

See an interesting way to change college football. Sports, page 10.



The auto industry is an important player in the economic bailout. Tomorrow in Opinion



A regional train is in the works that will pass by TCU. Tomorrow in News

OBAMA AND HIGHER EDUCATION

# Official: Changes for students to be small

By Chelsea Smith  
Staff Reporter

Although the amount of financial aid students receive probably won't change under the Obama administration, the application process they go through might, the director of scholarships and financial aid said.

Mike Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid, said he's for President-elect

Barack Obama's plans to eliminate the FAFSA and replace it with a checkbox on families' tax forms, although there are still some procedural details that need to be worked out.

The biggest problem would be that schools might not have the most up-to-date information about students' parents' income, Scott said.

When students fill out their FAFSA for

the 2009-10 school year in June 2009, the information they provide will be based on their parents' earnings during the year 2008. However, the Internal Revenue Service wouldn't have processed all the 2008 tax returns yet. Therefore, if the school depended directly on the IRS for this information, as it would under Obama's plan, it would have to base its financial aid decisions on tax information from 2007, Scott said.

"The real knowledgeable people in this say that is not an issue that can't be worked through, so I trust them," Scott said.

Scott is less enthusiastic about Obama's plans to cut subsidies to private lenders and push student borrowing into a direct lending program. However, under a direct lending program, students would borrow money

SEE FINANCIAL AID · PAGE 2

TODAY'S HEADLINES

News: Surgery without cuts may be possible, page 5

Opinion: Disappointed voters shouldn't target Mormons, page 3

Sports: Men's basketball now has winning record, page 10

TOP 10 MOVIES

		(millions of dollars)
1	Four Christmases	\$31.7
2	Bolt	26.6
3	Twilight	26.4
4	Quantum of Solace	19.5
5	Australia	14.8
6	Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa	14.5
7	Transporter 3	12.3
8	Role Models	5.3
9	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	1.7
10	Milk	1.4

— Associated Press



People shouldn't rely on the government so much. Opinion, page 3.

PECULIAR FACT

BERWICK, Pa. — Fans of Penn State can smell like the school for just \$60. A fragrance developer says it has made a perfume and a cologne inspired by Pennsylvania State University's blue and white colors and its campus vegetation.

— Press Enterprise

TODAY'S WEATHER

**71 55**  
HIGH LOW  
Sunny/Wind

Tomorrow: Partly Cloudy  
67 / 37

Thursday: Sunny  
55 / 35



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

# COFFEE JOLT



SARAH BRUNER / Staff Photographer

Movement science major Samantha Wasek gets a head start studying for finals Monday afternoon in the crowded TCU Bookstore. Employees say the bookstore hasn't been hit by the economic downturn, like many other area businesses.

Full story, page 7

FACULTY SENATE

# Language requisite not likely

Professors dismiss proposed changes to core curriculum

By Kimmy Daycock  
Staff Reporter

A Faculty Senate official is pushing for a six-hour foreign language requirement to be implemented into the core curriculum in hopes that the administration will take action in the future.

David Bedford, Faculty Senate Student Relations Committee chair and Spanish instructor, said he presented the issue to the Faculty Senate in the open forum so that the senators could start thinking about it, but he doesn't think there will be a foreign language requirement anytime soon.

However, Bedford said he thinks the need for a foreign language requirement will eventually grow and will not be able to be overlooked.

According to the October meeting minutes from the Faculty Senate, the open forum was created so that senators could present concerns from their constituents and the senators will rank the issues by importance. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will address the top issues and decide how to take action on them, according to the minutes.

Keith Whitworth, Faculty Senate secretary and instructor of sociology, said he was surprised that few senators ranked the foreign language requirement issue important. The issues that the Executive Committee looked at were TCU going green and undergraduates grading other undergraduates.

Bedford said the need for a foreign language requirement is important because of TCU's mission to educate leaders in a global community.

"To be responsible in a global community is to communicate beyond one's own culture,"

SEE LANGUAGES · PAGE 2

# Gay couples receive employee benefits

By Rylee Nye  
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff at the University of Texas at Austin are protesting UT's policy to not extend employee benefits to same-sex couples.

UT is state-funded and therefore does not extend same-sex couples employee benefits because Texas state law prevents it. Several on-campus groups rallied against the university's exclusion of benefits for same-sex couples Nov. 12 outside the Texas Union Patio.

TCU, however, has offered benefits to homosexual couples since Jan. 1, 2005.

Tracy Thompson, benefits manager for Human Resources, said benefits offered to same-sex couples are equal to those offered to heterosexual couples employed by TCU.

In order to prove partnership, each party must sign a domestic partnership affidavit and submit it to Human Resources.

According to several news reports, UT-Austin is losing prospective professors because benefits for their partners are unavailable, and so they choose to teach where those benefits are granted.

Jack Hill, associate professor of religion, said the policy is beneficial to recruitment.

SEE BENEFITS · PAGE 2

# Students start 2nd microlending group

By Krystal Upshaw  
Staff Reporter

In 2006, Muhammad Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize for starting the first world movement to abolish poverty through micro-lending, a practice of giving small loans to the poor to help them financially support themselves.

Today, the Financial Management Association used his vision to create a microfinance committee of four to five students to provide financial assistance to the world's working poor.

The idea for the microfinance fund began from a class project, said Travis Gallatin, president of Financial Management Association.

"I like it because it wasn't a handout," Gallatin said. "Most charities do that, and it's expensive."

The microfinance fund committee created an online account with MicroPlace, an online agency that allows lenders to find borrowers in poor countries. The microfinance fund made its first investment toward helping a woman finance her business in India, Gallatin said.

Investors have a particular interest in women who live in developing countries because their profits tend to go toward their children's education and

feeding their families, according to the MicroPlace Web site.

It's extremely difficult for people and women in particular to finance their business in developing countries, Gallatin said. The money the woman in India made through her MicroPlace has allowed her to send her children to school and buy groceries for her family, Gallatin said.

MicroPlace is based off the vision of Tracey Pettengill Turner, a social entrepreneur. It is designed to help average people make investments in low-income countries. The returns on these investments will continue to grow in value, according to the Web site.

In the beginning, only top financial banks could afford to make investments because microfinance has a low interest rate, but MicroPlace made it affordable for everyday people to make a difference in global poverty, according to the Web site.

The micro finance fund will have an infinite impact, Gallatin said.

"Most charities fall behind because you always have to generate more money," Gallatin said. "Even if we stopped putting money into it, it would still keep growing."

The organization invested \$1,000 in

its first project, and the plan is to continue investing in smaller increments, Gallatin said.

Ryan McCrory, treasurer of Financial Management Association, said the funds were generated mostly from dues.

"It's something we had enough money to do and it's appropriate for a finance club, and it's for a good cause," McCrory said.

MicroPlace has different lenders for investors to pick from to conduct their business transactions. These organizations are usually nonprofit and use MicroPlace to post information on borrowers, as well as how investors can best help people in need.

Barbara Wood, faculty adviser for Financial Management Association, said the return on the investment is small, but that's not important to the microfinance fund.

"We're really blessed here in Texas and at TCU, and I see it as a way to return that blessing," Wood said.

The Financial Management Association is the second Neeley School of Business organization work with micro-finance. The TCU Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization also has a similar outreach program to help struggling entrepreneurs in developing countries.



## NEWS

## FINANCIAL AID

continued from page 1

for higher education directly from the federal government.

Although a direct lending program would lighten the workload of the people in the financial aid office, private lenders provide more benefits for students, Scott said.

"If you take out a Stafford loan at Wells Fargo or at Chase, it's the exact same loan," Scott said. "So the way they compete is primarily through customer service. We're just afraid when you're dealing with one entity, with the feds, what's the incentive to make sure everything's going well?"

Most TCU students aren't eligible to receive money from the Federal Pell Grant Program because their families make too much money, Scott said.

As a result, Scott said, a relatively small number of TCU students benefited when Congress cut subsidies to private lenders to make more money available for the Pell Grant program in 2007.

"Up until this school year, banks competed with each other to get your student loan business by offering borrower benefits or repayment incentives," he said. "When Congress cut the subsidies to the lenders, they could no longer offer those repayment incentives. So those costs just got passed onto the students."

TCU students are more likely to benefit from the \$4,000 tax credit Obama has proposed for students who complete 100 hours of community service, Scott said.

"Tax credits like that tend to help middle-income families more," Scott said. "If you're in the really high-income brackets, you don't qualify for it, and if you're in the really low-income brackets, you're probably not paying any taxes anyway, so that tax credit doesn't make a lot of difference."

The only problem with a tax credit, Scott said, is there's no way to guarantee that families will spend the money on education.

"Basically what they're saying is, by reducing the amount of taxes you'll have to pay, you can save some of that money to pay for college," he said. "Well, the question is, is that really what you're going to do with it? If your paycheck every

month increases by \$300, are you going to save \$300 a month to go to college next year, or is the average family just going to spend that?"

Obama has also pledged to support programs that provide academic services for college students from low-income families such as TRIO and GEAR UP.

J. Steven Hodnett, the director of TCU TRIO programs, said he hopes Obama's support will translate into more money.

"We have been in a funding situation that has been basically level-funded for the past five years, so I'm hoping with his support of TRIO and GEAR UP and similar programs that the funding level would increase somewhat down the road," Hodnett said. "If we could get more funding to keep up with inflationary increases, then hopefully the funding increase would allow us to offer our services to more students here on our campus. We're only working with about 10 percent of the students we have enrolled here that qualify for our program."

Regardless of Obama's plans for higher education, political science professor Jim Riddlesperger said the economy will be Obama's number one priority when he takes office in January.

"I think initially at least, what the approach for the Obama administration will be, as I think would be the case for John McCain if he were becoming president, will be a delay in these kinds of plans," Riddlesperger said. "It's going to be a very fluid process over the next three to five months as the parameters of the first Obama budget are put together. He has said he wants to use that scalpel to cut selectively from federal spending, but whether that scalpel will include some kind of higher educational loans or scholarships, I just simply don't know."

Ultimately, Riddlesperger said the best way to help higher education is to fix the economy.

"The hipbone is connected to the knee bone, which is connected to the shinbone, which is connected to the anklebone," Riddlesperger said. "All of these things impact everything else. As long as we have an uncertain economy, that's a threat to higher education as it is to other aspects of the economy. Probably the best way for higher education to benefit is for the economy to be healthy again."

## LANGUAGES

continued from page 1

Bedford said. "One cannot do that without having the ability to communicate in another foreign language beyond one's own."

Although students will not be fluent after taking six hours of a foreign language, the six hours can provide a basis for students and motivate them to continue taking the foreign language, Bedford said.

The AddRan College of Liberal Arts already requires students to complete four semesters of a foreign language, Bedford said.

Jeffrey Todd, chair of the department of modern languages and literatures chair and associate professor of German and French, said he was in the Faculty Senate when there was discussion of a university foreign language requirement during the last core revision, which took place from 2002 to 2003.

There were objections from certain colleges within the university, Todd said. The main objection was that there are already many requirements as the core curriculum stands, Todd said. The concern was that there were going to be too many hours, he said.

Bedford said one of the advantages to a university foreign language requirement would be stability in enrollment in foreign language classes. Likewise, the requirement would benefit the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures by increasing enrollment, he said.

A disadvantage would be having students in class who don't want to be there, he said.

## BENEFITS

continued from page 1

"It definitely widens the safety net of potential professors here," Hill said.

Hill also said the policy is not contradictory to the Christian affiliation of the school and, on the contrary, it is something to celebrate. He said extending benefits to same-sex couples is more about fundamental rights and lifting up those who have been marginalized.

"I think it's more an issue of justice and human rights," Hill said.

Stephen Sprinkle, associate professor of practical theology at Brite Divinity School, said the corporate world has led

Whitworth said every student would benefit from a foreign language requirement because it would give each student a unique set of skills that would be helpful for the process of learning and would enhance the educational experience, he said.

However, Whitworth said that implementing such a policy could raise some major questions.

One concern would be the number of additional faculty that would be needed, Whitworth said, while another would be the distribution of students across the language courses that are offered at the university.

One of biggest concerns is that this requirement would change the core curriculum, which would change the number of hours a student would need to graduate, he said.

Todd said ideally, the requirement should be 12 hours, which would be four semesters of a foreign language. However, some students are able to test out of first or second semester courses so they would not need to take 12 hours worth of courses, he said.

Kimberly Little, a junior radio-TV-film major, said it would be beneficial for TCU to have a foreign language requirement.

When students get to learn another language, they get to learn about a ton of different cultural aspects attributed to that language, Little said, and it helps the students learn about their own languages too.

Evan Dabbs, a junior music education major, said he thinks a foreign language requirement would benefit some students but hurt others.

the way in this matter of justice and the university world is just waking up to it. The extension of benefits at TCU was a good move on the part of Chancellor Victor Boschini's administration to acknowledge basic human rights, Sprinkle said.

The emerging controversy in Austin comes at a time when a larger debate surrounds the passage of Proposition 8 in California banning legal same-sex unions.

Sprinkle said he participated in an anti-Proposition 8 protest at the town hall in Austin in November. He said the groundwork for these movements has been laid for years and is not just a response to the recent election.

"It would really depend on the student's major and the course load he or she is already taking," Dabbs said. "For me personally, I wouldn't appreciate it because I already have so many courses I have to take and it would probably put me back an entire semester."

However, Dabbs said if he had the time, he would want to take a foreign language.

**"To be responsible in a global community is to communicate beyond one's own culture."**

## David Bedford

Faculty Senate Student Relations Committee chair and Spanish instructor

Sarah Miller, junior psychology major and sociology minor, said she decided to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree instead of a Bachelor of Arts degree for the sole reason of not having to take a foreign language.

Although she said she thinks it would be helpful to know a foreign language, only taking a couple semesters of another language would not be beneficial mainly because that isn't enough time to fully learn the language.

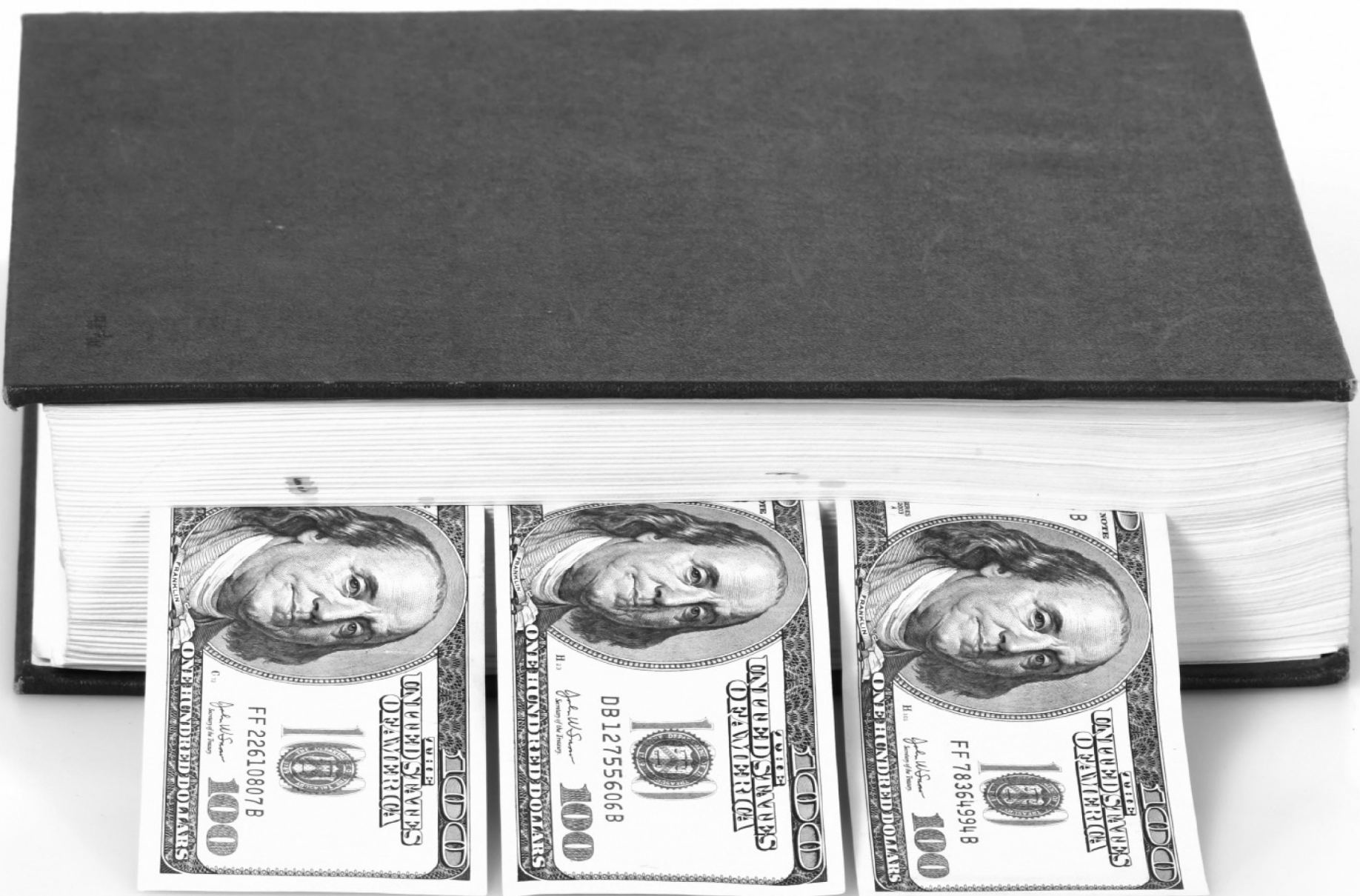
"I took Spanish for four years in high school and since then, I can hardly speak any of it anymore but I can understand it," Miller said. "After only a couple semesters, you're probably going to forget what you learned."

"It's been a long time coming," Sprinkle said. "It is a very hopeful sign to see so many people speaking up for full rights."

Sprinkle and his partner took advantage of the same-sex benefits offered by TCU as soon as they became available.

"We need to remember that although we have these benefits at TCU and are grateful for them, we are far behind where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender diversity is concerned," Sprinkle said.

A bill has been drafted for the 2009 Texas legislative session to overturn laws preventing UT-Austin from extending benefits to homosexual employees.

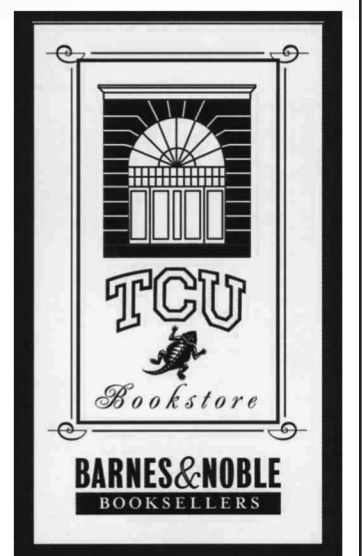


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# OPINION

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The Skiff View

## Foreign language should be required

A new core curriculum change has been presented to the Faculty Senate, but officials aren't confident that this modification will be accepted. The administration should seriously consider a campuswide language requirement and how it would enhance students' education. David Bedford, chair of the Faculty Senate Student Relations Committee, said he presented a six-hour foreign language requirement to the open forum. Bedford said he hopes the Senate will see the importance of having a foundation for a foreign language in the global community TCU promotes. However, students may be hesitant to up the workload.

Students need to think about the future instead of focusing so much on the present. They're living in a world where food labels are in English and Spanish. By knowing another language students will be more marketable, and employers will recognize that. The AddRan College of Liberal Arts requires students to complete four semesters of a foreign language because it recognizes the importance of educating students with a skill that will apply to the real world.

Even if the Faculty Senate only agrees to a three-hour foreign language requirement, it is still worth the class time. Anyone who has ever taken a foreign language course at TCU can testify to the fact that it's not just about the language. The most beneficial part of the class comes from the discovery of cultural aspects that are different than the familiar. Also, having a basic knowledge of how a foreign language works helps to better understand one's native language.

There is a reason the United States is referred to as the "melting pot." The country has the influence of many foreign cultures on this land, and whether people plan on staying here or traveling elsewhere, they can't deny that having a foundation to communicate is a much needed skill.

Multimedia editor Allie Brown for the editorial board.

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

## On-camera Web suicides an alarming, scary trend

It's a good bet that most of the people who watched Abraham Briggs Jr. die with his webcam rolling aren't old enough to remember Kitty Genovese.

In 1964, Genovese was stabbed outside her New York City apartment, then raped, robbed and left to die in the back hallway of her building. At least 38 neighbors saw or heard part of the attacks, but nobody came to her aid, and the few who called police were slow to do so.

Last week, Briggs, 19, of Florida, logged onto a bodybuilding Web site and announced that he was going to kill himself. With some virtual bystanders begging him not to and others egging him on, he swallowed a handful of pills, curled up on his bed and lapsed into unconsciousness. For hours, visitors to the site watched his motionless body and debated whether he was asleep or joking. By the time someone decided he wasn't and contacted police, it was too late.

Briggs' sad story has been labeled a 21st-century display of the Genovese Syndrome, a term used to describe why witnesses — especially when there are lots of them — hesitate to take action to help a person in distress. Someone else will do it, they reason; I don't want to get involved. Social scientists dissecting the Briggs case say the Internet can magnify those effects: Watching anonymously from a remote location, people behave in ways they wouldn't if they were face to face.

Though the Genovese Syndrome has long been a staple of college psychology classes, some academics now question whether its effects are overstated. In the case for which it was named, many people who saw or heard part of the attack thought they were hearing a drunken

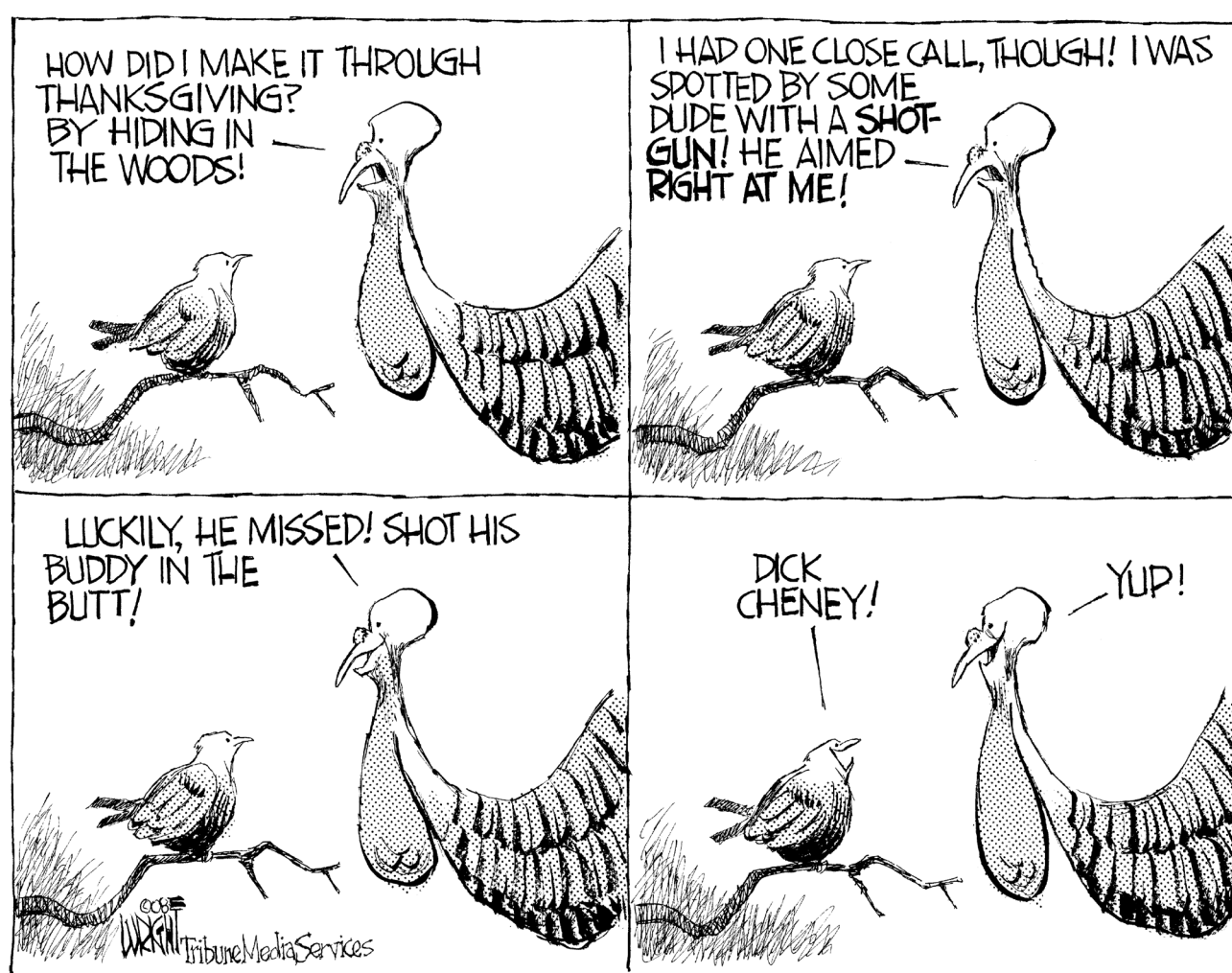
argument or a domestic quarrel. Police pieced together the narrative from several partial accounts. Nobody witnessed the whole thing, or the final, fatal attack. Perhaps their response wasn't a callous display of indifference to a fellow human being, but a tragic under-reaction.

The same may be true in the Briggs case. Some of those who gawked while his life slipped away told police they weren't sure it was real. In the 12 hours between his declaration that he intended to commit suicide and the moment police stormed the bedroom, many watchers no doubt logged off and went on with their lives, assuring themselves it was a fake since nobody else was taking action.

Sadly, Briggs was not the first to kill himself in front of an online audience. Last year, a divorced father of two in Britain twisted an electrical cord around his neck and hung himself from a ceiling joist as 60 people watched a video feed. In 2003, a 21-year-old Phoenix man took a fatal overdose of drugs after being goaded by others in an Internet chat room. Still, such incidents are rare. Internet suicide hoaxes, though, are appallingly common, a quick Web search confirms. In fact, some of the people who watched Briggs' suicide told police they didn't take him seriously because it wasn't the first time he'd threatened to kill himself on camera.

Now, of course, many are wishing they'd erred on the side of caution instead of hoping it was all a ruse. They might not have been able to save this troubled young man. But they wouldn't have to live the rest of their lives knowing they didn't try.

This editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Friday.



Don Wright is a political cartoonist for The Palm Beach Post.

## Boycotts not the answer for disappointed voters



VALERIE HANNON

Since Election Day, disappointed voters have made public expressions of their displeasure with both their feet and their wallets.

Disgruntled Obama opponents? No, gay rights activists angered over the narrow passage of California's Proposition 8, in which voters sought to overturn a state Supreme Court decision allowing marriage between two same-sex people.

Last weekend, gay rights activists met in cities around the country protesting the decision. I can understand this. If voters had just declared my parents' marriage was invalid, I would be a little ticked off too.

But some want to go further, and "punish" those who supported the measure.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, better known as the Mormon Church, has especially been singled out for complaints because of the mobilization of their members in California to contribute time and money to support the proposition.

According to a Nov. 7 Yahoo! News article, activists have been protesting the Mormon Church's support outside of Mormon temples, and calling for a boycott on tourism in Utah.

"They just took marriage away from 20,000 couples and made their children bastards," said John Aravosis, a gay rights activist and blogger from Washington, D.C., in the Yahoo! News story. "You don't do that and get away with it."

Some are even calling on Hollywood directors and actors to boycott next year's Sundance Film Festival, which is held in Park City, Utah.

I did a Google search on "boycott Mormons" and found sites calling for boycotts of Mormon-owned businesses, such as Marriott Hotels, and stripping the Mormon Church of their tax-exempt status, saying they gave up that right when they stuck their fingers into the political cookie dough.

Since the election, it seems that calling Barack Obama even a "socialist" is considered racist, but apparently, calling for the boycott of an organization just for participating in the democratic process is OK to some people.

I'm opposed to gay marriage for a number of religious and political reasons, personally, but I also think

**Targeting specific people and groups who contributed time and money with boycotts, on the other hand, seems childish and — dare I say it — just a bit hateful.**

the issue is wildly overemphasized by conservatives, who would do better taking care of other problems in our society, such as the poor and the environment.

Not to mention some of the most compassionate and fun-to-hang-around-with people I've ever known were gay and some of the most arrogant and cliquish people I've ever known were Christians.

Still, if the voters can claim that they've had their say in the presidential election and want it inarguable, the will of the voters on Proposition 8 should be seen just as valid. I actually think it's great that people are protesting Proposition 8, as long as it's peaceful. Peaceful protests are part of

our right under the Constitution.

Targeting specific people and groups who contributed time and money with boycotts, on the other hand, seems childish and — dare I say it — just a bit hateful.

In a Nov. 17 article on the Los Angeles Times Web site, Melissa Proctor of Harvard Divinity School said, "It's disconcerting to Latter-day Saints that Mormonism is still the religious tradition that everybody loves to hate."

This incident seems to be another in a long line of indications of just how much Mormons are still one of the most misjudged groups in society.

Two years ago, I was taking photos of a TCU-BYU game for the yearbook. I loved to get pictures at the games of the signs, but some of the anti-BYU signs were just so hateful.

I used to think the stereotypes about Mormons were true, too. Then, when I got into high school, I made friends with some Mormons.

Yes, they didn't drink alcohol or caffeine. And most of them are at BYU, if they're not about to leave on their yearlong mission. But otherwise, they were just the same as me, as much as anyone else is the same as me.

The Mormons I knew were some of the most devoted people to their faith I have ever known, and they were also some of the most compassionate.

Incidentally, I would not be very surprised if some of my young Mormon friends supported gay marriage.

I suppose that's the point I'm trying to make here; that the Mormons, just like any other group, aren't monolithic. We should be at a point as a nation this year of all years where we see each person for who they are as an individual and not lump them in with a group with our own predetermined notions.

Valerie Hannon is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Allen.

## Americans should depend less on government, more on themselves



MICHAEL LAUCK

Everywhere I go, I hear how everyone is so ecstatic that Barack Obama will make their lives better. Oprah even went as far as to call him "The One." How could she not with all the promises he made to the American

people?

According to Obama, he's going to make America energy independent, give everyone health care, cut taxes, bring peace, lower gas prices and, Lord knows how many other things. Let's think realistically for a second. Can we really expect all of this from one person?

Take the energy-independence promise for example. Every president since Richard Nixon has talked about "American's intolerable dependence on foreign oil," as Jimmy Carter put it. Yet has any president done this? The answer is an emphatic no. Candidates keep promising it though, and we are again and again

disappointed by our presidents because they can't do everything they promise.

In recent years, everyone puts problems they care about on the government to solve. From health care to children starving in poor countries, now it's all on the government to solve the world's problems.

This creates a scary and dangerous situation as people begin to become complacent, thinking that everything must be accomplished through the government. We have seen the nations that depend on government and they have not been good.

We as Americans must ask ourselves

one very important question. Who can really change the world? Let's look at the great inventors of America's past. Did Henry Ford need government approval to make the car more affordable for all Americans? Did Edison need money from the government to make the light bulb? Was Bill Gates financed by government to create Microsoft? The answer to all these questions is no.

We, the people, are America. Not the president and not the Congress. This nation was built on the idea that the government's sole purpose was to merely to protect our rights and freedoms, not to baby and take care of us.

Fellow Americans, I encourage you take your life back. Don't depend on government approval for everything. If you want to start an organization to end hunger, do it. If you want to own a business, open it.

Thinking you need government approval for everything is dangerous and insufferable as it will give the government all the power. Stop worrying about who's going to be president and worry about your own life. Start thinking of how you, not the government, will change the world.

Michael Lauck is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Houston.



# FEATURES



Ever wondered about the stories behind the names of the campus buildings? Meet some of the namesakes. Friday

## Fetching Success



Photo courtesy of BUZZ WATSON

Sophomore German major Katie-Rose Watson reads her book to the real-life Little Gabby. Her book "Little Gabby Meets Her New Family" became available on the Web last month.

## Student hopes creative writing assignment will become a classic

By Chelsea Smith  
Staff Reporter

Katie-Rose Watson didn't set out to write a children's book. She was planning on writing a poem about pain for her creative writing class.

"My first ever assignment was a chick-lit piece, and it got just torn apart in class," she said. "So I thought, 'OK, I'm going to write this really dark and edgy ode; it's going to be an ode to pain.'"

But when the sophomore German major sat down to work on her assignment, she realized she wasn't in the right frame of mind for that kind of writing, especially after Gabby, her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, came to cuddle with her.

"I had just had a hair appointment; my toenails were drying and my puppy jumped in my lap, and I was trying to write this ode to pain," Watson said. "I ended up writing this really whimsical, Dr. Seuss-y rhyme about her."

Apparently, Watson wasn't the only one to see the similarities. Her creative writing professor, Cynthia Shearer, said she thought Watson's poem could easily be turned into a book.

"I was afraid that the other people in the class were going to not take seriously her stuff, because it was funny, and because it was about a dog," Shearer said. "When I could see the commercial possibilities of this little throw-away poem, because that's what children's books are, I meant it as a compliment. It never occurred to me that she would actually pursue it."

Watson, however, wasted no time in getting down to business. By the end of the semester, she had written several more poems about her dog. This time, she tried to incorporate a storyline into her work.

"We both kind of decided that it would be better to do an actual story first," Watson said.

The result was "Little Gabby Meets Her New Family," which introduces readers to Little Gabby, a Cavalier puppy based on Watson's own dog, and her owner Mel, who is based on Watson as a 9-year-old. The book became available on Amazon, Tar-

get and Barnes and Noble Web sites in early November.

Shearer told Watson that she should look into self-publishing instead of submitting her book to a more established third party publisher, where it might take several years for someone to notice its potential, Watson said.

"Since it's a children's book, she thought it would be really easy to market," Watson said. "It's very easy to go around to Barnes & Noble and say, 'Hey, do you want to flip through this, and see if it's maybe something you want to have on your shelves?'"

In self-publishing, authors pay all of their book's production costs. In return, they retain ownership of their work and keep all of the profits.

After some research, Watson decided to publish her book through AuthorHouse, the self-publishing company that first published "Legally Blonde."

Watson's father paid for her story to be printed and professionally illustrated, she said. The two will split proceeds from the book until he has been completely reimbursed for the production costs. After that, Watson said, all of the money will go to her.

Watson said she hopes her book will sell enough copies to attract the attention of a large third-party publisher like Scholastic.

In the meantime, she's putting all her time and energy into marketing her new book. She started her own Web site - [www.littlegabbybooks.com](http://www.littlegabbybooks.com) - and the marketing consultant from AuthorHouse sent a news release to media outlets in 100 different cities, Watson said.

Watson said she thinks her sales will benefit from the enthusiasm of other Cavalier owners. She contacted several Cavalier fan clubs around the country and hopes

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to do a book signing at the Eukanuba National Championship dog show. Some of the people who buy her book don't even have children, she said.

"That's how Cavalier people are; they just want it for their coffee table," Watson said.

It's a market other children's authors haven't tapped into, she said.

Shearer said she has been impressed with Watson's business skills. They'll set Watson apart from some other writers, she said.

Shearer said she invited Watson to come in and read her book to some of her new creative writing students. After Watson left, one of the students asked Shearer if she believed that some people were "born writers."

"Yes, I believe some people are born writers," Shearer said. "But I've seen a lot of born writers never do anything with it. Somebody like Kate is going to succeed because she's persistent - because she doesn't give up. She'll be financing her literary career when other 'born writers' are going to be working at McDonald's."

For Watson, the book is just the beginning.

"My goal in life now, my total dream, is that no little girl wants to go to sleep without her Little Gabby stuffed animal," she said. "I really want this to be kind of the next 'Madeleine,' but bigger. I would really like to see the lunch boxes, some sheets - the whole empire."



Illustration courtesy of KATIE-ROSE WATSON

### MUSIC REVIEW

## Snow Patrol experiments with latest, but doesn't impress

By David Hall  
News Editor

With the release of Snow Patrol's fifth studio album, "A Hundred Million Suns," one can't help thinking the Northern Irish outfit has begun to melt.

The melancholy, brooding lyrics and electric guitar found in previous hit songs like "Chasing Cars" are missing. Instead, listeners are subjected to what amounts to

"Snow Patrol Unplugged."

The acoustic guitar, a rarity in Snow Patrol's previous works, appears in half of the tracks. The upbeat vocals that accompany the guitar seem out of place for the band, and it's not difficult to imagine lead singer and guitarist Gary Lightbody signing a \$50 million contract with the words "sellout" at the top when listening to uninspired songs such as "Take Back the City" and "Lifeboats."

Even Snow Patrol's forays into the more familiar territory feel off. "Engines" seems like a bad tribute to Queen given the liberal use of background vocals. "Please Just Take These Photos from My Hands" suffers from the unfortunate syndrome of Lightbody attempting to sing in a happy, feel-good tone.

Beneath Snow Patrol's failures, though, are two good songs reminiscent of the band's previous works. "If There's a Rocket

Tie Me to It" has an intoxicating guitar hook and Lightbody's signature rich, dark vocals that made their 2004 single "Run" such a success.

The second-to-last track on the CD, "Disaster Button," features upbeat electric guitar and angst-filled lyrics. Though not Snow Patrol's bread and butter, it is a bad, but rare example of when the band actually strays from its normal sound. Vaguely reminiscent of "Spitting Games,"

a song which grew very popular in the videogaming community for its appearance in MVP Baseball 2004, it's catchy enough to merit some serious radio time.

"A Hundred Million Suns" contains some good music, but overall, it seems more like a journey with Snow Patrol into the rough waters of musical experimentation. Let's hope the band returns to port with its next release.



# New tools allow surgeons to operate without making cut

By **Maura Lerner**  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Dr. Christopher Gostout remembers the first time he heard anyone suggest such a thing.

He was in a roomful of doctors at a seaside resort, brainstorming about the future.

Perform surgery without piercing the skin?

Take out someone's appendix through the mouth?

"We all fell off our seats, laughing," he recalled.

But today Gostout is one of a handful of doctors about to start testing a new way of operating that could make the surgical scar a thing of the past.

It's called natural orifice surgery. And yes, it means using the body's natural openings — wherever they may be — as a way to reach internal organs that need a doctor's care.

Early next year, Gostout, a gastroenterologist at the Mayo Clinic, plans to begin removing gallbladders with a specially designed device that goes in — and comes out — through the mouth or the vagina.

At the University of Minnesota, surgeons are getting ready to perform weight-loss surgery with another experimental device that slides down the mouth to the stomach.

**"It is truly relatively painless. You literally can get up off the surgery table and maybe take a Tylenol."**

**Christopher Gostout**  
surgeon

Only a few medical centers in the country have performed this type of surgery. But in theory, supporters say, it could lead to new ways to remove tumors, biopsy cancers and repair internal injuries. All the while leaving patients with less pain, shorter recovery times and no visible scars.

"It is truly relatively painless," Gostout said. "You literally can get up off the surgery table and maybe take a Tylenol."

At the same time, even supporters worry that doctors may be too eager to rush in with a lot of pricey new technology before they know whether it's really much better than what they use now.

To be sure, the whole idea of removing body parts through other body parts is a bit unsettling.

Earlier this year, when a California doctor removed a woman's gallbladder through her genitals, it made the syndicated column "News of the Weird." A female surgeon, in an interview with The New York Times, called the surgery "repulsive." Newsweek warned readers to "prepare to cringe" in a story headlined: "Open Wide. No, Wider."

But Dr. Sayeed Ikramuddin, a surgeon at the University of Minnesota, says it's a natural next step in the evolution of surgery. Once, 20 years ago, the only way to remove a gallbladder was with a large incision. Then along came "keyhole" or laparoscopic surgery that required

only a few tiny slits in the skin. So why not imagine a device that could operate through one small slit? Or none?

For years, Ikramuddin has performed weight-loss surgery the minimally invasive way, through five or six small incisions in the abdomen. But now he's taking part in a national study to test a device that goes in through the mouth.

The device, made by a California company called Satiety Inc., is a high-tech stapler that's thin enough to slide down the esophagus into the stomach. Once inside, it performs a ballet of maneuvers to tie off parts of the stomach so patients will feel full after a small meal. It's essentially stomach-stapling — from the inside.

Ikramuddin expects to perform the operation on his first patient in the next couple weeks, and on 20 to 30 more volunteers in the next year.

If it works as planned, there could be several advantages, he and his colleagues say. By avoiding any cuts in the skin, they'll reduce the risk of post-operative infections, hernias and other complications that could prolong a patient's stay in the hospital.

The field, though, remains in its infancy. Only a few hundred people worldwide have had incision-free surgery, said Gostout, of the Mayo Clinic. So far, the most popular procedure is removing the gallbladder — a 3- to 4-inch, pear-shaped organ tucked beneath the liver.

Gostout is one of a number of scientists, nicknamed the "Apollo Group," who pioneered the surgery and inspired a new company, called Apollo Endosurgery Inc., to develop the tools to do it. The Mayo Clinic is one of its investors.

One of those tools is designed to go through the mouth and poke a hole in the stomach wall. A small camera helps the doctor search the abdominal cavity by remote control, capture the gallbladder and place it in a bag so it can be safely removed.

At Mayo, "we're gearing up to actually start in January," Gostout said. "I've got patients calling me very regularly saying 'I need to get my gallbladder out. I want to be on the list.'"

For women, there's another option.

Carey Vitosh, a 39-year-old nurse from suburban Chicago, had her gallbladder removed genitally.

In July, she traveled to the University of California at San Diego, one of the few places currently offering the procedure.

"The ability to have surgery with less pain was very attractive," she said.

Dr. C. Daniel Smith isn't sure this is a great leap forward for American medicine. Why, he asks, spend money on costly new technology to replace procedures "that are currently done extremely well?"

Smith, the head of surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., notes that most gallbladder operations are now outpatient procedures, so any improvement would be marginal.

Nonetheless, Smith, who is president-elect of a national society of endoscopic surgeons, believes there's a future for natural orifice surgery.



Dr. Sayeed Ikramuddin holds a device that can be used to perform weight-loss surgery by going through the mouth and leaving no scars.

RICHARD SENNOTT / Minneapolis Star-Tribune via MCT

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## NEWS

# Kansas City airline sends illegal immigrants home

By Eric Palmer  
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The MD-80 that took off from Kansas City International Airport carried about 120 passengers. Some were headed for Mexico, others to Central and South America.

Once off the ground, food and beverages would be served.

The flight was one of up to 180 flights flown each month by Kansas City's only locally based airline. While most are to Central and South America, others are to such exotic locales as Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Palestinian territory.

**"We are all about cost-effectiveness and safety and getting these people back to their homeland as fast as we can."**

**Craig Charles**  
director of flight operations

Yet most Kansas Citians will never get a seat on one of the flights — nor would they want to.

The little-known Flight Operations Unit was established by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in 2006 to handle the repatriation of the surging number of illegal immigrants caught up in tougher enforcement.

In fiscal 2008, which ended Sept. 30, the airline delivered more than 76,000 OTMs (other than Mexicans) back to their homes, a 51 percent jump from two years before. It also delivered about 134,000 Mexicans, mostly to places like San Antonio or San Diego, before they were bused to the border.

This year's budget for all transportation and removal efforts is \$281.4 million.

It is not unlike running Delta Air

Lines, said Craig Charles, a 22-year veteran of the immigration service, who is now acting director of flight operations for what is known as ICE Air. It works to fill every seat on each plane to keep costs low, keep flights on time and treat its passengers well.

"We are all about cost-effectiveness and safety and getting these people back to their homeland as fast as we can," Charles said in an interview at the flight operations offices in the Briarcliff West development.

Most illegal immigrants have come in by land but all of them cannot be removed that way, said Pat Reilly, public affairs officer for ICE Air.

"Mexico is a sovereign nation and it doesn't take people who are not entitled to be there either, so if they are other than Mexican, they have to be flown over Mexico," Reilly said.

ICE Air is an outgrowth of the Justice Prisoners and Aliens Transportation System (JPATS), which moves federal prisoners as well as illegal immigrants. That system is headquartered in Kansas City, and Charles became the liaison from the immigration agency in 1996.

Initially, illegal aliens from countries other than Mexico were mostly moved on commercial aircraft.

With the formation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, ICE kept officers with JPATS to monitor movements of illegal immigrants. But by 2006, ICE was growing so fast that the JPATS system couldn't keep up.

So ICE Air was formed. ICE contracts with JPATS, which has four MD-80s, to handle domestic flights. It leases four 737s from private contractors to handle flights to Central and South America and the Caribbean. It also leases larger aircraft for less-frequent transcontinental flights to Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

All told, ICE Air flies to more than 190 countries.

Charles said his "customers" were the 24 ICE field offices that take custody of illegal immigrants and are

responsible for their welfare until they are removed.

Reilly said growth has been fed by beefed-up enforcement, particularly two programs:

One tries to identify every illegal immigrant booked into a county, state or federal jail. ICE arranges for their deportations while they serve jail time, and is waiting for them when they get out. They once were usually released when their time was served.

About a third of the "removals" last year came from this program.

The other enforcement effort involves 100 teams looking for the half-million illegal immigrants who have ignored legal orders to leave the country. The 38,000 arrests in fiscal 2008 that resulted from this initiative was twice the fiscal 2006 arrests.

Such efforts have forced the system to become more efficient. It has reduced the length of stay that illegal immigrants are in ICE custody from about 90 days to 30 days.

It was a cold and windy day on a recent Friday when a large tour bus, three vans and a Ford F-150 pulled into the driveway of Executive Beechcraft at KCI.

Of the 60 passengers, only Horacio Hermoncillo, 22, agreed to discuss his journey.

Hermoncillo came to the U.S. on a visa four years ago for the money, then never went home. He knew a bit about fixing cars and landed as a mechanic in Chicago for a "great" man who he said taught him a lot. It allowed him to send money to his family.

But on a recent vacation to St. Louis, he was stopped by police and his illegal status was revealed.

He said he hoped to open a mechanic's shop when he returned home. But he had mixed feelings about his return.

"I wish to stay here. The money is better, but I'm going to my country," Hermoncillo said.

Once the MD-80 landed, the buses and vans pulled into a semi-circle next to the plane, creating a staging area.



DAVID EULITT / Kansas City Star via MCT  
Sets of handcuffs sit on the tarmac outside a flight at Kansas City International Airport, run by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Department, on Nov. 21.

Canvas, plastic and paper bags containing underwear and belts, cell phones and other belongings were laid on the tarmac as a phalanx of men in blue U.S. marshal uniforms and sunglasses disembarked. They were unarmed. Weapons are not allowed on the tarmac, or in the cabin of the plane.

Then in twos and threes, the il-

legal immigrants were taken off the bus and out of the vans. Each was patted down, and cuffs and shackles were checked to make sure they were not biting into skin before boarding.

The domestic flights, manned by the U.S. Marshal Service, require that the passengers be handcuffed and shackled onboard.

On the international flights, which are handled by ICE employees, all nonviolent, noncriminal passengers have the chains removed.

Reilly noted that when most illegal immigrants get into the ICE system, they have served their time.

"They have paid their debt to society and now they are being removed on immigration issues," she said.

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# In space, a lot of health dangers

By Faye Flam  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Space shuttle commander Christopher Ferguson and his crew took a small but crucial step for space travel in the past two weeks, enlarging the International Space Station so it can house six astronauts instead of three.

But a bigger leap is needed for humans to survive weightlessness, exotic forms of space radiation, and the loss of the earthly rhythms of light and darkness, scientists say.

In orbit about 200 miles from the ground, the space station pushes mankind just a baby step into the cosmos. Even going that far can put astronauts at an elevated risk of cataracts, bone loss and possibly heart problems.

A Mars mission would take at least six months each way, during which the crew would face unknown dangers — cancer, depression, dementia, cardiovascular disease, accidents associated with sleep deprivation and possibly premature aging.

The crew of the space shuttle Endeavour just completed its challenging 16-day mission, delivering what Ferguson called “the most jam-packed logistics module we have ever carried up there.”

They added two bedrooms, a new refrigerator, a toilet, a water-recycling system and an exercise apparatus. Once the station starts housing more astronauts, as soon as mid-2009, NASA will finally have the manpower to begin doing controlled medical experiments.

In the meantime, the Bush administration's 2004 directive for manned moon and Mars missions has channeled money to ground-based scientists to better understand the risks of space travel.

“The uncertainty is the real problem,” said Frank Cucinotta, chief scientist for NASA's Space Radiation Program.

Astronauts may be willing to face, say, a 3 percent risk of fatal cancer, but would they accept a 50 percent risk?

It first became clear that NASA had a problem back in the 1970s, when astronauts started spending weeks at a time aboard the space station known as Skylab. Upon return, many suffered atrophied muscles, thinned bones and weakened hearts.

Less well-understood is the danger of space radiation. The space shuttle and International Space Station are still somewhat protected by Earth's magnetic field. Farther out, astronauts are bombarded with particles from the sun and deep space.

Scientists believe this radiation explains why astronauts suffer a disproportionate number of cataracts — more than they would have expected from the radiation doses these astronauts were exposed to.

Jonathan Clark, a former flight surgeon for NASA, said that three astronauts in the U.S. program needed lens implants.

The radiation that comes from the sun can lash out dramatically during solar flares, making the



Space Shuttle Endeavour STS-126 lifts off from launch pad 39A on its flight to deliver equipment to the International Space Station that will enable larger crews to reside aboard the complex on Nov. 14 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

risks to astronauts difficult to predict. To better understand the problem, NASA awarded a \$10 million grant to the University of Pennsylvania in October.

Radiation biology professor Ann Kennedy said she and her team would expose cells and mice to radiation from several facilities, including a proton source at Penn.

Astronauts going beyond the Earth's magnetic field are also steadily pelted with more exotic radiation from deep space — nuclei of iron and other heavy elements that pass through walls and space suits and tear up DNA.

“These (particles) are the bigger problem because they're the most different from anything we experience on Earth,” said NASA's Cucinotta. The solar flares can be compared to atomic-bomb exposures, but the deep-space radiation has no such precedent.

So Cucinotta and other scientists are taking advantage of a particle accelerator at Long Island's Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Using heavy nuclei created there, Cucinotta has discovered that this type of radiation can damage microscopic structures called telomeres. These cap the ends of the chromosomes, keeping them from fraying, similar to the end pieces on shoelaces.

Telomeres appear to shorten as animals grow older, and the speed of that shortening has been linked to maladies of aging. So it's possible that long stays on the moon or Mars will make astronauts get old before their time.

Cucinotta said some researchers were investigating drugs that would stave off this process by

encouraging radiation-damaged cells to die off rather than propagate.

NASA doctors and biologists say the biggest hazard, next to radiation, is sleep deprivation. Some astronauts sleep well in space, but many get significantly less than their normal amount, said George Brainard, a professor in Thomas Jefferson University's neurology department.

In space, astronauts can suffer an extreme version of jet lag. Those on the International Space Station see a new day every 90 minutes. On the moon, they'd see 14 days of light followed by 14 days of darkness.

“That would provide a profound change in the normal stimulation of the circadian system,” Brainard said. Chronic sleep deprivation can hurt an astronaut's hand-eye coordination, cognitive abilities and judgment.

And a little-known fact: Nearly half of all the medications astronauts take to space are sleep aids, said Brainard, and they carry a litany of possible side effects.

While not all astronauts have sleep problems, they all lose bone and muscle given enough time in weightlessness. That could put astronauts arriving on Mars at risk of breaking bones or suffering other serious injuries.

Muscles atrophy and bones thin in space because they need a certain amount of stress to regenerate. Exercise seems to help mitigate the damage some.

In one study just getting underway, volunteers will lie in bed for 90 days at a time to simulate the wasting effects of a long flight, some of them using exercise to try to regain their losses.

Experience on the Russian

and International space stations has shown that without any artificial gravity, astronauts need to exercise several hours a day to keep from deteriorating. Experts say that when cosmonaut and physician Valeriy Polyakov made his record-breaking 437 day stay on MIR, he devised his own grueling regimen.

Flight surgeon and researcher Yvonne Cagle of the Johnson Space Flight Center said that the Russians use an even more rigorous exercise program than the Americans, and that astronaut Shannon Lucid adopted the Russian regimen when, at 53, she lived on MIR for 183 days. After her mission, she managed to regain all the bone she had lost, said Cagle.

The mythology says astronauts have the right stuff, Brainard said, but that can go only so far in the hostile reaches of space.

“They're heroes,” he said, “but they're still human with the same physiological frailties as the rest of us.”



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# Local businesses say economy not problem

By Yusi Cheng  
Staff Reporter

Students are keeping the local business around the university running regularly regardless of the economic downturn.

Llisa Lewis, manager of the TCU Barnes & Noble bookstore, said the bookstore is not affected by the university budget cuts, and the university-owned, Barnes-& Noble-run bookstore is still doing well since it opened in January.

“We are following a normal game plan,” Lewis said. “Everything is normally planned out in our marketing calendar.”

She said the bookstore has not had a drop in sales and the customer base of the bookstore is fairly stable.

“We always have what the students need,” Lewis said.

She said because of the successful football season and the beginning of the basketball season, the bookstore is actually looking to increase sales to TCU sports fans in the community.

Lewis said the bookstore has a good relationship with the professors at the university, and 70 percent of the professors have already placed book orders for next semester.

The bookstore is putting more money in students' hands, Lewis said, because when students sell their books back to the bookstore which professors will need for next semester, the bookstore will buy those books for half the original price and that is higher than the wholesale price.

“We have a proactive and optimistic view of the future,” Lewis said.

She declined to comment on the percentage change of the revenue of the bookstore.

Local restaurants around campus don't see the future as negative either.

Heather Martinez, manager of Potbelly Sandwich Works on Uni-

versity Drive, said the restaurant is doing well, especially because of the partnership Frog Bucks with the university.

Frog Bucks are dollars loaded onto student ID's. Besides unlimited access to the Market Square, if students have purchased a meal plan, students can spend Frog Bucks on any campus dining location, and at participating off-campus dining locations.

Martinez said the whole Potbelly Company is doing well because of the inexpensive quality food and fast service.

“We also have a good location,” Martinez said. “And we are definitely student-driven.”

Martinez said the restaurant is going to serve breakfast in January 2009, and will open at 7 a.m.

Shawn Placencia, manager of Fuzzy's Taco Shop on Berry Street, said the business of the restaurant is still doing well and the restaurant still has regular numbers of costumers coming, especially students from the university.

“We are watching the food prices,” Placencia said. “But we didn't cut any budget of the restaurant.”

Nathan Mann, a freshman political science major, said he sometimes eats off campus at the restaurants around campus but not often, and added that the economy isn't affecting his way of life much.

“Now the gas is cheaper so I have some extra money to spend on something else,” Mann said.

Alexis Fernandez, a junior strategic communication major, said she has started eating less often in restaurants, especially the ones around campus. Instead, she started bringing lunch to school more often.

“Now the economy is bad so I need to save some more money,” Fernandez said. “I also have to pay my rent and gas, so going grocery shopping and cooking at home is a lot cheaper than eating out.”

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## SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

continued from page 10

five minutes left on the first period gave TCU its biggest lead of the first half at 32-11. The Horned Frogs headed into halftime with a 34-16 lead.

The second half was more of the same story as TCU continued to assert its dominance over St. Gregory's. Unlike their two previous contests against McNeese State and SMU, the Horned Frogs would not let the Cavaliers work their way back into the game.

The Horned Frogs used a 13-0 outburst - punctuated by junior forward Zvonko Buljan's first 3-pointer of the season - early in the second half to stretch their lead to over 30 points.

Buljan had his best game of the season, scoring a team-high 16 points on 7-for-8 shooting and grabbing five rebounds.

Head coach Jim Christian said he has noticed Buljan making plays that don't always show up on the stat sheet.

"At the beginning of the year he wasn't making any hustle plays," Christian said. "Now he's taking charges, diving on the floor. When you start thinking about those things, then offense comes your way."

Freshman guard Ronnie Moss followed up a fantastic performance against SMU with a similar effort Saturday night. Moss scored 10 points and tallied four assists for his second consecutive

double-digit scoring game.

"I think he's come a long way," Christian said about Moss. "It was a lot of meetings and a lot of talks with Ronnie, but I think he's starting to figure out that there's some things he needs to work on and he's trying to work and get better at those things."

Every player on TCU's roster scored during the game. A.J. Siebert's lay-up with 28 seconds left gave him his first points of the season and the final points of the

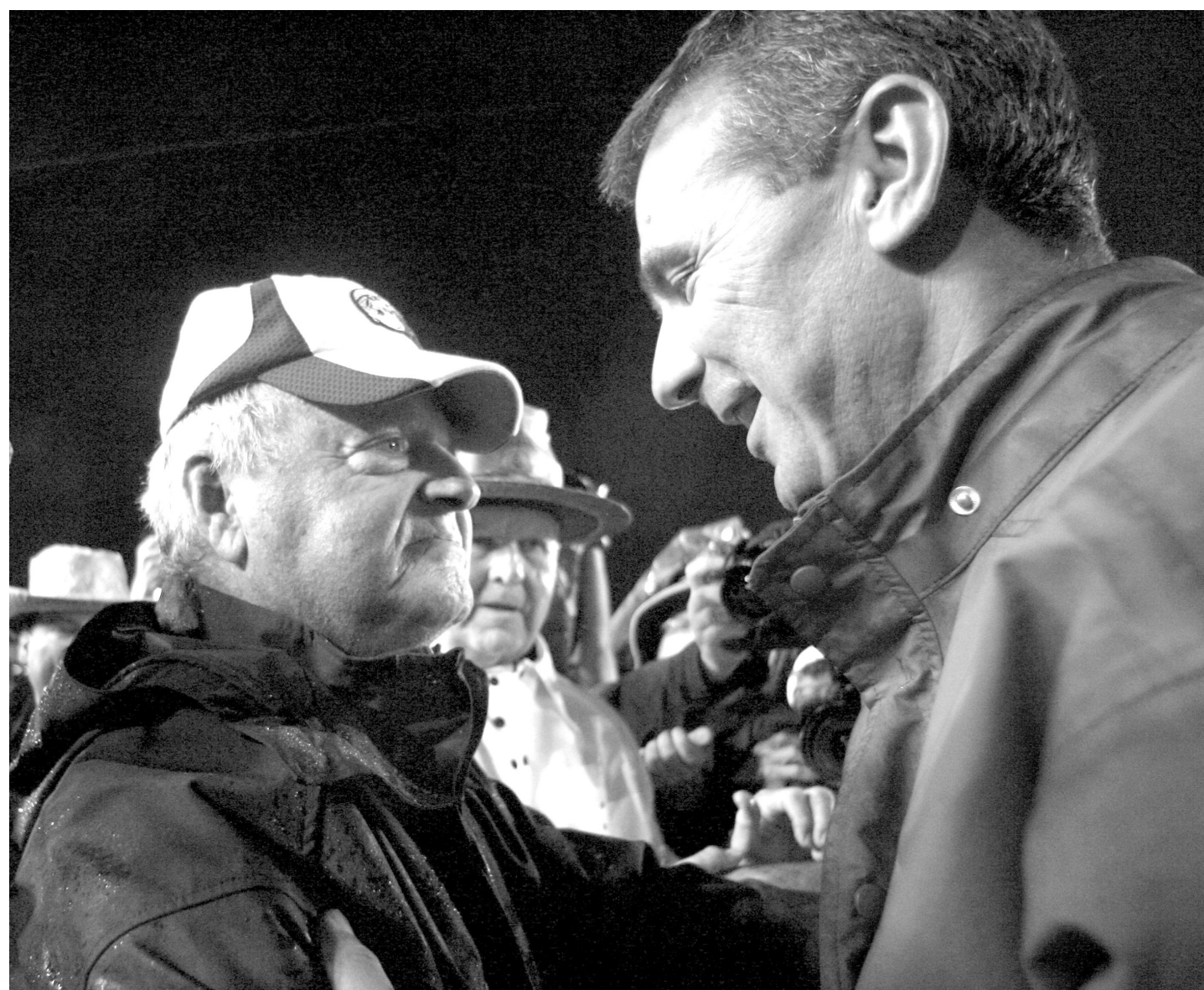
**"Now he's taking charges, diving on the floor. When you start thinking about those things, then offense comes your way."**

**Jim Christian**  
head coach

game for the Horned Frogs.

Although the Horned Frogs clearly had a talent advantage over the Cavaliers, Christian said that his team can still learn a lot from games like this.

"It doesn't make a difference who's wearing the jerseys," Christian said. "The talent level obviously changes, but your discipline and the way you attack it is the same way."



Florida head coach Urban Meyer and Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden meet at midfield after the Gator's 45-12 victory over the Seminoles on Saturday at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Fla.

## Meyer's tenure could model Bowden's

By **Jeremy Fowler**  
The Orlando Sentinel

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — If Urban Meyer decided to follow Bobby Bowden's unwavering path of coaching, it'd be 2043 in no time.

Meyer would have just turned 79 — Bowden's age now — with cane in hand, an orange-and-blue straw hat covering the gray, Oakleys over his eyes, headset nowhere to be found.

He would be strolling the sideline of The Swamp for the 39th consecutive year, right after that third hip replacement.

That dream is all yours, Urban, for just 10 wins every season for the next 35 years.

To some experts and coaches, asking if Meyer's career will mirror Bowden's in the next three decades is unreasonable because of expectations that might have even derailed a young Bowden's plans for greatness if such were the standard in the '70s.

"When you're talking about a 50-year career, if you're not winning 10 games a year, I don't know if our society will tolerate it," said Florida State offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher, who is slated to replace Bowden.

In an era of insatiable fan bases and overzealous boosters, five

years at one spot can be considered a lengthy tenure for college football coaches.

The list of coaches branded with the "untouchable" label can fit on a small corner of scrap paper—Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, USC's Pete Carroll, maybe Meyer or Texas' Mack Brown or Ohio State's Jim Tressel.

Fans need one reason to justify their impatience: Money. Coaches bathe in it.

Bowden has amassed 381 career victories, 14 straight 10-win seasons from 1987-2000 and two national titles. But he also had four straight seasons of four or more losses at West Virginia from 1971-74, which might now be deemed unforgivable.

Bear Bryant won six national titles at Alabama, but he also slugged through a 1-9 season at Texas A&M in 1954. Those Linotype bloggers would have been calling for his job.

Meyer, 44, has no desire to discuss the big picture of his coaching career. When asked about how he wants to view his career when he reaches Bowden's age, Meyer threw up a 3-4 defensive scheme aimed at stopping reporters.

"I think anytime you go on the road, you have to play good defense and you have to play with toughness," Meyer said to the question.

When asked whether he plans to coach as long as Bowden, Meyer segued into defensive cadences.

Someone who has gotten to know Meyer well over the last year, defensive line coach Dan McCarney, said you won't find Meyer on anybody's sideline at age 79.

McCarney also predicts college football won't see another batch of long-term coaches such as Bowden and Penn State's Joe Paterno.

"Just listening to Urban and the year that I've spent with him, I think he'll go to the beach long before that," McCarney said. "Not that he won't be successful that long. He could be and he would be. I just think there aren't many people in this generation or the next that have done what Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden have done."

ESPN analyst and former Gators quarterback Jesse Palmer isn't afraid to make the comparison.

"If he keeps doing what he is now, there's no doubt about it (he can be as good)," Palmer said. "What's really impressed me is his record against rivalry teams (10-1 against FSU, Georgia and Tennessee). If he keeps that up, there's no reason to believe he can't have the same success."

In the next 35 years, the coaching world could make Meyer a well-traveled man or a full-time

Gainesville resident for years to come. The Gators look poised to challenge for a second national title in four years, which might make Athletic Director Jeremy Foley ready to bear-hug Meyer with another extension.

Other challenges might arise. Maybe he wants to ruin his career by moving to Oakland and leading the Raiders to 4-12 seasons. He's called Notre Dame his "dream job" in the past.

The way former Miami coach Larry Coker sees it, Meyer could eventually get tired. Or is it the other way around?

"Trying to stay as successful as Bobby is, I would question Urban's sanity," said Coker, who led the Hurricanes to a national title in 2001, a national runner-up in 2002 and was fired in 2006. "It's easy to get burned out. Meyer's won a national title, but after that loss to Ole Miss, it probably wasn't very nice around Gainesville. You can't win enough games. You win the big game, you have to win the next one."

"Part of it also is people get tired of you after a while. People want a change. Sometimes they really don't know what they want. One minute they want the I-formation, later they want the spread option. It's always a different perspective."

## FOOTBALL

continued from page 10

ago so that makes us closer to even. But it may have also knocked some sense into me about college football.

Later that night, I was thinking about the BCS and how the University of Texas is going to be left out of the Big 12 Championship Game and I devised a new way to make this college football BCS rankings versus playoff debate a little easier.

There are 120 teams in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, divided up into 11 conferences, with an extra four teams recognized as inde-

**"So is this what the future of college football will look like? Probably not, but it's just something else to think about."**

pendents.

Why don't we just have 10 conferences with 12 teams each?

I know there is a lot of money that goes into the current conferences, but that same money can easily go to these new conferences.

With 12 teams in a conference, every division gets a championship game and with those championship games comes an easy playoff format with the 10 conference champions.

Take the 10 champions and rank them by win-loss record. Any ties will be resolved by in-conference records and then head-to-head match ups, if there is one, then record against similar opponents.

If there are still ties, use points allowed in conference play and if there

is somehow still a tie, use points allowed overall. After that, it will come down to a coin flip.

The top six teams will get byes into the second round of the playoffs, while teams seven through 10 play two play-in games: No. 7 vs. No. 10 and No. 8 vs. No. 9. After those two games, we will have the top eight teams, and that will lead to a perfect eight-team playoff.

These playoff games can be played at the current BCS bowls for the most part.

For example, the two play-in games can be played in the Cotton Bowl, the only non-BCS bowl on the list.

The Sugar and Fiesta Bowls can be used for the quarterfinals. The Rose Bowl can be used for the semifinals and the Orange Bowl can be used for the national title game.

Of course these can be rotated every year and there can still be the million other bowl games.

My friend Ryan and I took the time to map out the 10 new conferences, thus showing how boring Waxahachie is and proving that something can be done to change the system.

All the conferences were based solely on region and what makes traveling the easiest, or at least made the most sense, for all 12 teams.

We put TCU in the western division of what we called the "Tex-Mex" conference, featuring all 10 Football Bowl Subdivision teams from Texas and the two from New Mexico. The west has TCU, Texas Tech, Baylor, UTEP, New Mexico and New Mexico State. The east has Texas, Houston, Rice, UNT, SMU and Texas A&M.

So is this what the future of college football will look like? Probably not, but it's just something else to think about.

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

## SPONSOR

continued from page 10

done on a yearly basis that starts in September with football and ends in the summer with baseball. Partners usually buy a two- to three-year contract so they can keep pushing their product to fans, and so they can be locked

at a certain rate.

"Say you have a one-year deal and you really liked it, well what if TCU makes the Sugar Bowl?" Klancnik said. "You don't have a locked-in year so that price is going up; we're more valuable."

He said ISP has only dropped a national student loan company after the company was questioned by the government. Klancnik didn't want to release the dropped company's name. Partnerships are usually terminated if the partner doesn't want to renew its contract.

Klancnik said Acme Brick Co. is one of TCU's most devoted

partners.

Klancnik said because it has so many sponsors, ISP Sports may have "category specific" partners. ISP has only one airline, American Airlines, and one phone provider, Verizon Wireless, that inhibit ISP from talking to other airlines or phone providers.

However, ISP can negotiate deals with two of the same "category specific" companies for different sports. For example, Pepsi is the official soft drink of the football team, while Coca-Cola is the official soft drink of the baseball team.

ISP Sports can partner with as

many banks, restaurants and health care providers it wants.

"The challenge there is to make sure what we do for one company is really good and helpful and then for the other company is really good and helpful, but we don't cross the streams," Klancnik said. "We look at every company individually."

Klancnik said TCU athletics isn't the only thing drawing interest from businesses.

"I am competing with the Cowboys, the Rangers, the Cats, the bowl game, the Bass Performance Hall," Klancnik said. "It's not just sports; we compete with events too."

As far as new sponsors next year, Klancnik said he doesn't know what to expect for the 2009-10 athletic year, especially because the economy may not be doing well.



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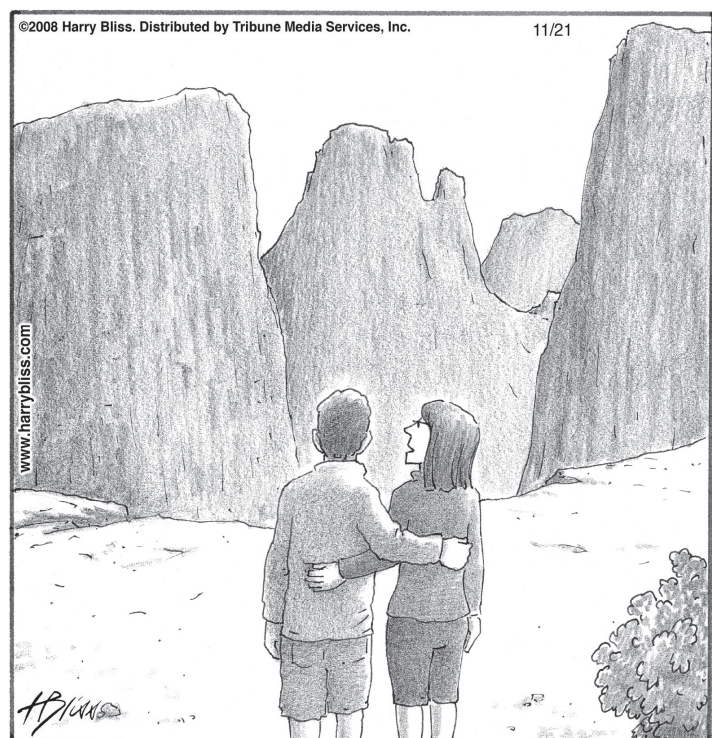


**Today in History**  
 On this day in 2001, the Enron Corporation files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a New York court, sparking one of the largest corporate scandals in U.S. history.  
 — History Channel

**Joke of the Day**  
 Q. Why was the fly dancing on the jam jar?  
 A. Because on the lid it said, "Twist to open."

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



"Sometimes I like to come here by myself and contemplate ... or just scream about you."

MoreOn TV

by Jay Schiller and Greg Cravens



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

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

See Wednesday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Tuesday's Solutions

5	9	3	8	7	6	1	2	4
1	6	4	2	3	5	9	7	8
8	2	7	1	4	9	5	6	3
4	1	9	7	2	8	6	3	5
2	7	5	6	9	3	8	4	1
3	8	6	4	5	1	2	9	7
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7	4	8	9	1	2	3	5	6
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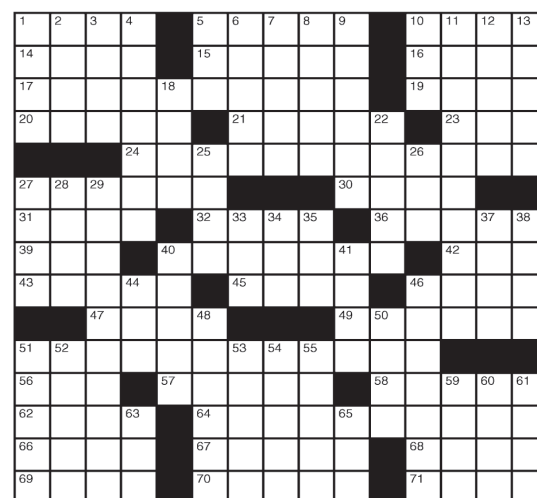
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  - Dynamic opening?
  - Red Sea gulf
  - Radar spot
  - Evidence weigher
  - Greek letter
  - Conductor Georg
  - American chameleon
  - Leaky PA reactor
  - Manhattan neighborhood
  - #1 hit by the Fleetwoods
  - Skruff
  - Ethereal
  - Final crack
  - Italian epic poet
  - Actress Lupino
  - Copper or Snake River
  - "Annabel Lee" poet
  - Singer Washington
  - Corsica's neighbor
  - Generic poodle name
  - Cologne trio
  - One equinox
  - Part of Cambridge University
  - Cell letters
  - Edison's rival
  - Tropic locales
  - PIN takers
  - Family pariah
  - Two, to a Teuton
  - Mann of music
  - Stead
  - MLB manager Ned
  - Knot on a tree
  - Belgian river



By Barry Silk McLean, VA

12/2/08

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

MIKE	CLASS	GABS																	
ARID	HARPO	UVEA																	
TONGUE	TIED	MOLL																	
ANDES	TADA	MILL																	
	HOES	PAYDAY																	
AMATEUR	COMB																		
RESORT	HAPPENED																		
TOTO	HIP	AIDA																	
SWATCHES	WARNER																		
	HOUR	CONSENT																	
SHIFTS	CANT																		
TINA	THOR	OUTRE																	
ANTI	LIPS	YNCHED																	
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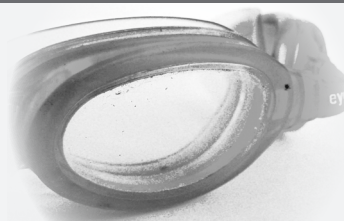
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## SPORTS



Find out more about the swimming and diving teams heading into a national tournament. Tomorrow in Sports

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## THREE IN A ROW



Freshman guard Kavon Rose attempts to drive in the paint during the Horned Frogs' 62-44 victory against SMU on Nov. 26.

LINH DANG / Staff Photographer

## Team above .500 for second time this season

By Brian Smith  
Staff Reporter

The Horned Frogs have now won three straight games and for the first time since the opening game of the season the team has a winning record at 4-3.

The Horned Frogs' stifling defense clamped down on the St.

Gregory's University Cavaliers (0-7) from the opening tipoff until the final buzzer in their 80-38 victory Saturday night.

SGU went scoreless for the first five minutes of the contest, and did not make a field goal until the 12:03 mark of the first half. The Cavaliers shot 35 percent from the field for the game and committed

25 turnovers.

TCU took full advantage of SGU's offensive ineptitude. The Horned Frogs opened the game with a 13-0 run and made nine of their first 11 field goals.

Senior forward Kevin Langford's layup with just less than

SEE BASKETBALL · PAGE 8

## Men's Basketball Game

**What:** TCU vs. Texas A&M-CC  
**Where:** Daniel-Meyer Coliseum  
**When:** 2 p.m. Saturday

## BILLY KNOWS BEST

## Division changes can fix FBS mess



BILLY WESSELS

Just like most Americans, my Thanksgiving break from school and work was full of the three F's: family, food and football.

After spending quality time with my family over some amazing food, I watched some terrible football.

Seriously, why are the Detroit

Lions in the NFL?

In light of the bad football on TV, I decided to get together with some of my buddies from high school to play our own football.

After I made a first-down catch, my friend Garrett punched me square in the mouth while forcing me out of bounds.

With a busted lip, and being a little woozy, I stood there for a second, collected my thoughts and got back into the game.

I wasn't mad at him; in fact I am glad he did it. I accidentally broke his thumb in a game a couple years

SEE FOOTBALL · PAGE 8

## QUICK SPORTS

## Bowl destination still up in the air

The Frogs' regular season is done, but they continue to climb the polls despite the lack of games.

TCU moved from No. 14 in the BCS to No. 11 after this weekend's off-week and the rumor mill about which bowl game the Frogs will be playing in is churning.

According to an e-mail sent by associate director of bands Brian Youngblood to all members of the marching band at 11:58 a.m. Monday, the Frogs were heading to San Diego to play in the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

"We have been told to prepare a travel plan and budget for the Poinsettia San Diego Bowl on the 23rd @ 7:00p.m.," Youngblood said in the e-mail. "We will depart via chartered jet on morning of 21st & return on the morn of the 24th."

But in a phone interview Monday afternoon, Youngblood said the band will be preparing for the bowls in both San Diego and Las Vegas.

"There is not any definite (information)," Youngblood said. "What we are more sure for San Diego than we are for Las Vegas. Tonight at our meeting we are going to put together budgets and itineraries for both games."

Director of athletic media relations Mark Cohen said TCU has not yet accepted a bid to a bowl game.

"Nothing has been determined yet," Cohen said. "San Diego is just one of the possibilities."

The San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl will be Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. and the Pioneer Las Vegas bowl will be Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

Sports editor Billy Wessels

**BASKETBALL SEASON IS HERE**

## ISP brings sponsors to TCU

By Phil Mann  
Staff Reporter

TCU athletics is funded by more than 120 sponsors, including American Airlines, GEICO, Gatorade and State Farm Insurance, according to the 2007-08 Athletics Annual Report. But how does a company get to associate itself with TCU athletics?

Look no further than the North Carolina-based ISP Sports Network.

According to the athletics Web site, ISP Sports receives the rights to all sales and marketing opportunities associated with Horned Frog athletics, including the TCU radio network for all sports, print advertising in various athletic department publications, promotions and all signage in TCU athletics facilities.

According to the Annual Report, in the 2007-08 academic year ISP brought in \$1.7 million to support athletics and is currently in the third of a seven-year deal with TCU that started in July 2006 when it took over rights from ERT: ESPN Regional Television.

The person who oversees day-to-day procedures is Rudy Klancnik, assistant vice president and general manager of the TCU ISP Sports Network.

"Anyone that wants to reach TCU's fan is a potential partner," Klancnik said, adding that San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson, a former TCU athlete, has been a great ambassador for the university.

Klancnik said ISP looks for companies that reach out to a TCU demographic, meaning college students and alumni in the

area.

"A lot of these folks are decision makers in the Fort Worth area," Klancnik said. "When you reach them through a sign or a radio spot or a promotion, you're often reaching somebody that has influence within business."

Klancnik said home football games are great because Frog Alley allows good customer relations.

"We do a lot of creative stuff to get businesses face-to-face with their potential customers," Klancnik said.

Because it is not a campus organization, ISP Sports is not guided by the Mountain West Conference and does not follow conference regulations; however, the university administration approves all partners, Klancnik said.

Kim Slawson, owner of the Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers in Bluebonnet Circle, said she has valued the partnership with ISP.

"From a TCU football perspective, when we have football games, we will expect our sales to increase 10 to 20 percent," Slawson said.

Slawson said TCU football fans who look to eat before and after games help business tremendously.

"Especially when we have 5:30 p.m. games," Slawson said. "We have a huge lunch business; people go out to dinner before the game, and then we also get hit after the game as well."

Slawson said Mellow Mushroom is involved in basketball, but their big business comes primarily during the football season.

"We have a really good relationship with everybody at TCU," Slawson said.

Mellow Mushroom has been with ISP for three years, and Slawson said she plans to re-

SEE SPONSOR · PAGE 8

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