



SPORTS
Head football coach Gary Patterson talks about TCU's opponent in the Poinsettia Bowl **PAGE 8.**



FEATURES
Tenacious D power slides onto the big screen **PAGE 5.**



NEWS
What's new at this year's Holiday Tree Lighting? Find out what to expect **TOMORROW.**



TCU

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SGA to fund development of disc golf course

By BILLY WESSELS
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association passed a bill to allocate funding for the creation of a disc golf course at TCU, along with two other bills and one resolution at its weekly meeting Tuesday evening.

Jordan Haygood, a representative from the College of Communications, proposed the bill and said the disc golf course, which will be located in the Worth Hills area, would be a good way for students to spend more time outside.

"The creation of a disc golf

course on campus will allow students to get exercise outdoors," Haygood said. "Students currently are limited to outdoor activities on campus."

Haygood said because of his work with the University Recreation Center, SGA would only have to post \$5,000 of the \$7,000 to \$8,000 proposed cost.

"If we put at least \$5,000 in, they would find some where to have \$2,000 put on," Haygood said. "That covers all the holes, all the tees and all the discs. They will also be selling the discs at the Rec Center or

you can rent them out."

Haygood said they will get a designer to come to campus and design the nine-hole course.

SGA also passed a bill to create a House of Representatives Outstanding Leadership Scholarship.

The purpose of the bill is to reward hard work in SGA

and to help with retention, said Glenton Richards, a representative from the College of Communications.

"A w a r d i n g

scholarships can facilitate higher involvement in the university," Richards said.

These \$200 scholarships would go to three non-paid members of the House of Representatives, Richards said. The recipients of the scholarships would be voted on by members of the execu-

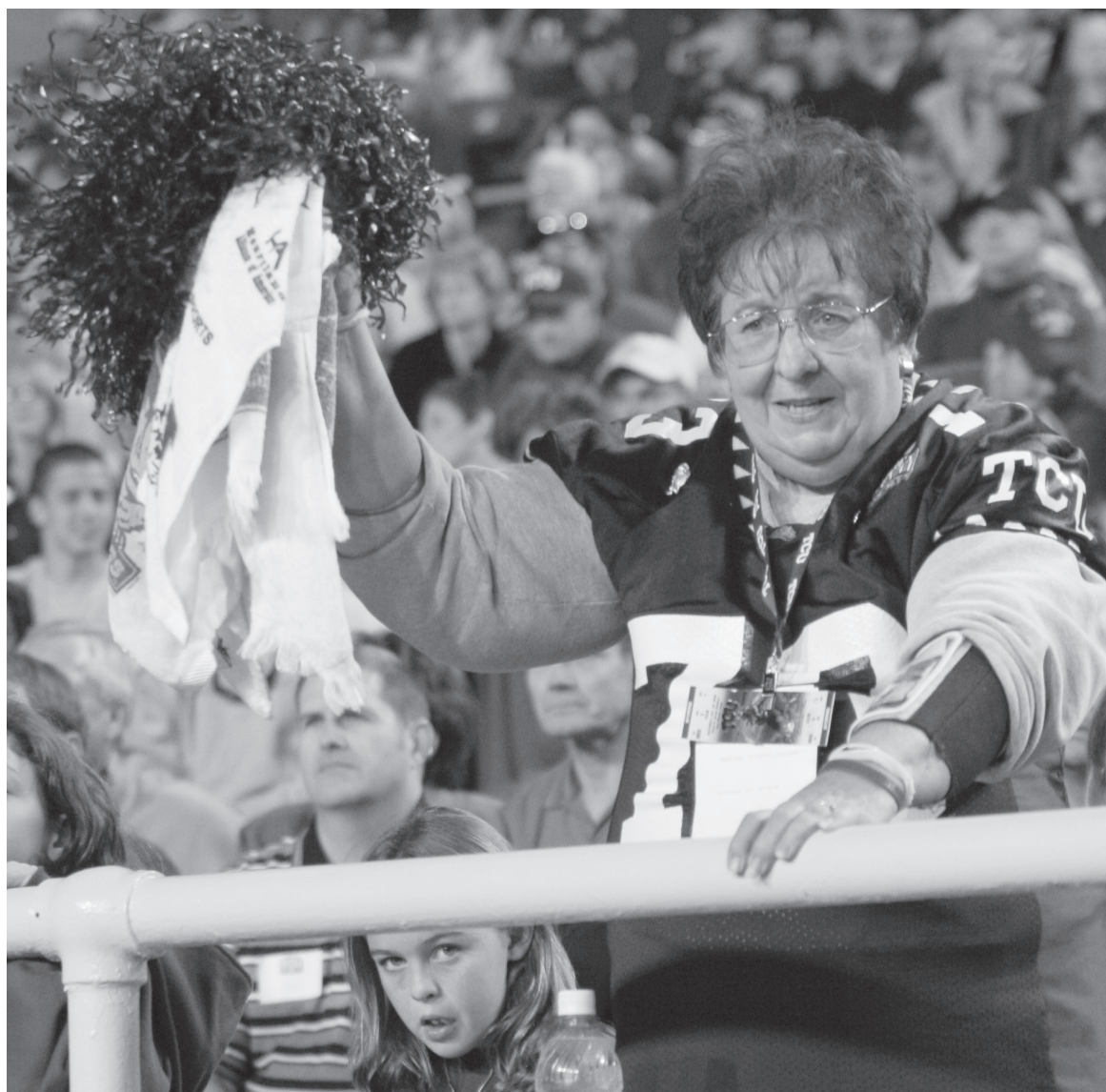
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SGA RESULTS

- Disc Golf Course Funding Bill 29-1-0
- House of Reps. Scholarship Bill 19-8-3
- House Executive Election Bill 27-3-0
- Service Learning Resolution 30-0-0



BILLY WESSELS / Staff Reporter
Sophomore news-editorial journalism major Jordan Haygood and senior accounting and finance major Jonathan Leer propose a bill for a disc golf course on campus in the SGA meeting Tuesday night. The bill was passed 29-1.



ROBYN SHEPHEARD / Staff Photographer
Dedicated fan Dolores Oelfke cheers on the Horned Frogs at the Wyoming football game. Oelfke has been to most of the home games for 30 years. "She's at Frog Club, she's at my radio show — any time there's something going on, Dolores is there, said coach Patterson.

School spirit runs deep with sports 'superfan'

Former staff member hardly misses a game

By ANDREW CHAVEZ
Staff Reporter

The sign under the No. 73 jersey reads "Put me in coach."

But the person in the jersey has never played a single down at Amon Carter Stadium. She's been to her fair share of games, though, about 30 years worth.

The No. 73 jersey belongs to longtime fan Dolores Oelfke.

Oelfke, who retired from TCU's financial aid office in the late 1990s, rarely misses a chance to watch TCU in action.

Whether it's football, basketball or baseball — Oelfke's there.

She doesn't just sit idly, though. She makes her presence known.

"If more people would go to sporting events and scream and holler and get rid of their stress, we wouldn't have such big problems in the world," Oelfke said. "And, it helps the team."

Like during a baseball game last year on Mother's Day when she yelled, "Your mother wants a home run for Mother's Day," as senior Chad Huffman stepped up to bat.

Huffman hit a home run all right, and his mother wasn't the only one smiling.

Oelfke was grinning from ear to ear.

"It's just me and the team," Oelfke said. "I don't hear anybody else. I'm just concentrating on the game."

Kaye Derrick, who worked with Oelfke in the financial aid office, said she's one of the most school-spirited employees she has seen.

"She's very dedicated to promoting TCU — to bleeding purple," Derrick said.

Head football coach Gary Patterson said Oelfke is hard to overlook because of her passion and enthusiasm.

"She's at Frog Club, she's at my radio show — any time there's something going on, Dolores is there," he said.

Cheering on the team outside of a game setting isn't anything new to Oelfke, though.

She remembers rushing to Meacham Airport about 20 years ago to welcome the team and then-head coach Jim Wacker back to Fort Worth after watching them play on television.

"We jumped in the car, and we were out there screaming at them when they got off the plane," she said.

A photographer from the Fort Worth Star-Tele-

See **FAN**, page 2

Former nursing professor, husband killed in accident

By RACHEL MCDANIEL
Staff Reporter

Flags on campus will be lowered to half-staff Thursday in memory of Monika Dewar, a former nursing teacher who was killed in a car accident Sunday evening, said Mary Nell Kirk, an executive assistant in the chancellor's office.

Dewar, who taught in the nursing school in the 1980s, remained active in the program for many years, said former colleague Linda Curry, interim director of academics in the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dewar, 71, and her husband Norman, 75, were killed in a car accident at the intersection of Bellaire Drive and South Hulen Steet at 9:06 p.m. Sunday, according to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Web site.

According to a Nov. 28 Fort Worth Star-Telegram article, the wreck occurred when the Dewars' Cadillac was struck by a vehicle driven by Mario Dorsey. Dorsey, 27, was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving.

A memorial service for the couple will be held at noon Thursday at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Fort Worth, said the Rev. Linda McDermott, associate minister of FUMC.

The Dewars were members of the church for more than 10 years, McDermott said.

"They were here every Sunday," McDermott said. "She

even helped with our parish nursing program."

Tanya Howard, who graduated from the nursing school in 1985 and was one of Dewar's students, said Dewar was a passionate woman who was more like a mother than an instructor.

"I felt like we were more of a family than we were a class," Howard said.

Dewar was a remarkable teacher, Howard said.

"There was one time that she invited us down to her house to practice starting IV's on each other, and to practice doing shots on oranges," Howard said. "She had a bunch of fruit laid out in case we passed out."

Dewar remained active with the nursing school even after she quit teaching, Curry said.

"She was a member of the alumni association, she attended nursing school events, was a mentor for nursing students and was active in the nursing honorary society, Sigma Theta Tau," Curry said.

Howard said Dewar made a lasting impression on she and her classmates.

"The class of '85 will definitely miss her," Howard said. "She never forgot who you were. She still knew who you were when you ran into her at the grocery store."

Curry said the thing she will remember most about Dewar is her outgoing personality.

"She was a very special per-

son, very kind-hearted and definitely not easily forgotten," Curry said.

Howard said she agreed that Dewar's legacy will live on.

"This is a great loss," Howard said. "I know she hasn't been at school, but she was a wonderful instructor, and more than that, she was a good friend."

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Who: Monika and Norman Dewar
When: Thursday at noon
Where: First United Methodist Church, 800 W. 5th St. 817-336-7277



JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF / Photo Editor
TCU cadets lower the flag half-staff for a ceremony this fall. The flag at TCU is at half-staff for former nursing teacher Monika Dewar and her husband Norman who died Sunday.

Plus/minus system awaits finalization

By AMBER PARCHER
Staff Reporter

Because of student opposition, faculty and staff are unsure of when the proposed plus/minus grading system will go into effect, said a Faculty Senate member.

Andrew Fort, past chairman and member of the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee, said the issue has not been finalized because of the negative student reaction.

David Grant, a religion professor who first presented the proposal, said the system was supposed to go into effect next fall but will

probably be implemented later on next year.

Grant said students have misconceptions about how much the grading system will affect them.

"There seems to be this impression that students will lose their scholarships, or that it will be more difficult to get into graduate school," Grant said. "But I don't think it's going to affect students as much as they think it will."

Grant said 80 percent of the top 120 schools as ranked by U.S. News and World Report use the plus/minus scale.

Suzy Lockwood, chair of

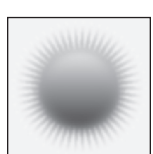
the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee member, said the conflict is an opportunity for students and professors to work together.

"There are a variety of different things causing concern among students," Lockwood said. "It's not just this issue versus that issue."

Nowell Donovan, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said listening to students' opinions is the most important action professors can take now.

Donovan said professors are given the power to

See **PLUS/MINUS**, page 4



WEATHER

TODAY: Scattered T-Storms, 73/40
THURSDAY: Rain/Ice/Wind, 37/25
FRIDAY: Sunny, 48/26

PECULIAR FACT

FLORIDA: A woman's body was found wedged upside-down behind a bookcase in the home she shared with relatives, who have spent nearly two weeks looking for her. — AP

TODAY'S HEADLINES

FEATURES: Check out this week's reviews, page 5
OPINION: Parking rules not clearly defined, page 3
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CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

FAN

From page 1

gram snapped a photo of her that day, and she made the newspaper's front page.

She has a clipping of that newspaper in her collection of TCU memorabilia. It's one of the only photos of herself in her collection, though.

The other photos are autographed prints of former athletes ranging from Roger Williams, now Texas secretary of state, to alumnus LaDainian Tomlinson, who plays for the San Diego Chargers.

The collection used to fill her Sadler Hall office.

"They had to get an 18-wheel-

er when I left for all the memorabilia I had," Oelfke joked.

There were also helmets and autographed footballs, basketballs and baseballs and a massive collection of Horned Frogs.

As she moved from office to office over her 25-year career as the student employment coordinator in the financial aid department, the collection always followed.

Some of her collection, though, consists of much smaller things. Like the lucky purple bracelet she got from former quarterback Tye Gunn at the beginning of the 2005 football season. She wore the good luck charm all the way to the EV1. net Houston Bowl.

At the bowl game, Oelfke, along with her husband, two daughters and two grandchildren, sat in the front row wearing TCU jerseys.

Oelfke said she never misses a chance to get her family excited about TCU.

When her 5-year-old grandson told her he wanted to be a pilot after watching an air show last year, she responded, "You're not going to be a pilot until you finish playing football for TCU."

Oelfke and her husband, Lyle, graduated from the University of Houston in the 1950s, but her daughters are TCU alumnae.

You're more likely to see her in TCU purple than the University of Houston's red, though. "The woman's closet is filled

with purple," said her daughter, Gina Oelfke. "That's about all we buy her anymore."

Gina Oelfke said her mother's enthusiasm can sometimes be contagious.

"She gets excited, and then it rubs off on us, too," she said.

Oelfke said her mother gets a lot of joy from attending TCU sporting events, and she doesn't see an end in sight for Dolores Oelfke's role as "superfan."

Dolores Oelfke said they couldn't keep her away if they tried.

"I've made up my mind that I'm going to be cremated, and then I'm going to have them fly a plane over the football field and drop my ashes," she said. "And then, I'm going to lie there

and scream, 'Rah, Rah, TCU! Rah, Rah, TCU!'"

SGA

From page 1

SGA will begin awarding the scholarship next semester.

While the source of the funding for the scholarships is still undetermined, it could possibly come from sponsorship, said finance committee chairman Jonathan Leer.

SGA also passed a bill to clarify the procedure for the election of the House Executive Board.

The bill will not allow elections for the House Executive Board to feature nominations from the floor if there are two or more candidates for a position, said

Parliamentarian Mark Tschirhart.

"In the past, we haven't really had any guidelines for nominations from the floor," Tschirhart said. "We will still allow nominations if there is only one person or no one running for a position."

Tschirhart said this will give voters a chance to hear more than one viewpoint on issues.

A resolution supporting expansions in service learning was presented by Justin Brown, student relations chairman.

"Service learning provides unique out of classroom experiences similar to that of internships," Brown said. "It can increase faculty-student contact in more abstract and personal situations outside the classroom."

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"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."
— Samuel Johnson

THE SKIFF VIEW

Holidays for giving to less fortunate

Every year, the same message is everywhere you turn: This Christmas, give the gift of giving.

This sounds like the perfect gesture, but how many people actually put this suggestion into action?

You hear people all the time say they want to give or need to give, so why don't they just do it?

People often say they don't have the time, money or resources to give to others.

But let's face it: It's just an excuse. Anyone can join in the spirit of giving to others if they just put forth the effort.

At TCU alone, there are plenty of opportunities to give to the less fortunate.

For instance, TCU's annual Christmas tree lighting Thursday will give students the opportunity to give to those others. The gifts that students bring to the Christmas tree lighting will go to Tarrant County Child Protective Services.

By giving to these children, you are

not only supporting them but contributing to a good cause.

Salvation Army Angel Trees are another opportunity to give to those in need. The gifts you give to the Angel Tree go straight to the Salvation Army.

In reality, there are no excuses for not being able to find a charity to support.

You can give if you have any source of income or any time on your hands. The amount is not as important as the action.

Just remember waking up on Christmas morning as a child and seeing all the presents from Santa. You can be Santa to those in need — and that is the greatest gift of all.

This Christmas season, think of others over yourself and you'll find that it is more rewarding than you ever imagined.

Give the gift that keeps on giving: Help others have a brighter holiday season.

Jacquilee Killeen is a senior broadcast journalism major from Lubbock.

BY RICKY ANDERSON

Kramer asking for Apology Advice



What does it take to truly learn something from a class? What is the final factor of whether we gain knowledge from three or four hours of credit?

Learning is being able to literally take away with you something from the other people and resources. Learning is not memorizing facts, spitting them out and then forgetting them. It is about discovering something about yourself or learning more about the social interactions around you. When you study a subject to develop yourself in any way, you are learning.

In college there are two opportunities we're given to learn: inside the classroom and out.

Ironically, I think lessons learned in the classroom are less obvious than those outside. This is because most students have an expectation of the knowledge they'll gain in a class and shut down to the idea of learning any other way.

There are two opportunities to learn in the classroom: knowledge, which is promised from the syllabus, and knowledge that may be completely unrelated to the subject. In college, perhaps the most important learning experience is that in which you learn how to bridge gaps between arenas, whether they be social, intellectual, etc.

In the "real world," life isn't divided into subjects, and you don't receive a separate grade for each one: If you screw up, you get a big fat zero for the whole project. It's beneficial for us to seize the opportunity to learn more than just what we're asked to.

There are a few very simple ways to do this.

First, try to find similarities between your classes. These could be in subject matter, ideas, time period or people discussed. Even if you come to no fruitful conclusions, it's a useful mind exercise.

Second, if we take away the melding of two different subjects, consider the two arenas as your life and a subject

you thought you could never use. Even though we all say "I'm never going to use that in real life," I'd say there's a strong possibility to apply something you learn in every class to at least one situation in your life.

So what have I learned in my first semester as a college student?

My favorite lesson as a commuter is "better late than never," but the lesson that inspired this article is what I've discovered about poetry.

Of course my Intro to Poetry professor has a passion for the subject, but I think it says something about an art form, as well as the teacher, when he or she can make an entire class come to understand, appreciate and respect poetry in a whole new light.

Most people, even English majors such as me, aren't exposed to poetry on a daily basis and are unfamiliar and, therefore, uncomfortable with it. Yet it is one of the most powerful forms of writing that exists. For example, three lines of poetry have the potential to say much more than I could in a 600-word column.

The main ingredient of poetry is metaphor, and it is this metaphor that we're not used to. In a fast-paced world, people need you to tell it like it is so they can move on to the next information bit. Even with all the hard facts laid out in front of them, people don't always get the whole story. Poetry gives us a chance to weave the hard facts into a web of elaborate imagery and language. And yes, sometimes it takes patience to untangle it, but the wealth of knowledge that you gain alongside the hard facts are worth more than any measured time.

You see, it's all about seeking something unknown. That happens when you learn. Regurgitating facts flashed in front of you on a PowerPoint presentation can only do so much. The effort you make to really take something from a class or find something out for yourself — that is information that will last you forever.

Anahita Katiavivala is a freshman English and psychology major from Fort Worth. Her column appears every Wednesday.

Parking areas not clearly defined

Our campus is booby trapped.

I'm not kidding. There are several places on campus where the unsuspecting student will be innocently minding their

own business, thinking they're doing nothing wrong and then "BOOM!" They find themselves short \$75 for simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I'm referring, of course, to parking spaces.

But not just any parking spaces. Six in particular, at the end of the middle row in the Colby Hall parking lot. And I'm warning you because I have been the unfortunate victim of such a booby trap in these spaces.

It's been said a million times (probably on a daily basis), and I know that there's little that can be done to help it, but the parking situation is pretty bad on campus. However, this situation is unrelated to the lack of available parking. It would remain a problem even if there were a nearby parking garage. And it's something that can be rectified, at least for this area in the parking lot in front of Colby.

Contrary to popular belief, these are not parking spaces. They merely have lines on either side and are cleverly disguised as parking spaces to confuse the average driver. However, these six spaces — three on each side in the middle row — are actually a fire lane, from what I've deduced so far. Unfortunately, there's really no way to know.

I was only made aware of this situation when I unexpectedly parked in one of these spaces a couple of weeks ago. It never crossed my mind that this parking place might get me into trouble. There was a car in front of

me, one behind me, one on my right side and a curb on the left. I had seen cars parked there on a daily basis and was, in fact, shocked at my good fortune of finding it open that day.

When I returned to my car the next morning, I first noticed a ticket on the car across from me. At this point, I have to confess, I snickered to myself because I immediately assumed it was a Colby freshman who tried to get closer to their dorm and got caught. It wasn't until I pulled away and noticed something flapping against my windshield in the breeze that I realized I had fallen victim to a heinous booby trap.

That was frustrating. But what was more frustrating was when I drove by later and saw that it wasn't just my car, or the car across from me, but a total of six cars with the same ticket. Since then, each time I drive by I check those spaces and without fail, six cars — either because they've been there for more than a day or the police make certain to check there everyday — have been ticketed.

I know students try to take advantage of whatever open parking they can, even if that sometimes means bending the rules a little bit. I should now; I've been there and have been caught. But this isn't the case here. The students that park here are, I imagine, like me — completely unaware that they're violating any kind of rule and with no reason to even suspect it.

If these parking places do make up a fire lane, then students need to know about it. Ticketing different students every day is not getting the point across. Obviously, since students have continued to park there for the past three weeks, then something more needs to be done.

Despite what some people might say, the job of TCU Police is not to prey on unsuspecting students with tickets to bolster the income of the university.

Their job is to keep students from parking where they don't belong. This includes those with improper permits, but fire lanes are especially important. These places actually serve an important purpose. If there was truly an emergency, fire trucks would be out of luck and out of a parking place because students simply don't know any better, and no one has taken the initiative to keep them informed.

On the other side of the same Colby lot, the lines have been repainted and "NO PARKING, FIRE LANE" is clearly visible. Since then, I have seen only a handful of cars parked along this line and never for any extended period of time.

The side of the lot that I'm referring to is a mess of uneven pavement and mud. The line is not only faded but buried beneath layers of dirt. Simply repainting this end would probably do the trick. If that proves unsuccessful, a nice blockade or two for a period of time would at least let students know that these are not parking places.

But to continue to do nothing but endlessly ticket students just shows laziness, in addition to being a fire hazard.

Parking is and will continue to be a mess, which no one can really do anything about. But this is one situation that can be helped and will benefit everyone. So please, don't let you or your friends become the victim of these traps. As a result, maybe, just maybe, something will be done soon to remedy the situation.

Valerie Cooper is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from Azle. Her column appears every Wednesday.

PETA's main goals respectable; publicity stunts unnecessary

Back when I used to display, God forbid, some conservative attitudes toward American politics, I thought the people representing People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals were, quite literally, out of their minds.

Come on, they protested a Victoria's Secret runway show because a couple of super models wore fur.

And then one day, I began to do some research, in which I investigated the PETA Web site and viewed some of the worst atrocities I believe that I have ever seen. At one point I had to actually stop the video because I was so disturbed by what I had seen that I thought I was going to hurl. Please keep in mind, I'm a nursing major — I've viewed a lot of disturbing things.

The videos, which appeared to be taped undercover, show chickens packed into unsanitary living situations, wading through their own excrement among other dead chickens. Workers on the farm are displayed as horribly abusing the chickens by taking them by the feet and smashing their heads against whatever hard object they can find first.

A person's hamburger probably went through similar abuse when it was a cow. That abuse includes a variety of brandings, castrations without anesthesia, sometimes being skinned alive, living among their excrement and being drugged with an enormous amount of growth hormones and antibiotics — the usual.

Moreover, the traditionally lib-

eral organizations often side with environmentalist groups to fight against deforestation and oil drilling that might threaten animals' health and habitat, an issue with which the George Party is unconcerned. Animal rights groups have had a less-than-friendly relationship with the president, probably because of the unwarranted FBI surveillance on those organizations by the administration in the name of counterterrorism, according to a 2005 New York Times article.

It is a mutually nonsupportive relationship: Mr. Bush thinks animal rights groups are terrorists, and, in turn, the "terrorists" refuse to support him and his administration. Let me rephrase this: The government is spying on people who want to save

Bambi. I think there might be some confusion about goals.

Other animal rights groups have been fighting various issues, such as product-testing on animals and drilling for oil in Alaska. The Bush administration has ignored requests to protect caribou and birds in Alaska from the groups by turning over nearly 8 million acres to the big oil companies.

How about we start mobilizing alternative fuel sources for our cars, something we should have done years ago. Ethanol fuel, a very real possibility, is proved to be cheaper to the consumer while also non-threatening to the environment and animals.

A very real and pressing question surfaces: How can a majority of Republicans continue to side

with big business, particularly big oil, when they are clearly violating ethical treatments for animals?

People at PETA aren't crazy — they're concerned — and part of their sometimes "absurd" actions, such as having America's favorite playmate Pamela Anderson model nude in the group's advertisements to encourage people to boycott fur, are necessary to get their point across.

Recently, the organization unleashed a campaign to combat experimentation on gay sheep conducted by Oregon State University. Without a doubt, PETA's behavior is far more ethical than the companies it protests.

Christopher Taylor is a columnist for the Daily Kent Stater (Kent State U.). This column was distributed by U-wire.

AMY HALLFORD
ADRIENNE LANG
LESLIE HONEY
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e-mail it to LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

ALL THAT JAZZ



The Tuesday/Thursday Jazz Ensemble performs "Too Close for Comfort" in the Student Center Lounge at noon Tuesday. JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF / Photo Editor

PLUS/MINUS

From page 1

design their own curriculum and the plus/minus grading system would be an extension of that because professors would have the choice to grade on the plus/minus scale.

But Heather Santi, freshman communication and religion major, said she is not sure that would be a good idea.

"It could be a logistical nightmare if we have professors grading on different scales," Santi said.

Jace Thompson, newly elected president of the Student Government Association, said he agreed.

"Students don't understand how the plus/minus system will better represent them if faculty don't use it across the board," Thompson said.

Bob Neilson, chair of the Academic Excellence Committee, said the majority of students' concerns are reasonable, but students do not understand the issue well enough.

He said the new grading sys-

tem would only change grades for students who are on the borderline between letter grades.

"If students take the time to talk to professors individually about it, they will find very little will actually change," Neilson said.

Fort echoed Neilson's sentiments.

Fort said there wouldn't be a huge shift in the grading system because professors already have the freedom to grade how they want.

"It will be an extension of a policy that is already in place," Fort said. "To say professors have to grade plus/minus would be the same as forcing professors to give a curve. They already have a choice on how to grade students."

But not all professors agree with the proposed plan.

David Bedford, a Spanish and Latin American studies professor, said he worries the system will punish those students who work hard to make 92s and 93s because they won't get as much credit under plus/minus.

"I wonder how it will be fair to students," Bedford said.

Still other professors say a 4.0 should be a more coveted goal, and the plus/minus grading system would make it just that.

"A 4.0 is not guaranteed,

nor is it necessary," said Nadia Lahutsky, a religion professor.

But Thompson said students' main concern is not the grades themselves but whether the grading system will be fair.

"This is the most talked about issue I've seen on campus," said Thompson, a junior accounting and finance major.

Thompson said students aren't necessarily opposed to changing the system, but they aren't convinced the new one will be fair.

"Students are curious to see how this will work out," Thompson said. "They're afraid the grading won't be consistent."

Thompson said the debate threatens the relationship between students and staff.

"We all want TCU to be the best university, but we don't want it at the expense of faculty and student relationships," Thompson said.

Donovan said he agreed.

"What makes TCU is not football, not the buildings, but rather what we have going on inside the buildings — our students and professors," Donovan said. "The worse thing we can do is break that."

Lockwood said the Executive Committee plans to meet soon to discuss where to go next with the issue.

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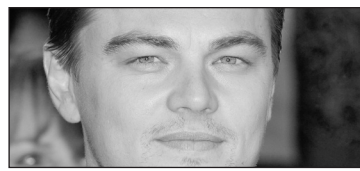
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Leonardo DiCaprio fills the Skiff in on his new movie "Blood Diamond," on Friday's Features page.



Jack Black, left, and Kyle Gass strum and howl away during a fantasy sequence, showing why they are the greatest band in the world in New Line Cinema's new musical comedy "Tenacious D in: The Pick of Destiny."

MOVIE

ROCK 'N' ROLL GODS

'Destiny' provides entertaining music, comedy for Tenacious D cult followers

By JEFF ESKEW
Features Editor

Once you have proclaimed your band to be the greatest in the world, what else is there left to do? Make a movie, of course.

That is exactly what the overweight middle-age rock group Tenacious D did, and, surprisingly, it didn't suck.

The band is best known for the short comedy skits that first started airing on HBO in the late 1990s.

"Tenacious D in: The Pick of Destiny" sets out to portray how the band got its start.

It begins in the early 1990s with a young boy named Jack Black — although he preferred to go by JB instead — who left his home in Kickapoo, Mich., and traveled cross-country to Hollywood, Calif. in hopes of becoming a rock star.

It wasn't even one minute after stepping off the bus that JB ran into fellow guitarist Kyle Gass,

who promised to teach the wide-eyed JB everything he knew about the rock 'n' roll business.

It becomes abundantly clear very quickly that Gass actually knows next-to-nothing about the music business. The one thing going in favor of the newly formed band is that Gass can lay down some wicked guitar licks and JB knows how to wail like a full-fledged superstar.

The name Tenacious D came about when each band member dropped his pants to reveal his birthmark. When placed side-by-side, they spell out Tenacious D.

The band's first appearance is during an open-mic night down at a local bar where the members proclaim themselves as the "Greatest Band in the World."

Once they realize they are far from the greatest band ever, they begin to think about what they can improve when JB makes an astounding discovery. Three of the greatest bands in rock his-

tory all used the exact same guitar pick, thus naming it the "Pick of Destiny."

The movie is not anything that will go down in history as being great, much like the band, but it is widely entertaining from the opening scene to the closing credits.

Much of the credit has to go to the supporting cast, who just makes cameo after cameo.

In what has to be the greatest casting decision in recent memory, Meat Loaf plays Jack Black's father, and even sings the first song in the movie. It is scary how much these two men look and act alike.

Other notable guest roles include Ben Stiller as a guitar clerk who gives the back story of pick and Dave Grohl, who plays Satan and is after the pick for his own reasons.

All-in-all, "Tenacious D in: The Pick of Destiny" is just a fun movie. It doesn't try to be anything more than it is, and that, in turn, is surprisingly refreshing.



MUSIC

MtvU gives campus bands shot at fame, major label contracts

By JEFF ESKEW
Features Editor

Are you and your band just itching to make it big and explode onto the national music scene? If so, mtvU has just launched this year's Best Music on Campus search.

There are four different record and video deals up for the taking with one grand prize winner receiving the opportunity to perform on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."

The non-grand prize winners' record deals are with Epitaph Records, Definitive Jux Records and Drive-Thru Records — each offering their own package.

Whichever artist or group wins the Epitaph Records deal will also receive an exclusive music video premiere on mtvU and its Web site, mtvU.com. The group will also be an opening act on tour with an already signed Epitaph recording artist and will appear at mtvU Spring Break '07.

The next package deal is a recording contract with Def Jux Records. The band will release a digital album and have their music video also premiere on mtvU. Additionally, top Def Jux artist Mr. Lif will serve as the band's mentor and appear on their single and music video.

Drive-Thru Records will offer their winner a record deal and the chance to record a music video that will also premiere on mtvU and mtvU.com.

The grand-prize winner will be announced on an episode of "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and perform their debut single. They will be signed to Epic Records with a video, promotions and record deal worth up to \$1.5 million.

"We're excited to partner with Epitaph, Drive-Thru and Def Jux — connecting the best of our wildly talented and eclectic audience with labels where they can flourish creatively and blow up," said Stephen Friedman, general manager of mtvU, in a press release. "We're building BMOC to be the ultimate online destination for college artists to launch their careers and for new music fans to find their next favorite act."

Bands who are interested in competing can go to bestmusiconcampus.com and submit a copy of their music. Each band will get a Web page to post their music, biographies and whatever else they would like. People will then vote on which bands they think are the best, and the winning band in each category will receive the record and promotions deal.



The grand-prize winner of mtvU will perform his or her debut single on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."

Even bands that are not chosen for one of the four record deals are still eligible to be named mtvU's Band of the Week. The contest will run through March with one record deal being awarded each month.

TV

'Heroes' flies to top of fall schedule

By JEFF ESKEW
Features Editor

"Save the Cheerleader. Save the World." If you don't know where this TV season's most popular catch phrase is from, then you are missing out.

NBC's "Heroes" is the most watched new show of the season, and for good reason. It tells the stories of common people with uncommon powers and how they must come together to fight the ultimate evil.

NBC is about to air the last new episode before taking a six-week break, which means there is no better time to get caught-up on all the action. NBC still has the first 10 episodes posted on its Web site.

There's Claire (Hayden Panettiere), the cheerleader whose body can regenerate after almost any wound; Nathan (Adrian Pasdar), the politician who can fly; Isaac (Santiago Cabrera), the artist who can paint the future — although only when whacked out on heroin; Niki (Ali Larter), the online stripper with an alter-ego who lives in mirrors; Hiro (Masi Oka), the Japanese office worker who can travel forward, backward and stop time; and Peter (Milo Ventimiglia), who can mimic the powers of others around him.

You might be sitting there thinking this sounds an awful lot like X-Men, and to tell the

truth, it is. But the beauty of the show is that you aren't introduced to characters who know how to use their abilities yet. The series allows the viewers to learn at the same rate as the characters themselves.

While the above characters are nowhere near the entire cast, they do comprise the most compelling of the heroes. The interesting thing about the majority of the cast is that they are relatively unknown actors. Sure, some may recognize Ventimiglia from "Gilmore Girls" and even fewer Larter from "Final Destination," but that is about the extent of it.

Another great thing about the show is after each episode, viewers can go online to nbc.com and download a six-page graphic novel that advances one character's story line into the next week's episode. The featured character changes week to week in order to spread the love around.

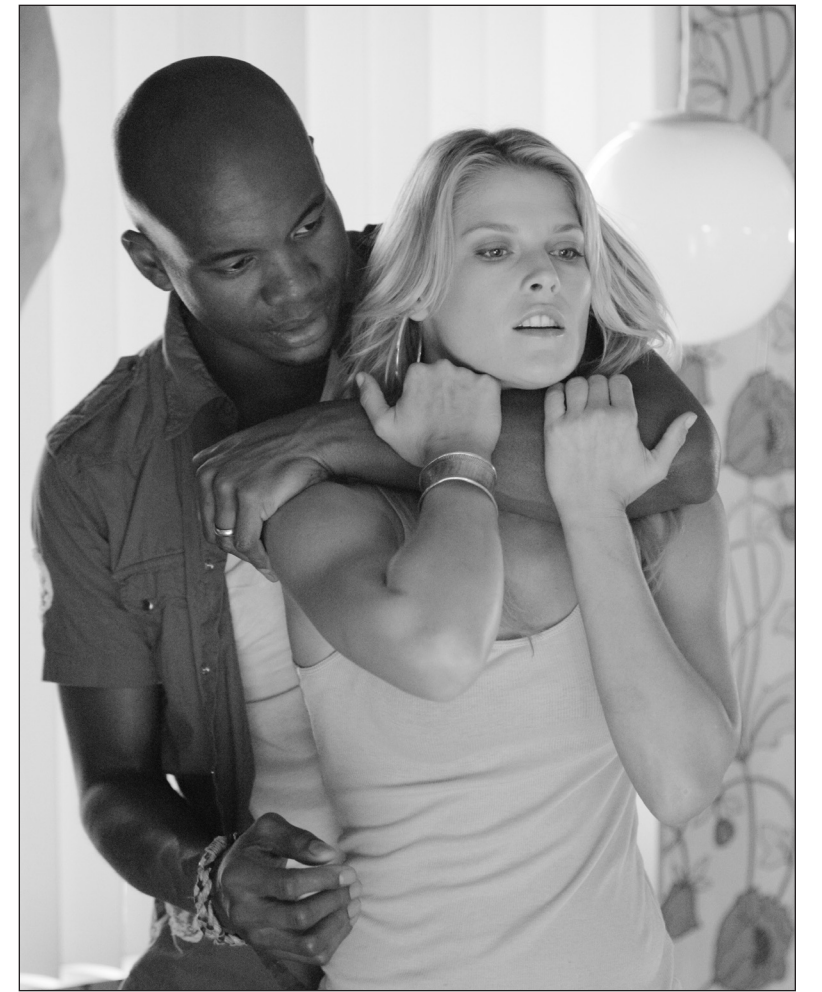
Even after only 10 episodes, the show has already generated comparisons to "Lost," the 2005 Emmy winner for Best Drama Series. Viewers are drawn in by the complicated plot lines and conflicted characters much in the same vein as "Lost."

Did Claire really kill the quarterback? When did Hiro learn English and ditch the dorky glasses? Who is this evil Sylar, and what exactly are his

powers? Were the heroes able to "save the cheerleader and save the world"?

If you have missed out on the beginning of the season, and find yourself complaining

that there is nothing new on TV over winter break, head over to nbc.com and catch up on the best new show of the year.



Leonard Roberts as D.L. Hawkins and Ali Larter as Niki/Jessica Sanders play husband and wife in NBC's new science-fiction thriller series "Heroes," which airs Mondays at 8 p.m.

MUSIC

DJs plump it up with release of 'Mad Cow' single

By JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE
News Editor

Armed to the teeth with sounds thicker than their name, the Plump DJs have consistently dominated the break-beat music scene since arriving in 2000.

From humble roots of screaming 303 synthesizer lines and sampled 1970s drum breaks, the London-based DJs (Lee Rous and Andy Gardner) increasingly have added layers to their sound: guest vocalists, changing tempos and, albeit rarely, a more mellow sound.

"Mad Cow," their latest single, however, is anything but mellow or complex. And it works.

With their signature punchy drums, squeaks, bleeps and a pitch-bending bassline, the DJs have scaled back from recent

material and created something simple yet addictive when played extremely loud.

As can be expected of any Plump track intended for the dance-floor, the traditional build-it-up and break-it-down bridge makes an appearance in the form of a synth that sounds darn close to a cow, lending the track its name.

The only disappointments with the single are the timing and format of its release.

The Plump DJs have been playing "Mad Cow" since the early summer season of 2005, and after originally slating it for a December 2005 release, they scrapped it in favor of including the track on their sophomore studio album due

out next summer. After delaying its release for so long, however, the cow has finally been let out of the barn. But because the DJs have been playing it for so long, fans

have already heard the single a number of times and likely aren't scrambling to order their copy.

Vinyl-enthusiasts Rous and Gardner have always been more than willing to stamp out enough records for everyone. But this time around, they've decided to initially forgo wax altogether for an mp3-only release. This could be their way of embracing the oft-described future of music, but it comes off as laziness and fragility.

The decision of how and why to release it aside, "Mad Cow" is a welcome filler for Plump fans sitting in limbo between their last single, released one year ago, and the next Plump DJs studio album to come.



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GOLF

Junior golfer putts way to success, tournament victory

By BILLY WESSELS
Staff Reporter

As the TCU men's golf team wrapped up its second consecutive second-place finish, one golfer hoped to clinch an individual goal at the Memphis Intercollegiate.

Franklin Corpening, a junior communication studies major, left a 20-foot putt for eagle one foot short and tapped in the birdie putt in disgust.

But, when that putt connected with the bottom of the cup, Corpening guaranteed his first career collegiate victory.

"I thought, if I shoot a 66 I would have a pretty good chance of winning," Corpening said. "I made a few putts and got to six under and held in there."

Head golf coach Bill Montigel said the win has probably given Corpening more confidence, but it hasn't changed him.

"I'm sure that he has a little more confidence, but he seems to be as pleasant and easy-going as he ever was," Montigel said. "He is one of the most pleasant, respectful guys I have ever been around."

Robbie Ormand, Corpening's roommate and teammate, said that he is a good golfer and a stand-up guy.

"Off the course, he is a blast," Ormand said. "He took me under his wing and will always give a helping hand."

Corpening posted a 54-hole total of 212, which put his final score at four strokes under par.

He is also the 10th Horned Frog in the last decade to win medalist honors, which means finishing first, second or third in a tournament.

"It helps me play with confidence," Corpening said.

This is the first win in 17 college tournaments for Corpening, who had finished in the top 10 of tournaments twice.

"I had been playing well all year and knew I was real close to putting a good tournament together," Corpening said. "Things kept getting better."

Ormand said that Corpening's recent success doesn't surprise him.

"I knew they were coming,"

Ormand said. "It was just a matter of time until he got a few good breaks."

Corpening attended Paschal High School for two years, where he was a 5A district champion in 2002 and 2003.

Before attending Paschal, Corpening was a Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 3A state champion at Southwest Christian School in Fort Worth.

"It was fun as a freshman, but I knew I needed to go somewhere else to play golf," Corpening said. "Part of the reason I went to Paschal was because of my success freshman year."

Corpening didn't know golf was something he wanted to do in college until late in his high school career.

"I really didn't know if I was going to play until senior year," Corpening said.

Even after that, he didn't know where he was going to play. He was contacted by Baylor, Texas A&M and Arkansas to play golf.

When Montigel recruits players, he doesn't focus on other schools.

Instead he looks for local talent first. "I sell our program," Montigel said. "One thing we try to do is get best golfers from local areas."

But TCU offered some perks none of those other schools could.

"Coach Montigel has helped me excel through college," Corpening said. "Plus I can go home for a meal or for Mom to do some laundry."

Montigel said that it is a slow process for players to adjust from the amateur level to the college level, and Corpening was no exception.

"He had some ups and downs, but is able to bounce back," Montigel said. "It's not an easy transition from junior golf to college golf, but he is an awfully fine player."

Corpening is playing well, but Montigel thinks he isn't done yet.

"His best is ahead of him," Montigel said.

Even though Corpening has now proved he can win a college tournament, the success isn't his favorite part of the game.

"Playing with your best friends," Corpening said. "There is nothing better than walking 18 holes with your buddies."



SKIFF ARCHIVES
Junior golfer Frank Corpening drives the ball across the green in practice. Corpening received his first win in 17 college tournaments with a final score at four strokes under par.

RECRUITING

From page 8

only way a player's contract can be nonrenewed is because of wrongful conduct.

Myers said that, when signed, players receive a letter that outlines conditions for keeping their scholarships.

The player "must continue to excel in the classroom and obtain the grades and test scores that are required for admission at TCU," according to the letter. He "must complete the eligibility requirements set forth by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse." And he "must perform in the classroom, community, school and on the football field up to

the standards set forth by the head football coach."

Should their actions prove detrimental to the school, team or their classes, athletes' scholarships and financial assistance can be nonrenewed based on seven main guidelines, Myers said.

The athletic handbook states that a player may lose his scholarship if he is in "violation of team training and practice regimen," fails to "participate in athletics contest when called upon to do so by the coaching staff," engages in "activities at athletics training, practice or contest sites that are harmful to the student-athlete or to others," is in "violation of standards of good sportsmanship," destroys or defaces university property, "violates university rules and regulation governing student life" or "violates NCAA or

Mountain West Conference rules."

WRONGFUL DOING

Should a football player break any of these rules, such as was the case with Rhet Bomar, the freshman quarterback from the Oklahoma Sooners, he would go under team investigation and possibly be expelled from the team and lose his scholarship.

Bomar was found to have broken the rule about not accepting money from alumni. He made an inordinate amount of money while working at a Norman, Okla., car dealership in the summer of 2005. Because of this infraction, Bomar was ousted from the team and lost his scholarship.

But, it is not just the players who can break NCAA rules when it comes

to recruitment and scholarships, Myers said.

No matter how many Texas players leave Texas for schools out of the state, Texas schools do not have the ability to recruit any students already playing in the NCAA.

"Even if a player at another school contacts our office, we are unable to talk to them until our compliance office has a written release from that player's current institution," Myers said.

But while players must follow NCAA regulations, college coaches must also adhere to strict guidelines set forth by the NCAA.

In 2000, an Alabama Crimson Tide booster was found to have paid \$150,000 to high school coach Lynn Lang in order for him "steer his standout player to the

Crimson Tide." The booster was convicted of on federal charges of conspiracy, bribery and money laundering, but the NCAA also found the school guilty as well.

Alabama suffered major NCAA sanctions involving lost scholarships and was prohibited from bowl games for two years. Albert Means, the player in question, was found not guilty of any wrongdoing and played one season at Alabama before transferring to Memphis, where he finished out his college career.

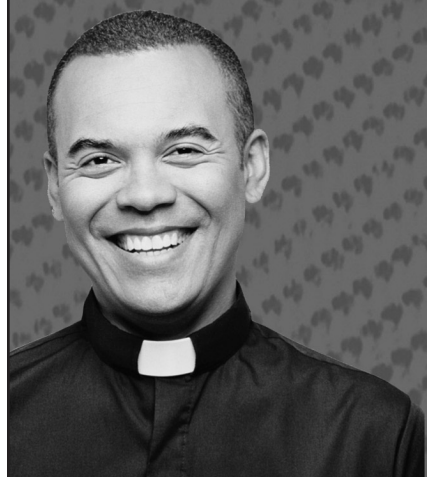
No matter how many national championships a school has, with more than 100 colleges vying for better records, recruitment for all schools is a season all in its own.

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WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE
Q: Why is a moon tastier than an earth rock?
A: Because it's a little meteor.

Quigmans

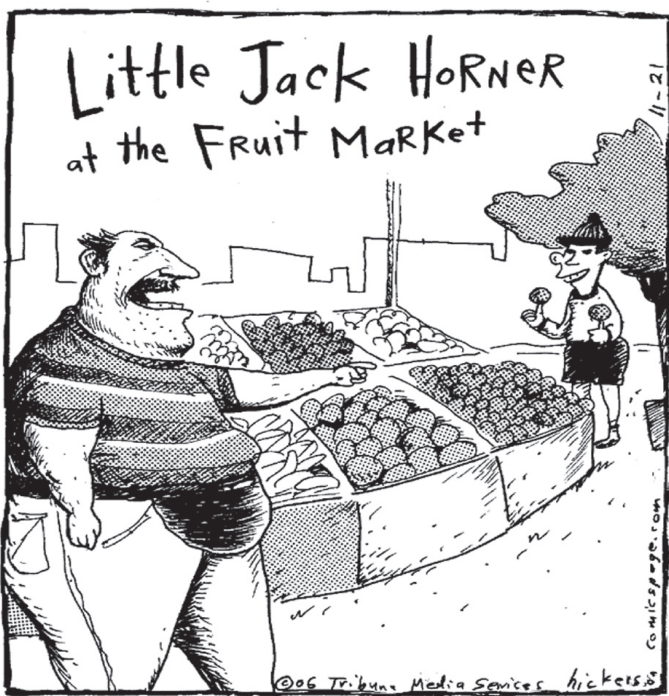
by Buddy Hickerson



Arvin had always been handy with the ladies.

Quigmans

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

Directions

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

See Thursday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Tuesday's Solutions

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

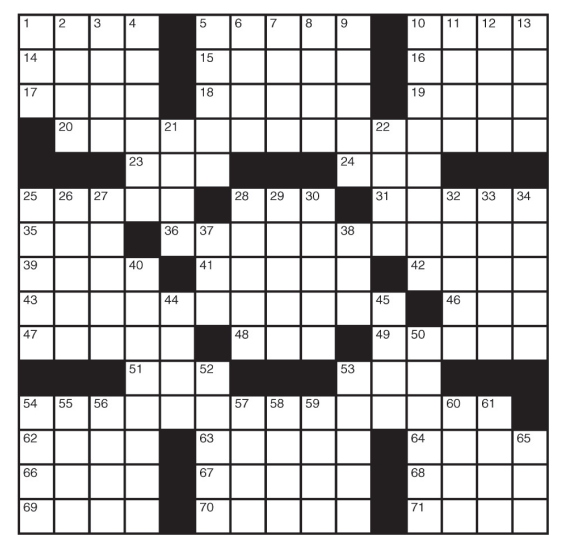
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17 GI's meal
18 "Science of Logic" philosopher
19 Como — Usted?
20 Two doctors
23 Post-dusk
24 Compass dir.
25 Festoon
28 Russian chess master
31 Of an abdominal pain
35 Actor Chaney
36 Two doctors
39 A single time
41 Strong string
42 Pig vittles
43 Two doctors
46 Ames and Anser
47 Asian palm
48 Guitarist Paul
49 Concur
51 Exist
53 Genetic material, briefly
54 Two doctors
62 New Rochelle school
63 Climbing vine
64 Freudian subjects
66 Legal wrong
67 Shop talk
68 Foundation
69 "Pursuit of the Graf"
70 Magnetic flux unit
71 Cameo stone
- DOWN**
1 Highlands hat
2 "Mockingbird" singer Fox
3 Have a bite
4 Less arduous
5 Rodeo cowboy
6 Designer
7 Toy block maker
8 Not kosher
9 Gannet goose
10 Finds buyers beforehand
11 Hops kiln
12 Caesar's accusation
13 Social affairs
21 Sell
22 Military group
25 Hilo hello
26 Benefactor
27 When actors enter
28 Shower hanger
29 Carroll's girl
30 Seaside golf course
32 Lamprey hunter
33 Battery part
34 Thicket of trees
37 Wagering site in NYC
38 PGA prop
40 Intensity
44 Listening devices
45 Declaim loudly



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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INSIDE SPORTS

Get to know one men's golf player who was able to beat the competition and take first place in one of the team's fall 2006 tournaments **PAGE 6.**

FOOTBALL

Patterson optimistic of Horned Frogs' future

By **MARCUS MURPHREE**
Staff Reporter

Focus on the upcoming game against the Air Force Falcons took precedence over the Poinsettia Bowl and recent talk of firings in the college football world at Tuesday's football Coaches' Luncheon.

"We beat the odds, and nobody thought we could get to this point with a chance to go 10-2," head coach Gary Patterson said. "We are in a position to finish the season just like we wanted, we just did it in a different way."

Last weekend the Frogs beat the

Colorado State Rams and solidified their chance for a bowl bid.

"I told (the team) we were in a position to control our own destiny," Patterson said.

Playing in Colorado in the cold and at a higher altitude was not a factor in the Frogs' performance last weekend, Patterson said.

"Altitude is only an excuse when you lose," Patterson said.

Saturday will be seniors' day at Amon Carter Stadium, and senior wide receiver Michael DePriest talked about some of his time at TCU this season.

"While I was injured, I had to be

more a verbal leader for the team, which was different because I usually led by my actions," DePriest said.

The Frogs are in a position to have the most wins in four seasons since the teams in the 1930s led by Sammy Baugh and Davey O'Brien, DePriest said.

DePriest said talk of that kind of dominance has not put the players in a position to coast through the rest of the season.

"Coach gives us short-term goals and stuff to attain," DePriest said. "We have a chance to finish in the top 25 as well."

Air Force is expected to bring a strong running game to Fort Worth on Saturday.

"The last 72 hours, I have been looking at the triple option plays they run," Patterson said. "But, then again, they have passed for over 200 yards in the past two games, as well."

Patterson said the game could be like a "hornet's nest," with Air Force throwing the ball more, teamed with TCU's passing game. Though the bowl game is not for another three weeks, Patterson did discuss his thoughts on the Northern Illinois Huskies.

"They are a lot like us; we both have a chip on our shoulder," Patterson said. "If we don't stop the run, it will be a long day."

Recent discussion of firings within college football staffs have worked their way to TCU, as Patterson was recently mentioned by USA Today as a possible fill-in for Larry Coker, who used to be head coach for the Miami Hurricanes.

"Dark Monday and Tuesday, and the week after Thanksgiving is always a tough time for college coaches," Patterson said. "But I am humbled by the chance to be mentioned by that program."

FOOTBALL

Players to focus on increasing intensity, power, coach says

By **KYLE ARNOLD**
Staff Writer

With the Texas Tech Red Raiders coming to town, the Frogs' coach said the team will work to utilize momentum from its victory over the Grambling State Tigers.

Bouncing back from a loss against St. Mary's College, the Horned Frogs beat Grambling State at home Friday night.

University	Overall*
San Diego State Aztecs	7-0
New Mexico Lobos	4-0
Air Force Falcons	6-1
TCU Horned Frogs	4-1
UNLV Rebels	4-1
Wyoming Cowboys	4-1
BYU Cougars	3-1
Colorado State Rams	3-2
Utah Utes	1-3

*No conference games so far

There are a few parts of the game the Frogs have been working on in order to be ready to take on Texas Tech, head coach Neil Dougherty said.

"We have been spending more time with free-throw shooting in practice, focusing on each individual's ritual and routine," Dougherty said. "I think we are in an unexplainable slump right now because I do believe we are better at free throw shooting than we have been showing."

Dougherty said the Frogs will focus on picking up their intensity against the Red Raiders.

"We are trying to upgrade our ability to be more physical because Tech is going to present great size at every position," Dougherty said.

Sophomore power forward Kevin Langford said that the Frogs need to make Tech play TCU's style of game.

"We want to make them

play at our tempo and pace," Langford said.

Not having to rely on just one man to carry the team has been important so far this season, senior point guard Neil P. Dougherty said.

Dougherty and Langford agree that the Frogs are getting great play off of the bench.

"We have been getting a lot of contribution off the bench — that has been a real bright spot for us," Dougherty said.

The excitement leading up to this game has been unparalleled, Dougherty said.

"The kids are going to be fired up and ready to play," Dougherty said. "It is a big game, and everyone has been talking about this game before it even got here."

However, the excitement and emotion involved in this game remains among one of the top issues for Dougherty.

"Quite frankly, one of the concerns I have is how our team will react to

Daniel-Meyer Coliseum having people in it," Dougherty said.

Doherty said certain aspects will be important to the Frogs' success.

"A fast start will be important for us in terms of building confidence through the course of the game," Dougherty said. "Staying out of foul trouble early is going to be very important because we are not as deep as their bench is, particularly up front."

Facing off against Red Raiders head coach Bobby Knight is all about respect for Dougherty.

"It is exciting for me personally," Dougherty said. "He is a sports icon, and he is a legend in college basketball who has been coaching the right way for a long time. I have a great deal of respect for him and what he has done."

The Horned Frogs host the Texas Tech Red Raiders at 7 p.m. today in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN/Staff Photographer
Freshman guard Keion Mitchem holds the ball away from an SFA player. The Frogs face Texas Tech at 7 p.m. today in the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Football recruiting: a season unto itself

By **MICHAEL DODD**
Sports Editor

College football is one of the most lucrative businesses that colleges partake in year to year. From ticket and concessions sales to bowl game-appearance money, college football is a cash business in which coaching staffs around the nation are trying to get ahead and find the edge that will help their teams win and give them the opportunity to get the coveted BCS national championship or win their respective conference.

But with so many vying for such rewards, the question of how to obtain such goals and how far to go to do so is presented.

The Horned Frogs stand at 9-2 overall and 5-2 in Mountain West Conference play. The season is more than halfway over and, with almost 20 seniors set to graduate and leave, the coaching staff must amplify its recruiting efforts to fill the holes.

GETTING STARTED

"We started recruiting back in late May for the next season," said Gary Patterson, head football coach. "But, with the season getting closer and closer to ending, we've started looking at the tapes even more."

Patterson said that before he and his staff start analyzing the tapes, they first figure out what positions they will need to fill before trying to get a blue-chip player they might not necessarily need.

"If you need to sign four tackles, you better be ready to seriously look at having 20 listed as possible prospects," Patterson said. "Tapes of players whose positions are emptying out are placed at the top of the stack."

High school football players from around the nation have been sending TCU promotional videos of themselves on the gridiron at a rate of about 50 per day, said Drew Myers, assistant director of football operations.

"We have a process that starts with the tape being logged into our library. From that library, we sort the tapes, according to type," Myers said.

Patterson and his coaches receive three types of tapes from prospective athletes: solicited game film from a high school, unsolicited film from a prospect and film from a pro-

fessional service, Myers said.

"At that point, each film is evaluated by a member of our staff — usually broken down by a recruiting coach and/or position coach," Myers said. "Our video (graduate assistants) sift through the unsolicited and out-of-state film, looking for potential prospects and then forward those to the proper coach."

The tapes usually go through three stages, from recruiting coach to position coach to coordinator, before landing in front of the head coach, Patterson said.

Following the Horned Frogs' win over the Texas Tech Red Raiders earlier this year, Patterson entered the press room, berating the city of Fort Worth for not giving his Horned Frogs the kind of respect he said they deserved for their efforts thus far this season. Coaches claim that this lack of respect is something TCU must also deal with in recruitment as well.

The BCS is known for the storied rivalries and prestigious programs, but Myers said TCU's reputation is garnering more recruiting respect than a number of the BCS schools.

"When it comes to recruiting against the BCS, it's all about winning," Patterson said.

Myers said this winning attitude and productivity has given TCU an edge over BCS schools not actively vying for the national championship year in and year out.

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Myers said TCU offers three things that many BCS schools cannot — a yearly chance to win, a high graduation rate and the opportunity to go on to the NFL.

Myers said that TCU gives its football players the opportunity to win a championship each year.

"It may not be a national championship, but there are only a handful of schools that win a conference title each year," Myers said. "And, the way the BCS system is set up now, it's not out of the realm of possibilities for the champion of the Mountain West Conference to compete for a national title. A lot of things would have to happen, but it's feasible."

Myers said that another way TCU competes with BCS schools for

recruits is in the graduation of its football players.

"Our 78 percent graduation success rate is 20th best in the country," Myers said. "There were only 10 BCS schools with a higher (graduation success rate)."

The third benefit, Myers said, that TCU offers potential football players is that although the team isn't given the same bowl opportunities or ranking respect as BCS teams, TCU football players are afforded the opportunity to go on to the NFL.

With three total, TCU ranked second to Texas, which has seven, in players drafted, Myers said. TCU also had four players sign free-agent contracts.

"We drive these three things home to every prospective student-athlete who steps foot on campus or receives a letter from our office," Myers said.

Myers said recruiters travel the country looking at prospects.

"On a typical day, a coach will hit anywhere from five to seven schools, depending on the amount of driving that needs to be done between each one," Myers said.

In November, with information gathered and sorted about prospects, coaching staffs enter the contact period, Myers said.

"During this period, recruiting coaches will spend nearly every evening visiting the home of a prospective student-athlete," Myers said. "That gives the coach, player and families the chance to gather information and get questions and possible concerns addressed."

Myers said that the day ends once the recruiter has finalized his or her notes and run them through compliance paperwork to ensure there is nothing that could be damaging to the university.

IN-STATE RECRUITMENT PROBLEMS

Although the Horned Frogs can compete with the BCS schools for recruits, TCU and all other Texas teams must find a way to hold on to the treasure trove of recruits leaving Texas for other states' college teams.

"Players in Texas are coached extremely well," Myers said. "Secondly, there is a large number of very talented athletes, and last but probably the biggest draw is the passion for the game



ROBYN SHEPHEARD/Staff Photographer
The TCU football team receives high fives from the cheering fans in the Wyoming game. Almost 20 seniors are set to graduate, and the TCU coaching staff must amplify its recruiting efforts to fill the holes.

that players from Texas possess."

Myers said that Texas schools lose football players to out-of-state universities because those universities seek well-coached athletes, because there are so many quality programs in the Lone Star State and because playing under the Friday night lights in Texas produces potential recruits who play with passion.

While many schools around the nation and outside of Texas can be

more relaxed in their in-state recruitment, Texas schools must move fast to secure the blue-chip players.

SIGNING DAY

TCU, which signed 18 players last year, gave out more than \$600,000 in scholarship money at about \$35,000 per student per year.

Once signed, Myers said, a player's scholarship contract cannot be rescinded by the university. He said that the