemper Arena.

Phill Kline, at the time the Kansas attorney general, protested outside of my newspaper building because of an editorial I wrote.

Some Kansas City school board members said I was racist because I think they should be appointed instead of elected.

Lately, Kansas City Mayor Mark Funk-

houser thinks I am part of the media conspiracy to break up his marriage.

There's a lot more, but you said "briefly," so I'll stop here.

Question No. 13: If you have ever sent an electronic communication including but not limited to an e-mail, text message or instant message that could ... be a possible source of embarrassment to you, your family, or the President-Elect if it were made public, please describe.

Choke. I am sorry to have to inform you that the hidden reaches of cyberspace are rife with dumb jokes, absurd ideas and embarrassing revelations that could, just maybe, be traced to me.

Where to begin? Messages expressing a lousy attitude about work.

Really bad poetry sent to my husband. An exchange with my sisters about the stupidest things we did in high school. I will describe in more detail if I am selected for an interview.

Question No. 14: If you keep or have ever kept a diary that contains anything that could ... be a possible source of embarrassment to you, your family, or the President-Elect if it were made public, please describe.

I am burning my diaries tonight, so don't worry about it.

Question No. 17: Have you or your spouse at any time belonged to any membership organization ... that as a matter of policy or practice denied or restricted membership or affiliation based on race, sex, disability, ethnic background, religion or sexual orienta-

tion or has been subject to a claim that it has done so?

As a kid, I belonged to the Pioneer Girls, a churchy version of the Girl Scouts.

I now regret that I did not insist that our campouts be more inclusive, and allow boys.

Currently, I participate in an all-female book club.

We do not specifically restrict guys, but none has expressed an interest in attending.

Question No. 62: Do you know anyone or any organization, either in the private sector or government service, that might take steps, overtly or covertly, fairly or unfairly, to criticize your nomination, including any news organization?

Ha. As I hinted in Question No. 8, I have over the years run afoul of anti-abortion groups, gun owners, death penalty supporters and, in an isolated incident, dog lovers.

But I am confident that I could weather any storm that my nomination stirs up.

If asked about any dumb things I have written in columns, I will plead deadline pressure.

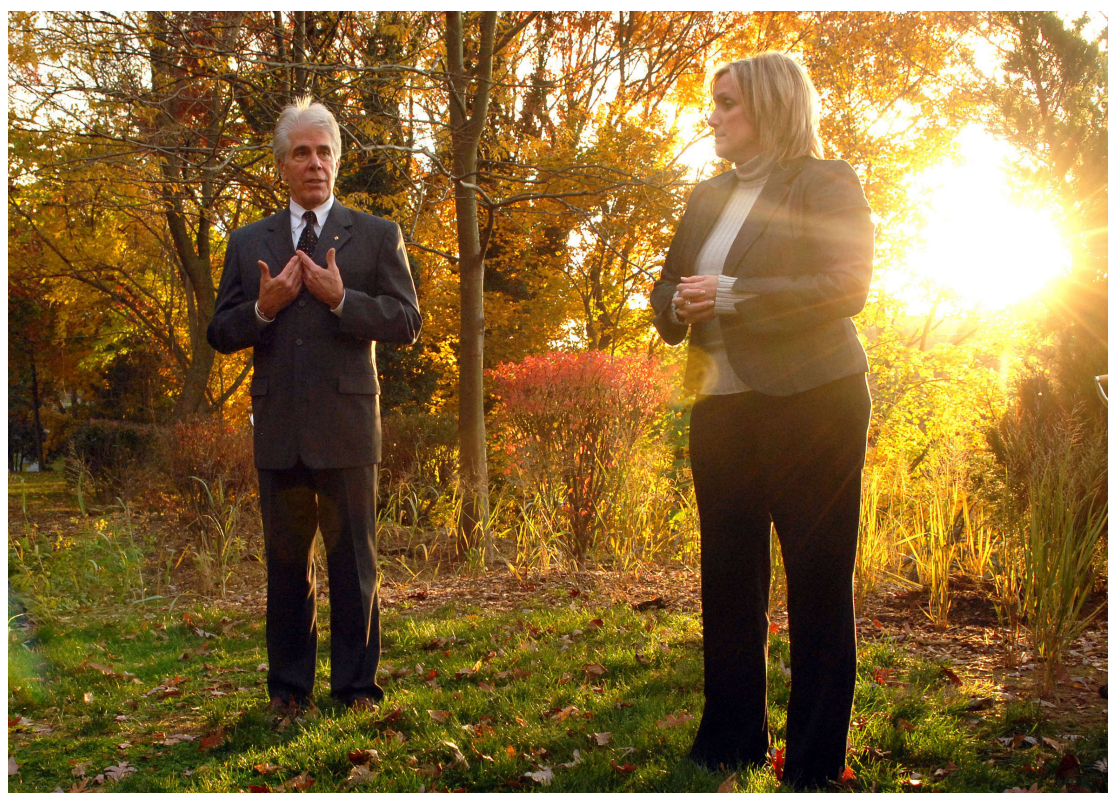
That usually works. Besides, who among us is baggage-free?

Hope to hear from you soon!

Barbara Shelly is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board.

NEWS

Some go green all the way to the grave with natural funerals



PETER TOBIA / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT
Nevin Mann, left, president and CEO of West Laurel Hill Cemetery, talks at a press conference for a 86-acre "green" burial site on Nov. 7. Deborah Cassidy, director of sales and family services, stands at the right.

By Sandy Bauers
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — As the setting sun filtered through red and yellow leaves, West Laurel Hill Cemetery's Nevin Mann stuck a shovel in the ground.

He was planting a tree. And, in a way, nurturing the seed of an idea: a shift in the American way of death — a departure from chemicals, concrete vaults and manicured plots.

Mann, cemetery president and CEO, was ceremoniously opening a 3 1/2 acre "natural" burial ground at the 1869 Lower Merion cemetery, where 100,000 people are buried, including a Titanic survivor and sculptor Alexander Stirling Calder.

No embalmed bodies will be allowed in this area, which has room for 400. Only untreated wood and biodegradable shrouds can be used.

Markers will be little more than fieldstones; Bringhurst Funeral Home, which is on site, will help families conduct at-home funerals

and make caskets.

Each year, along with their dearly departed, Americans bury 827,060 gallons of embalming fluid and 30-plus million board feet of timber, according to the Green Burial Council, an advocacy and certification organization in New Mexico.

Its founder, Joe Sehee, says we bury enough steel to rebuild the Golden Gate Bridge, and enough concrete vaults — to keep the ground over graves from sinking, which makes maintenance easier — to pave a highway halfway across the United States.

"A lot of people don't want to feel like their last act is one of pollution," he said. "I don't think people have embraced conventional funeral options as much as tolerated them."

Now people are being buried in coffins made of wicker or bamboo. In Ecopods of recycled paper. Even in simple shrouds. A San Francisco company offers them in linen, silk and ethnic textiles.

Green burial sites even include forests, grasslands and other natural areas — with the burial money helping to keep the land undeveloped.

Markers might be non-existent, with GPS coordinates the only thing guiding loved ones to the spot.

Sehee founded the certifying group in 2005.

So far, the council has approved seven casket and urn companies, more than a dozen cemeteries, a couple of cremation-disposition programs and nearly 200 funeral-service providers.

Though still just a tiny part of the \$11 billion annual U.S. funeral industry, green burials and funerals are gaining ground, industry officials say, because of the growth of a broader green ethic.

"It's a great movement," said Ellen Wynn McBrayer, spokeswoman for the National Funeral Directors Association and a Georgia undertaker who is "heading in that direction" herself.

"Some religions, and some people, prefer ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

True, some are repulsed by the idea of not embalming. But in a 2007 AARP funeral survey, one-fifth of respondents said they were interested in something more eco-friendly.

"If you drive a Prius, live an environmentally conscious life and read Dwell magazine, you are not going to settle for the options offered at a traditional funeral home," said West Chester's Donna Larsen, with A Natural Undertaking, a resource center for home funerals.

At West Laurel Hill, people had been asking about green funerals, Mann said after the opening this month. "We took the position of, if people want to do it, we ought to figure out how to help them."

Indeed, green burials are also seen as one more way people are taking back hallowed rituals, loosely akin to outdoor weddings and birthing at home with a midwife.

The home funeral may be the ultimate expression of a green burial.

About an hour after Rima Synnstedt's father died in his bed, surrounded by his family, his three daughters and others bathed him with flower-scented water and dressed him in his favorite pants and corduroy shirt.

They lit candles and put on soft music. For about 10 hours afterward, friends visited John Synnstedt, 78, and said their goodbyes.

Then the male members of the family lifted him into a coffin made of compressed cardboard. The next day, he was buried in a wooded plot at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral.

The ceremony four years ago fulfilled a promise Rima Synnstedt had made to him — and to herself. "I think the body should be left in its natural state," she said.

In places that allow it, families are digging the graves themselves. They're decorating plain caskets with poems, messages and grandchildren's tiny handprints.

Some have sneered that only

"If you drive a Prius, live an environmentally conscious life and read Dwell magazine, you are not going to settle for the options offered at a traditional funeral home."

Donna Larsen
A National Undertaking

among baby boomers, so obsessed with youth, could the idea of a green funeral gain traction. They wouldn't so much die as be replanted.

But Liz Cohen, a hospice social worker from Princeton, sees it as "a true return to the earth, letting our spirits go where they go, and letting our bodies help to preserve life."

Prices for funerals, traditional or green, range widely, so it's hard to compare. But Sehee said an eco-death could cost about half of a traditional funeral, or \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Advocates say it's not just a way to cheap out. Direct cremation — without embalming — is still the least expensive.

Among all the "new" green burial grounds is a small wooded area deep in the Pinelands, near Tuckahoe, N.J.

Dating to the 1700s, the Steelmantown Cemetery belonged to a Southern Baptist congregation that did not allow embalming or vaults.

The church burned in the 1950s and gradually was forgotten. Litter piled up.

But housing developer Ed Bixby knew about it. His mother had belonged to the church. And his infant brother had been buried there in a wicker basket in 1956.

It's a long story, but Bixby now owns the one-acre cemetery. He has protected it with a deed restriction, and plans to expand it onto an adjacent 7.5 acres. "Everything seems to come around in this life," he said. "All of a sudden, here we are, back to the way it was."

Bob Fertig, owner of the Fertig Funeral Home in Mullica Hill, has handled some of the services. He's seen family and friends carry a loved one to the grave, dug with a shovel.

"To watch the family be a part of that ... to have them help lower the body in the ground, and then watch them as they replace the dirt. ... It's a very profound, moving experience," he said.

"We, as a funeral home, decided we wanted to be a part of this."

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BASKETBALL

continued from page 8

John, Micah Garoutte, and Micaela Younger - set season highs in scoring against SHSU. However, TCU only held a seven rebound advantage over SHSU, and the Bearkats scored more second-chance points than the Lady Frogs.

Garoutte, who had started the

“We didn’t come out and execute like we were supposed to and play our game. It was playing just to get by, playing just to be OK.”

Eboni Mangum
junior guard

previous three games for the Lady Frogs, came off the bench Sunday. She said that served as a motivating factor for her.

“You start for the first couple

games, and then not starting is like, “Well, I really haven’t been doing my job,” Garoutte said.

The first half was business as usual for the Lady Frogs. TCU outscored SHSU 24-6 in the paint in the first 20 minutes. All of the Lady Frogs but one, freshman guard Antoinette Thompson, scored in the opening half.

In addition to winning the battle inside, TCU’s stellar perimeter defense was also on display. The Lady Frogs held SHSU to just 31 percent shooting from the field and forced 16 Bearkat turnovers in the half. TCU entered the locker room at halftime with a 44-24 advantage.

The Bearkats did not give up, though. After trailing by 25 points with 11 minutes to go, SHSU would score on its next five possessions to cut the Lady Frogs lead to 16.

Despite the fact that TCU held a double-digit lead for a remainder of the game, the final few minutes had fans holding their breath.

Bearkat guard Britni Martin scored 11 points, including three 3-pointers, in the final five minutes of the game, and SHSU

Women’s Basketball Game

What: No. 22 TCU vs. Houston
Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum
When: 6:30 p.m. Today

trimmed TCU’s lead to 10 but could not come any closer. Sophomore forward Emily Carter calmly sank four straight free throws to put the game out of reach.

Junior guard Eboni Mangum said the team lost focus in the second half.

“We didn’t come out and execute like we were supposed to and play our game. It was playing just to get by, playing just to be OK,” Mangum said.

Mangum also set a season-high for scoring with 12 points in addition to recording four steals. Although she suffered an ACL injury in her right knee and has had to play with a brace on the knee all season, Mangum says she is getting used to it. “There’s not too much I can do to it any more,” Mangum said about her condition.



JOE BURBANK / Orlando Sentinel via MCT

President-elect Barack Obama’s ties to Chicago give the city a better chance at earning the bid for the 2016 Olympics.

Chicago has shot at Olympics

By Kathy Bergen
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Consider the power of the Barack Obama brand. Almost overnight, he has exploded as a global phenomenon, lauded by average people and those in power.

Then look at Chicago. Still haunted by images of factory soot, stockyards and gangsters, the city’s international identity is trapped in the past.

That’s why the city’s boosters are rubbing their hands together. They are excited by the prospect of using brand Obama to sell Chicago as a destination for corporate offices, tourists and the 2016 Olympics.

“We couldn’t pay for the marketing we’re getting,” said Rita Athas, executive director of World Business Chicago, a city-funded agency charged with attracting and retaining businesses. “I hope this finally makes Al Capone dead. ... The buzz is now about the history-making president we have here.”

And indeed there was buzz in Istanbul on Friday, when Chicago’s 2016 bid team employed some Obama firepower. The team showed a 90-second video appeal by the president-elect to some two dozen international Olympic committee members gathered for a regional assembly.

Obama is not the only Chicago-connected celebrity bringing buzz to the city: Oprah Winfrey has thrown her megawatt celebrity behind Chicago’s Olympic bid, and Bulls legend Michael Jordan is expected to lend a hand as well.

But “Obama is a different kind of world figure from the other ones. ... He has a kind of gravity about him,” said global cities expert Saskia Sassen, a sociology professor at Columbia University. “For many people around the world, this is the first time they’ve discovered a city named Chicago.”

Much of the world knew little about Chicago until a beaming Barack Obama strode onto a Grant Park stage to accept his election as the nation’s first African-American president. The first words he

called out were “Hello, Chicago!” With the skyline twinkling in the background, the racially diverse crowd roared.

“Right now, the awareness level of Barack Obama is so high that anybody who associates with him in any kind of logical fashion will see, at the minimum, a short-term bump from that,” said Christie Nordhielm, a marketing professor at the University of Michigan.

With Obama’s transition team headquartered in Chicago, the city where he built his career, foreign journalists already are taking measure of the city.

While he’s wildly popular now, once he’s in office and making decisions, approval ratings may drop, Calder said. “I can’t see it now, but it’s always a possibility.”

As with the use of any celebrity in marketing, there’s also the risk of overexposure.

The way to avoid that, Nordhielm said, is to employ a light touch, perhaps using the words “Chicago” and “Barack Obama” in the same sentence, rather than using a direct sell.

FOOTBALL

continued from page 8

Patterson before being honored with friends and family for their tenure with the team.

The Falcons weren’t greeted nearly as warmly when the Frogs took the opening kickoff and scored 2:22 seconds later on a three-yard run by fullback Luke Shivers.

“It seemed like everything was working on that first drive,” junior quarterback Andy Dalton said. “It set the tone and we just went off from there.”

The Frogs and the nation’s best run defense were poor hosts to the Falcons’ triple option rushing attack as well, holding them to 150 yards on 37 attempts.

The Falcons entered the game No. 4 in the nation in rushing yards per game with 279.7.

“We had two weeks to prepare,” Patterson said. “We got something going and we played like we wanted to win 10 ball games.”

In the first half, the Falcons generated 54 yards rushing on 20 carries, including a 54-yard run by Asher Clark. The Falcons only touchdown came on a 57-yard run up the middle by Jared Tew early in the fourth quarter.

“Sixty-six plays and we only messed up twice,” senior linebacker Jason Phillips said.

The two runs counted for 111 yards of the 150. The Falcons managed only 39 yards on their other 35 carries.

Other than the Tew run, the interior of the defense kept limited the yardage on runs up the middle in the triple option offense, which Phillips called a tough offense to stop.

“The inside of the defense played

extremely disciplined, extremely fast and extremely well,” Phillips said.

The play of defensive tackles Cody Moore and James Vess helped the linebackers and secondary to cover the option outside by forcing the offensive line to double team the tackles.

“If we stuff it up the middle and don’t let them hand off that dive in the belly I think we let those safe-

“If we stuff it up the middle and don’t let them hand off that dive in the belly I think we let those safeties run around back there. I think they can stop a lot of things.”

Cody Moore
defensive tackle

ties run around back there. I think they can stop a lot of things,” Moore said.

Phillips said the long breaks between games have their ups and downs. The Frogs hadn’t played in 16 days.

“It gives us time to get prepared and to get healthy, but it also takes you away from the game for a while,” Phillips said.

The Horned Frog offense flexed their muscles as well. The 44 points and 6 touchdowns gave the 2008 team the single-season record for points scored (420) and touch-

downs (54).

“It shows the potential we have here on offense,” Dalton said.

On their fourth possession, the Frogs showed how they lead the nation in time of possession, taking 5:57 off the clock on 11 plays. Dalton capped the drive with an eight-yard run around the right end to put the Frogs up 17-3.

Then Dalton and company showed they didn’t need to take all that time off the clock.

After using a pair of timeouts following the Falcons second and third down plays, the Frogs got the ball back with 2:40 left in the half at their own 45. But they’d only need 1:55 to get in the end zone.

Dalton hit a wide open Young on the sideline to beat the Falcon’s zone coverage for 23 yards on first down. Young had five catches and 100 yards on the day. It was his fourth 100-yard performance of the season.

After a sack, Dalton found senior Ryan Christian over the middle for 17 yards. Wide receiver Bart Johnson snagged a Dalton pass at the goal line for a 22-yard touchdown pass, pushing the lead to 24-3 at the half.

Dalton went 21-for-27 through the air with a pair of touchdowns. He added two rushing touchdowns on 66 yards as well.

“We prepared well,” Dalton said. “I just got some good work all week, the past two weeks, of what they were doing and studying film. So I was able to see all the stuff they were doing. We just went out there and executed.”

Patterson said the two weeks to study the Falcons contributed to the Frogs’ big plays on offense throughout the game.

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FEATURES

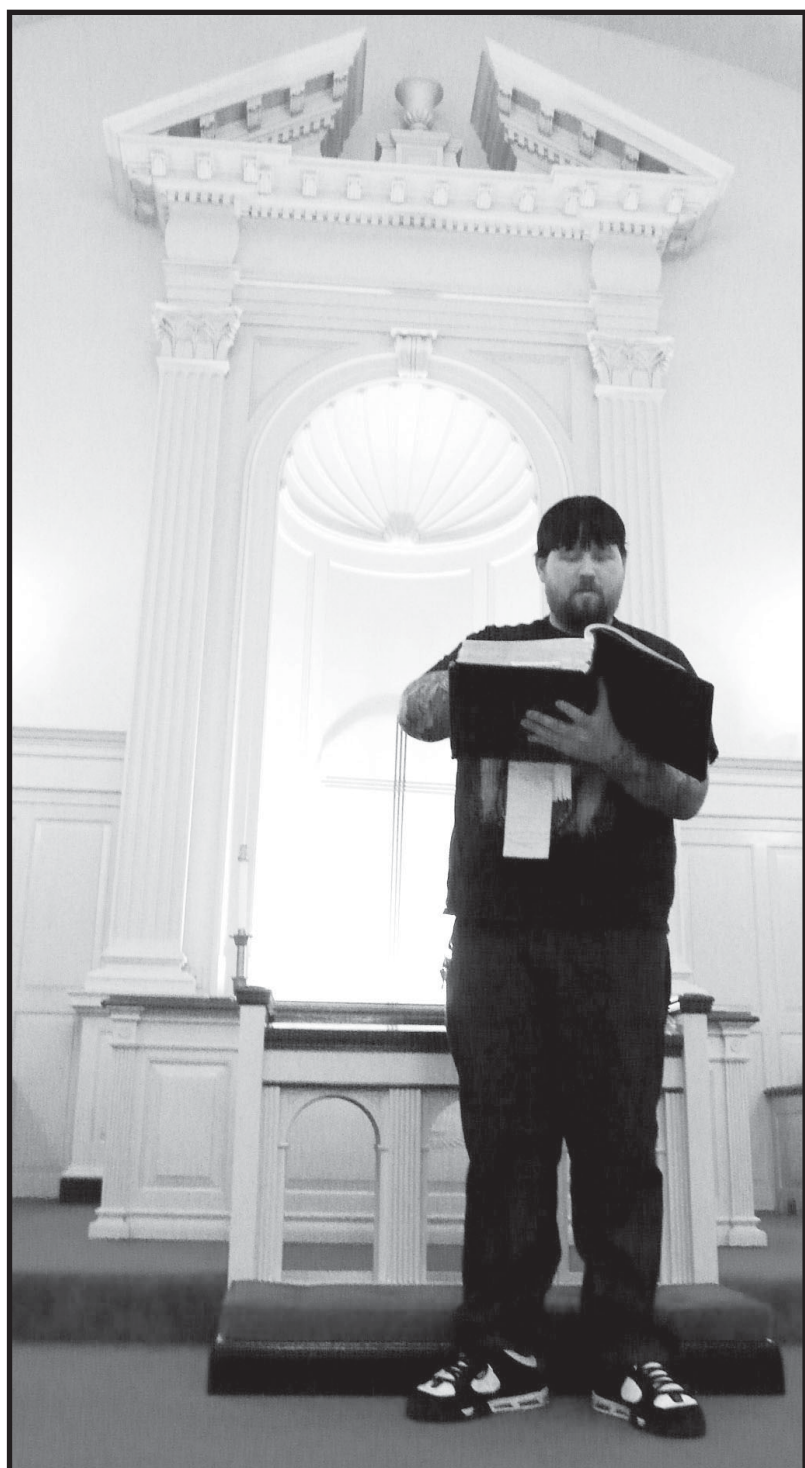


A TCU student writes a children's book.
Next Tuesday

Hard Core CHRISTIAN



Student says past helps him lead congregation



Andrew Weatherford, a junior religion major, reads scripture in Robert Carr Chapel.
KATIE MARTINEZ / Staff Reporter

By Katie Martinez
Staff Reporter

Brought to tears by the lifting of what he called an enormous weight on his heart, Andrew Weatherford said he prayed silently for forgiveness while the sins, self hatred and rebellion that had plagued his existence for years washed away in an instant.

Weatherford said the burden was so large that it knocked him and the prayer leader to the ground when he was touched.

"I fell down and I just remember staying there for a while — I didn't want to get up," Weatherford said. "But when I did, I opened my eyes and saw color where before my life had just been shades of gray."

He describes his experience as being born again.

"I knew at that moment the old me was dead, and it was painful," he said. "But it was real."

Three years later, Weatherford is a junior religion major and pastor of the Deliverance Bible Church in Fort Worth, and has full sleeve arm tattoos.

He might appear out of place standing on the steps of the Brite Divinity School, or reading scripture in Robert Carr Chapel, but at DBC he fits right in. Hair colors within the congregation span every color of the rainbow. There are piercings and mohawks and lots and lots of tattoos but most of all, Weatherford said, there is a sincere and deep-seeded faith and a sense of comfortable belonging that many at the church say they could not find anywhere else.

The church was founded in Hurst in 1999 and has since grown to include congregations in Grand Prairie, Denton, Deep Ellum and Houston. Weatherford's Fort Worth congregation is the newest addition having opened in October this year.

Sitting front and center as Weatherford delivers a sermon on the love of God is Jeff Gray, the same prayer leader who has been there for him since the

day he showed up at DBC unaware of where his life was going.

Gray said he witnessed Weatherford's transformation from an addict living in sin to a confident, righteous spiritual leader who now stands up before his own congregation sharing a story about the stack of obituaries he keeps in his desk as a reminder of the harsh realities of the street and how close he came to becoming just another clipping in the pile.

"He looks really tough, and I think that once upon a time he was pretty hard core," Gray said. "And he will sometimes preach the hellfire and brimstone because that is a big part of it, but deep down he is a big old teddy bear."

Gray will soon be forming a new DBC congregation in Seattle, where he said he spent some time on the streets during his "B.C. days." He said there is a serious need for outreach to people in Seattle who may be forgotten or unreachable by traditional churches.

"It's nothing like Texas," he said. "There are 12-year-old kids there on the street on heroin. It's crazy."

Both Weatherford and Gray said they are excited for the future of the church and look forward to exponential growth.

The Hurst location that began it all with a group of five meetings at a YMCA now has more than 150 members and operates a 24-hour prayer house.

Statewide, the DBC has close to 400 and the congregations draw new members every week.

Weatherford's own congregation, which is renting space at an established church of the Nazarene on Friday nights, has established a base around 20 regulars and has welcomed new faces at every meeting.

"I can see us one day in a mega church with a congregation of 30,000," he said. "Because our message is just that strong ... it's not pat yourself on the back and take your spiritual candy corn. It is the real living breathing word of God and that does things for people."

“
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sometimes
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hellfire and
brimstone
because
that is a big
part of it,
but deep
down he is
a big old
teddy bear.”

JEFF GRAY

prayer leader at
Deliverance Bible
Church

MOVIE REVIEW

'Four Christmases' does little to impress with all-star cast

By Roger Moore
The Orlando Sentinel

"Four Christmases" hurls towering Vince Vaughn at tiny Reese Witherspoon and a lot of Oscars at a lightweight holiday farce. This comedy about a happy couple made miserable by having to visit four divorced parents begins with a bang but settles into sentiment so maudlin that even this cast can't save it.

Brad (Vaughn) and Kate (Witherspoon) are happily unmarrieds in San Francisco who fib to family every holiday season, making up stories about "inoculating babies in Burma" so that no one can gripe when they skip Christmas dinner. They'd rather fly to Fiji.

"You really can't spell 'families' without the lies," brags Brad.

But Frisco fog closes the airport and a TV reporter busts them with their ruined travel plans. Before you can say "mistletoe" (their "safety

word"), they've been outed and they're driving all over the Bay area "celebrating" with relatives they avoid.

Ex-documentary director Seth Gordon ("The King of Kong") stages each visit as an episode, with the energy flagging steadily from the first to the last. We meet the resentful farmer (Robert Duvall) who raised Brad to disdain family, and the brothers "Denver" (Jon Favreau) and "Dallas" (Tim McGraw) and learn that, since Dad named his boys after the town where they were conceived, Brad's real name is where Disney World resides.

Brad faces old humiliations and Kate, on meeting Denver's always-breeding/country cookin' wife (Katy Mixon, a stitch), frets over motherhood.

Then they go visit her born-again mom (Mary Steenburgen), where Kate's competitive sister (Kristin Chenoweth, funny as always) re-visits the days when "Katy Cooty" was fat.

By the time they reach Brad's hippie mom (Sissy Spacek) who has taken up with his high school buddy, the relationship and the movie are in trouble.

It's weird to watch Vaughn try to replicate the immortality his pal Peter Billingsley achieved in "A Christmas Story." First "Fred Claus," now this. Billingsley, the once-and-always Ralphie, has a cameo and got a producing credit here.

Witherspoon amps up her game to match the pace of Vaughn's manic patter. But they waste so much talent — Duvall, Witherspoon, Steenburgen, Spacek and Jon Voight (as Kate's dad) all have Oscars.

A lot of us can identify with the "Four Christmases" divorced-parents situation. It has enough big laughs to make it marginally better than last year's "This Christmas" or its Latino clone, "Nothing Like the Holidays." But Vince, you are never, ever going to get Ralphie's Red Ryder BB gun. Give it up.



Vince Vaughn, left, stars as Brad and Reese Witherspoon stars as Kate in New Line Cinema's romantic comedy, "Four Christmases," distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures.

ETC.

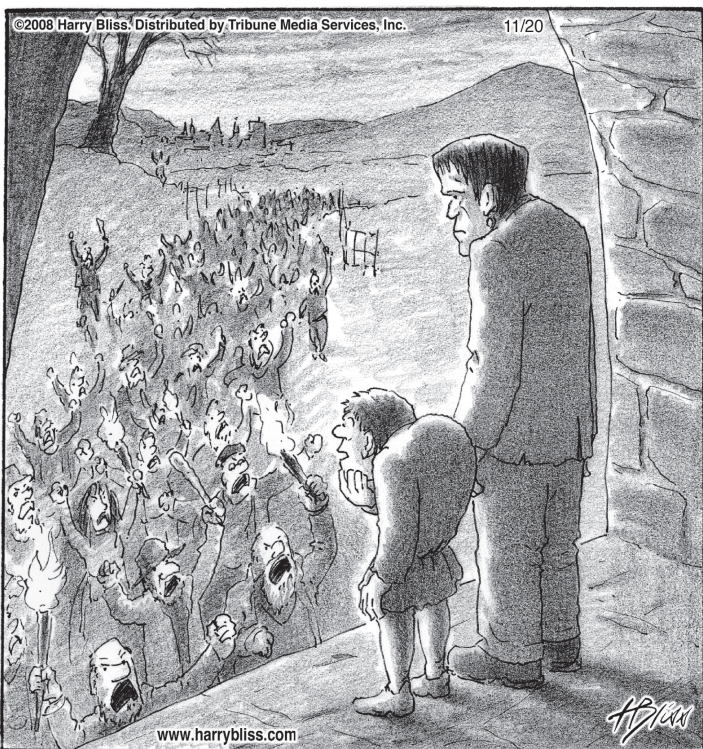


Today in History
 On this day in 1963, John F. Kennedy is laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.
 — The History Channel

Joke of the Day
 Q. How did the artist paint a picture?
 A. Easel-y.

Bliss

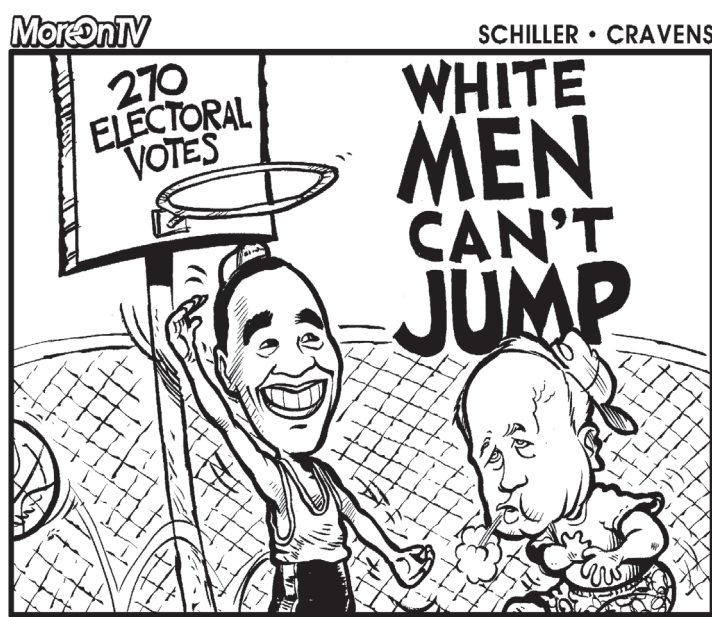
by Harry Bliss



"Well, that's a fine how-do-you-do!"

MoreOn TV

by Jay Schiller and Greg Cravens



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

See next Tuesday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Friday's Solutions

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

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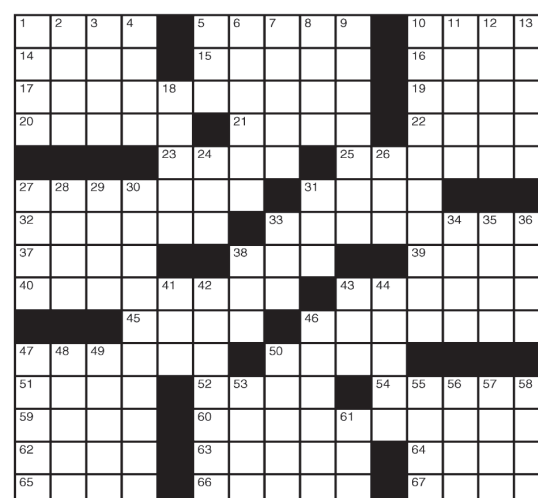
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- 1 Myers or Nesmith
 - 5 Elegant behavior
 - 10 Shoots the breeze
 - 14 Really dry
 - 15 Arthur Marx's stage name
 - 16 Part of the eye
 - 17 Stammering
 - 19 Gangster's gal
 - 20 Peruvian heights
 - 21 Voila!
 - 22 Pepper grinder
 - 23 Clod-breakers
 - 25 Time for wages
 - 27 Unpaid athlete's status
 - 31 Hairdresser's implement
 - 32 Holiday destination
 - 33 Came to pass
 - 37 Dorothy's pet
 - 38 Cool or groovy
 - 39 Verdi heroine
 - 40 Decorator's samples
 - 43 Hollywood Bros.
 - 45 Little-hand indication
 - 46 Approval
 - 47 Changes gears
 - 50 Is unable to
 - 51 Singer Turner
 - 52 Norse god
 - 54 Off-the-wall
 - 59 Opposing side
 - 60 Performed like Milli Vanilli
 - 62 Frankenstein's flunky
 - 63 Mistake
 - 64 Bank deal
 - 65 Damp at dawn
 - 66 College officials
 - 67 Halo



By Norma Steinberg
 San Francisco, CA

11/25/08

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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PIN	FUNNIER	GIRL
STR	CONGO	TOD
HAPPIER	GILMORE	
	MEG	SLAM
NOD	ROUTS	KITLO
THE	DIRTIER	DOZEN
HOPI	ALTAR	EOS
REST	ION	
PRETTIER	INPINK	
RES	RERAN	TEAM
EASIER	RIDER	RYE
ODORS	OSIER	VAT
PYRES	LEANS	EKE

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 44 Playwright Chekhov | 53 Employ campus predecessor |
| 46 Leno's serious | 56 Quaker pronoun |
| 47 Serious door hardware | 57 Car-mirror's view |
| 49 Like a tug's cargo | 58 Writer Ferber |
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SPORTS



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FOOTBALL

10-WIN SEASON



JASON FOCHTMAN / Staff Photographer

Sophomore quarterback Andy Dalton evades a tackle on the way to the end zone during the Frogs' 44-10 win over Air Force on Saturday.

Frogs get 40th win in four years

By Robert Bember
Staff Reporter

Head coach Gary Patterson said he misses all his seniors, but the 22 men who played their final game in Amon Carter Stadium Saturday afternoon may be missed more than most.

"I miss them all, but there

are levels of groups you miss," Patterson said. "If you could've just been in the locker room at Utah, you'd understand."

The seniors left their mark Saturday by tying the 1932-35 Horned Frogs for the most wins in their four years with the program, getting their 40th victory in the 44-10 defeat of the Air

Force Academy. Patterson is now 72-27 as the head coach of the Horned Frogs, and he pointed out that the seniors contributed to the majority of those wins.

Prior to kickoff, the seniors were greeted with a hug from

SEE FOOTBALL · PAGE 5

BILLY KNOWS BEST

Seniors priceless to program



BILLY WESSELS

Let me be one of the many people to congratulate this year's senior class of football players.

All 22 of you helped make this program a powerhouse and is now a team that has become synonymous with success.

Recording a 40-10 record over the last four years is something not many schools can say, and three 10-win seasons is another great accomplishment.

For all of you who are gifted enough to contribute on the field, Frog fans have been treated to some of the best football in the country over the last four seasons.

But it isn't just the on-field

product we have seen a vast improvement in over the last four years. We have seen an indoor football practice facility, new suites and plans are being made to improve the rest of the stadium.

All of these improvements could have been put into motion before these players got here, but this class has proven that these improvements are worth it.

These seniors have helped change the face of the campus — resurrecting a program that had been stagnant since the days of the old Southwest Conference and impacting the product TCU will put on the field for years to come.

This season's success has a lot to do with the recruiting process. Let's face it — nobody wants to play for a loser.

But this program is anything but a losing one, and now four-star recruits are lining up to play here. According to recruiting Web site Rivals.com, TCU will have four 4-star recruits enrolling

next fall. That same Web site has the Horned Frogs ranked No. 38 in this season's recruiting class.

Last season, TCU had zero four star recruits and the No. 96 recruiting class, according to the site.

But this season isn't done yet. These seniors have a chance to win 41 games, putting them one ahead of the 1935 class, which also won 40 games, including a national title.

These seniors' last game in purple and white will probably be played in either San Diego, in the San Diego County Credit Union Ponssettia Bowl, or Las Vegas in the Las Vegas Bowl. While the opponent for the bowl game isn't determined yet, one can be sure this senior class will be out to win, set a school record and cement its legacy as one of the best in school history.

Billy Wessels is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Waxahachie.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



LINH DANG / Staff Photographer

Junior guard TK LaFleur tries to avoid a defender in the Lady Frogs' 70-45 victory over UTA on Thursday.

Team remains undefeated

By Brian Smith
Staff Reporter

For the second time in school history, the Lady Frogs have begun a season with four wins. But despite a perfect record, head coach Jeff Mittie said his team

still has a lot to learn.

"We haven't handled success very well," Mittie said after the team's 89-75 win against Sam Houston State on Sunday. "Our record says good things, but I don't believe we played better today. I think this was our worst

performance of the year."

Before the season, Mittie called this year's team the biggest he's ever coached. However, Mittie said Sunday night he still is not happy with the production from his interior players.

"We're just not getting the production that we need to be getting out of that position," Mittie said. "We're trying to rotate and give everybody chances, but we need some people to step forward here, and I'm concerned as a whole that we're drifting along right now."

The Lady Frogs dominated the Bearcats in the paint, outscoring them 40-20. Three Lady Frog post players — Chantelle

SEE BASKETBALL · PAGE 5

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