



## THE FINAL ROUND 3

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TCU Alumnus makes it to the final three contestants on 'The Apprentice.'

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BOX OFFICE 3 Tickets for the bowl game go on sale Monday.



**GREEK LIFE** 6 Students divided on merit of new website.



# Senior named Global Student Entrepreneur contest winner



Brent Skoda, a senior general studies major, qualified for the Global Student Entrepreneur contest after winning the Southwest Regional Champion title last fall.

By Jennifer Iller

Staff Reporter

The university has added another student to its list of internationally recognized student entrepreneurs.

Brent Skoda, a senior general studies major, won \$150,000 in cash and in-kind business services when he was named the Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year award at the global finals held November 17-19 in Kansas City, Mo.

The competition was com-

posed of 30 student entrepreneurs from across the globe. It was judged by panels of more than 40 national media, top business leaders and Entrepreneurial Organization member CEOs from companies such as Century21 Real Estate and Molina Fine Jewelers, program manager of the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, Greg Hill wrote in an e-mail.

Skoda qualified for the competition when he won the Southwest Regional Champion title last fall. Participants in the finals were also able to attend workshops on presentation training, public relations and marketing. Students had the opportunity to network with peers, business leaders and Kauffman Foundation leaders. The Global Student Entrepreneur Awards were given by the Entrepreneurs Organization and hosted by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Skoda's business, Collegefitness.com, is expected to generate revenue in the midseven figures this year, he wrote. Profit from the business comes from licensing nutritional data and video workout training programs to universities and publishers, he wrote.

According to an article in infozine.com, the business is worth about \$2.4 million and has partnerships with Google and the University of Oklahoma.

College Fitness is Skoda's fourth business. Previous ventures included Skoda International, Santas411.com and GlobalEZBuy.com.

These businesses provided learning experiences and helped Skoda build up to his current endeavor, College Fitness.

Skoda now plans to pursue the First Lady's Office to make his restaurant menu data readily available to all Americans.

By winning the award, Skoda joined university alumnus Adam Blake, who won the competition in 2005. Blake was also there to see Skoda win the award, serving as one of the 33 judges in the final round of competition, Hill wrote.

Brad Hancock, director of the Neeley Entrepreneur Center, said he saw parallels in the two winners in their commitment to their business concepts and overall perseverance.

"The two guys are completely different about their business concept, but they're so passionate about what it is," he said.

"Brent is a great presenter, he's got lots of charisma and he's a great salesperson."

### David Minor

Founder Emeritus of the Neeley Entrepreneurship Center

He added that it was amazing that TCU had two of the winners in the last six years. "It's almost like how we're not a BCS conference but we keep knocking down the door and we're doing that with our entrepreneurship program as well," he said.

David Minor, Founder Emeritus of the Neeley Entrepreneurship Center, worked with Skoda in an independent study. He attributed Skoda's success in the competition and as an entrepreneur to his presentation skills and charisma.

"Brent is a great presenter, he's got lots of charisma and he's a great salesperson," he said. Minor added that Skoda

also sold the judges on another key factor in the competition: the sustainability of the business, which is often difficult for college startups.

Skoda will also receive access to the Global Entrepreneurs' Organization Network. The network is comprised of 7,500 business owners from 38 countries.

Skoda wrote that access to the global Entrepreneur's Organization network was invaluable.

"Just days after the awards, I was invited by the U.S. State Department along with EO to be a keynote speaker in front of 250 influential politicians and entrepreneurs from across the Middle East. I was asked to speak about what can be done to help drive youth entrepreneurship domestically and abroad," he wrote in an e-mail.

After his appearance in the Middle East, Skoda will travel to Algeria and then return to the university to finish exams, he wrote.

Skoda was in the Middle East as a keynote speaker at a conference at the time of publication, but wrote that he couldn't have been more grateful for the opportunity to participate in the competition.

# FEDERAL RESERVE Emergency funds report released

#### By Jeannine Aversa Associated Press

The Federal Reserve revealed details Wednesday of more than \$3 trillion in emergency aid it provided during the financial crisis.

It also named the companies that used its emergency loan programs and revealed how much they borrowed. Newly released documents show the companies included Goldman Sachs & Co., Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co. They also show that foreign banks such as Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland and Deutche Bank were among the borrowers.

The documents are a reminder of how crippled the financial system had become during the crisis and how much it's recovered since. Banks earned \$14 billion from July through September this year.

The figures provide details on more than \$2 trillion the Fed lent through emergency programs from December 2007 to July this year to ease a credit crisis. The lending programs had never been used before and are now defunct. Most of the loans have been repaid, and none are overdue, Fed officials say.

The Fed also detailed the \$1.25 trillion in mortgage securities it bought to revive the economy during the recession. The Fed bought the securities from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Those purchases helped drive down mortgage rates and provided some support to the crippled housing market.

In addition, the Fed disclosed details on "swap" arrangements with foreign central banks. These swaps occurred when the Fed traded much-in-demand dollars for foreign currencies to try to ease credit. The foreign central banks, in turn, lent the dollars to banks in their countries.

The Fed is releasing the data in the form of more than 21,000 transactions. The disclosures are required under the financial overhaul law.

The Fed's programs were credited with helping restore the health of individual banks and stabilize the financial system. At the height of the crisis in the fall of 2008, credit had virtually dried up, worsening the deepest recession since the Great Depression.

One of the programs the Fed created provided low-cost, short-term loans to banks.

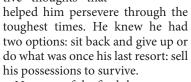


# GRADUATES Alumnus reaches finals of 'The Apprentice'

## **By Christa Acuna**

Staff Reporter

As the economy crumbled and he struggled to get by, Robertson Clint wasn't sure whether it was sheer luck or his posi-Robertson tive thoughts that



Now one of the final three contestants on the TV show "The Apprentice," things are finally looking up.

Robertson, a CPA and 1992 TCU graduate, owned and operated two construction companies but made the decision to sell them, along with his most precious assets, to keep his family afloat in a drowning economy. Robertson, his wife and three sons were left without a home, but now divide their time between a friend's rental home in Idaho and another friend's home in Weatherford, Texas.

March 28 was a mundane day for Robertson as he watched "The Apprentice" until he saw Donald Trump's commercial for the show's next season, which targeted individuals who were affected by the economy.

"I looked at my wife, and we just both looked at each other, and we knew this was the one door the Lord had given us to go through," he said.

Robertson didn't think twice as he bought his ticket to Las Vegas, rented a hotel room and prepared to stand in line with thousands of people. In any ordinary circumstance this idea would have been absurd, he said. But he felt like it was meant to be because of his economic situation.

Las Vegas was one of four locations for "The Apprentice" auditions. He became familiar with the heat during the day, the cold at night, and the sunsets and sunrises as he stood in line hoping for a more promising future, he said.

Once he was called in, Robertson participated in an intense debate for his audition.

After the audition, he said he headed back home with a confident feeling. Although he did not immediately get called back, he was persistent and sent the producers more personal information. He said he did not see it as an end but as an opportunity for the producers to learn more about him and his family.

His feelings were confirmed when he made the finals in California, along with another 160 people.

After grinding his way through every stage of the auditions, a producer told him he was one of 16 people selected to be on the show.

"If you take the most strenuous day you've ever had, mentally, physically, emotionally and you start the day at 4:00 in the morning and go until after midnight, and you do that for two months straight, that's the experience of the show," he said. "But the whole time I was doing it, I just felt invigorated."

He said his ultimate goal was to

win the competition when he set foot in New York, but he also saw the experience as a form of advertisement for himself.

"You see the very worst of people and the very best of people," he said. "This show brings it out because it's so intense."

He said he hoped that at the end of the day, people see him as a man of character and a man who lives what he believes.

"I've made some lifelong friends from this program, and I'm sure there are some people that hope they'll never see me again," he said. "But I did the best to represent my beliefs."

Quick turns and changes of plans have been a part of Robertson's life since his college years. He began as a pre-med major at TCU, then switched to accounting when he discovered his passion for entrepreneurial work.

"All the diverse education I had absolutely helped me become a better entrepreneur and therefore a better competitor on this program," he said.

Robertson's attitude is rich with hope for his future, as well as society's. He encourages people, whether they are struggling or not, to aim high and not fear.

There's tough times right now," he said. "But there's still an opportunity for people who want to get up, roll up their sleeves, work hard every day and follow their dreams." Part one of the season finale airs tonight.

# **BOWL GAME** Bowl tickets on sale Monday

### **By Alex Collins**

Staff Reporter

Tickets for the Horned Frogs' undetermined, upcoming BCS bowl game will soon be available for students to purchase.

Sean Conner, director of ticket sales, said students will be able to purchase tickets online at gofrogs. com at 8 a.m. Monday.

Tickets will cost \$150 for the Rose Bowl and \$305 for the national championship, he said. Ticket rates were not determined by the university but by the hosts of the bowl games. No discount will be offered to students.

Conner said the earliest students could pick up their tickets in the Daniel-Meyer Ticket Office will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 11. After that, tickets will be available in the Daniel-Meyer Ticket Office weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 13 through Dec. 23. Students will be able to purchase three tickets per ID, and 10 IDs may be presented by one student, he said. Students also must pick up together if they want seats next to each other, Conner said. Lost tickets will not be replaced.

Frog Club members and season ticket-holders are already able to purchase tickets for the bowl game, he said. Tickets will be sold to the general public if they are still available by Dec. 13.

Conner said students purchased about 4,000 tickets for last year's Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz. He said he expected students to buy the same number for this year's bowl game.

Anh Truong, a business administration graduate student, said he would not buy tickets to either bowl game because of costs associated with the experience. Truong said he thought the combination of hotel accommodations, flights and ticket prices would be too expensive, he said.

Truong said he planned on watching the game on television instead.

Senior business major Andrew Pulliam said he planned on going to the game even though he thought they were expensive.

This is my last chance to be a TCU student to have a chance at such a huge game like that," he said.

Pulliam said he planned on waiting in line to pick up tickets with his friends as early as midnight before tickets were available.

#### **Bowl Game Tickets**

- Students can purchase tickets online at gofrogs.com beginning on Monday at 8:00 a.m.

- Rose Bowl prices are \$150 and Tostitos BCS National Championship prices are \$305

- Max of three tickets per student - Students can pick up tickets on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum - Students who want to sit together must pick up tickets together

- Limit of 10 IDs per student when claiming tickets





# PERSPECTIVES

The Skiff View

# SGA provides options for concerned students

ant some free scantrons? If so, you're in luck. Student Government Association representatives passed a bill Tuesday that will make 2,500 scantrons available for students to pick up at the library.

This is a kept campaign promise, and it's a great option for most students. As a senior majoring in the liberal arts, I am still running through my supply of scantrons that I purchased as an enthusiastic freshman.

SGA has stepped up in recent years by not only giving students a chance to offer their suggestions on ways to improve campus life, but also by actually listening to those suggestions. It just held Improve TCU Day, which allowed students to voice concerns directly to SGA representatives for consideration. Providing free scantrons is just the first step in improving communication between the student government and the governed.

The Campus Advancement Committee chair said the idea was to eliminate the stress students feel when scrambling to purchase a scantron in the final minutes before a test.

It's a feeling of sheer panic that almost all of us have experienced. This is why we have student representatives, because they're in tune with the concerns students face on a daily basis. From the frustration of being without wireless internet to the desperate need for water fountains at the intramural fields, the student representatives address those little challenges we face every day, making our lives a little bit easier one bill at a time.

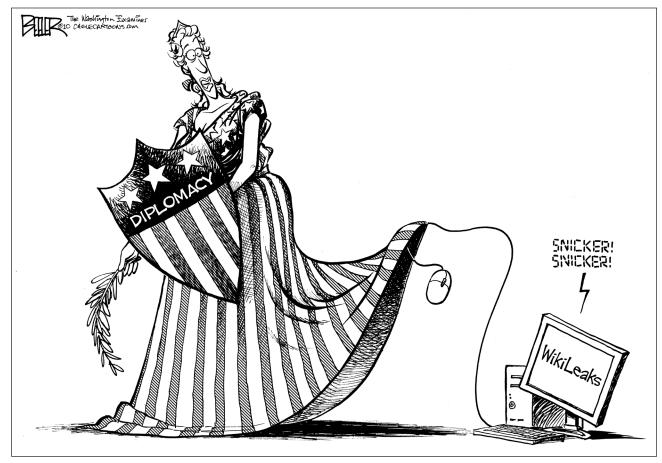
Editor-in-chief Libby Davis for the editorial board.

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

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Nate Beeler is an editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

# Economy responsible for green trends



### Michael Lauck

The chickens of this world are headed for inevitable disaster. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics, the amount of chicken consumption doubled from 1970 to 2004. The population of chickens in the U.S. cannot possibly keep up with the growing world demand. We must all, therefore, conserve our consumption of chickens. Buy only one chicken for the family at Popeye's. Eat more tofu chicken.

I don't know if the argument above is as silly to you as it is to me, but that's essentially what I hear when I hear any argument for conserving resources, or as it is more popularly known, "sustainability." Two of the most popular trends are conserving paper to save trees and not driving to save the "depleting" amount of gasoline.

We hear all the time from the news,

handouts and even some professors on campus how the world is running out of oil. The truth is, however, the world will never run out of oil. As the price of oil gets higher, oil companies will have an incentive to go search for it or research better ways of getting it out of the ground, bringing the price back down. If this becomes too expensive, it then becomes profitable to switch to alternate forms of energy. No change in our "consumer driving society" is needed. It simply happens through market forces.

## You may ask yourself, if these are not ways to save the earth then why do people pursue them so much?

The same thing upsets me about saving paper to go green. This argument is pretty much destroyed by the facts. According to USDA statistics today America has 749 million acres of forest land. In 1920, we had 735 million acres of forest.

More forest land? How is that possible? Well, we have become better at using trees to make paper and other products. Was it because environmen-

#### talists willed it so?

It was actually because paper and logging companies wanted to make more profit so they found better ways of using one tree for more purposes. Better technology in farming techniques has also allowed less land to be used for farming allowing more land to be used for forestry. Companies will even grow more trees if the demand for paper get high enough.

You may ask yourself, if these are not ways to save the earth then why do people pursue them so much? The truth is it feels good to recycle, it feels good to save paper and it feels good to drive less because it feels like your helping the earth.

While I'm not opposed to doing things that feel good, doesn't it also matter how much you're truly affecting what you supposedly care about? In the end, a little economic thinking and even some common sense helps us to rethink what we know about saving the earth and may turn people's attention to problems that are actually problems.

Michael Lauck is a junior economics major from Houston.



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# PERSPECTIVES



DARRYL BUSHE / MCT Elizabeth Zapien-Plata checks comments on Facebook from her son on her iPhone at their family business studio in Modesto, California, May 4, 2010.

# Facebook ads based on stereotypes



KC Aransen

There isn't any question that Facebook seems to have issues with user privacy. Privacy settings have a history of changing unbeknownst to users and are becoming more and more complex with every change. A new concern surrounding Facebook and user privacy involves the unintentional outing of homosexual users to advertisers, no matter how secure they believe their profiles to be.

These advertisements are specifically aimed at gay and lesbian users — using the language of the ads in hopes of appealing to their targeted homosexual viewers. When users click on these ads, it then labels their "account" (IP address, cookies and e-mail address if used) as belonging to a homosexual user. Though advertisers claim they will keep this information private, it is now open to allowing marketing firms to spread this information to other advertisers (seen in a Facebook user leak a few months back) and then flag specific users as being either homosexual or heterosexual.

This is a blatant issue of not only privacy but also stereotyping.

The issue concerning privacy is obvious. It seems as though no matter how secure you set your profile, advertisers will be able to know enough basic information (like your gender and sexual orientation) to be able to target ads specifically to you. Though this may not seem like such an issue, those users who would rather keep such information private (especially from

large advertising companies) now have what seems like no choice in the matter. It's as though the privacy settings we are allowed only keeps the profiles private from those Facebook doesn't choose to share the information with. Facebook seems to be so preoccupied with these personalized ads that they forget they're dealing with people on the other side of those advertisements.

It seems as though no matter how secure you set your profile, advertisers will be able to know enough basic information (like your gender and sexual orientation) to be able to target ads specifically to you.

Also, stereotyping plays a large role in these specific advertisements and they perpetuate gay and lesbian stereotypes. By targeting these ads to gay and lesbian users, advertisers are using language and images they believe will better attract them to their site, even using the word "gay' frequently in the ads. Because, of course, there isn't any diversity amongst a group of people who happen to have the same sexual preference.

I understand that there may be a need to advertise to people of one gender differently than the other, but it doesn't seem fair to those getting flagged by advertisers that they need specific ads for the simple reason of sexual orientation. What Facebook is allowing advertisers to do is unfair to users because not only does it single out those profiles as being "different" from others in some way, but it also projects what seems to be unfair stereotypes.

KC Aransen is a sophomore psychology major from Arlington.

# Top-ranked team deserves big turnout



One of my favorite landmarks in Fort Worth is the Railhead Smokehouse on Montgomery Street, where the employees wear T-shirts that read, "Life is too short to live in Dallas." Being a Fort Worth convert from Dallas by way of TCU, I especially love the motto, because I know exactly what they mean.

Among the aspersions a seasoned Fort Worth resident could cast on Dallasites is the unnecessarily fast pace of life and the frequent change in lifestyle without regard to a system of values. After all, humans naturally resist change. Change that is value-oriented and improves the quality of life, however, should be welcomed and put in action.

As I approach four full years as a TCU undergrad, I've seen some incredible change at TCU in the overall quality of the student experience, both in regards to facilities and TCU employees. These changes have been heralded on campus, as well as by local and national media. When TCU proactively decided to upgrade the athletic experience, though, it was met by many with a striking degree of cynicism.

With regards to the unprecedented raising of more than \$100 million to renovate Amon G. Carter Stadium in six months, the neighborhoods surrounding TCU were in uproar over the potential adverse effects of stadium construction. They must have forgotten the property-value increase they'll be seeing, as well as the opportunity to attend a game in what will be one of the nation's finest stadiums.

With the announcement of the Big East conference move, everybody in America has to put their spin on why it might not be the best decision for TCU. As Athletic Director Chris Del Conte said, "We've arrived," when Ohio State President Gordon Gee has to "throw stones at our house."

However when that criticism is rooted internally, it's cancerous to the success of our university.

I've heard students complain they're going to have to travel significantly further for away games. With an average distance difference from TCU of about 100 miles between the Mountain West Conference and Big East Conference away travel, that is simply not true. Furthermore, it's not like many fans were driving to conference away games in the MWC. I imagine flights might cost slightly more going east because of market demand, but I'll pay more to visit Syracuse or Connecticut over Boise or Laramie anytime. Not to mention, for the road games you don't attend, you'll probably have heard of the channel most games will be broadcast on — it's called ESPN, and most TVs in America get it.

## After all, humans naturally resist change. However, change that is value-oriented and improves the quality of life should be enacted and welcomed.

As the media tried to press Del Conte for adverse effects of the move to the Big East during Monday's press conference, he reminded the room, "Guys, this is the Big East. This is a great conference we're joining?

Horned Frog fans should appreciate the product they're getting and act accordingly.

Del Conte indicated Monday that he expects sold-out men's basketball games when storied Big East programs such as Pittsburg, Notre Dame and Georgetown come to Fort Worth to play. However that same evening, TCU dominated a fairly well-known school by the name of USC to an at best half-full crowd at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum

If we want the Horned Frogs to be associated with top-tier institutions, we need to act like it off the court as well. Our student-athletes have been busy setting records on the field, and now it's time for fans to step up their game as well.

John Andrew Willis is a senior Spanish major from Dallas



# GREEK Website highlights comments, jokes about Greek Life

**By Jennifer Iller** Staff Reporter

Users of totalfratmove.com can go to a website with a sailboat background filled with advertising for khaki pants and boat shoes. Supposed fraternity and sorority members post comments, stories and pictures anonymously under monikers such as "brohemian fratsody," "Stonewall Fratterson," and "MRS w/honors."

The "about us" section of the site informs readers that the blog is "a way for the upstanding members of this Nation's finest Greek communities to share entertaining comments, stories and photos."

However, quips such as "heard a couple GDIs complaining about the 8 percent tuition increase, made me wish they increased it by 30 percent. TFM [Total Frat Move]," have led students like Matt Dietrichson and Kristen Keiser, non-affiliated students, to believe users are anything but upstanding. Dietrichson, a senior political

science major, said he struggled for words after reading the site.

"I realize not all members of fra-

ternities at our school fall into this category, but [the website] is frighteningly self-righteous," he said.

"I realize not all members of fraternities at our school fall into this category but [the website] is frighteningly self-righteous."

#### Matt Dietrichson Senior political science major

Keiser, a senior graphic design major, said she felt the website was detrimental to Greek society.

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Shannon Sumerlin said the only way to prevent portraying the Greek community in a negative light was to provide advising and training to leaders in fraternities and sororities.

She said she thought projecting the perceptions of individuals on the entire community was unjust to other students in the fraternity and sorority community. But

because of the anonymity given to posters and the generality of posts, it wasn't possible to sanction or punish posters.

Allison Schorr, a member of Pi Beta Phi, said she viewed the website as a source for humor and entertainment.

"I don't think it's offensive because it's content people provide on their own," Schorr, a senior strategic communication major, said.

Ian Cannon, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said the website is simply somewhere for people to be funny. He likened the website to other blogs such as textsfromlastnight.com.

"People like to post outrageous things to be funny," said Cannon, a senior strategic communication major.

He said he was not personally offended by the posts, but he thought people could find anything offensive if they dug too deeply.

Parker Fleming, another member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said he thought the site perpetuated a stereotype of Greek students to the rest of campus.

"Joking about wearing jeans and

boots and drinking whiskey and beating the crap out of freshmen just for the heck of it undermines what we stand for," said Fleming, a sophomore economics major.

Sumerlin said the website had not been brought to the attention of Fraternity and Sorority Life as something it should be concerned about.

"Professionally I would be concerned about the images students are projecting on themselves and playing into their own stereotypes," she said.









# CRIME School reopens day after hostage case

**By Todd Richmond** Associated Press

A northeastern Wisconsin high school reopened Wednesday with teachers and counselors prepared to offer reassurances of safety and support a day after a sophomore who held his classmates hostage for hours died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

"We understand there is a fear factor that we must overcome. But we're the adults, the leaders in the building, so we need to take care of that for our kids."

**Corry Lambie** Principal of Marinette High School

Sam Hengel brought two handguns into a Monday afternoon social studies class at Marinette High School and held about two dozen fellow students and his teacher at bay for about six hours. The standoff ended when the 15-year-old shot himself. All the hostages

escaped unharmed. Hengel died Tuesday. Kody Baumler, 16, said he

felt upset as he walked back into school Wednesday. "Sam was one of my

friends," Baumler said, expressing surprise that Hengel would do such a thing. Kordel Brezsko said he was

"kind of a little depressed today" but he felt safe. "I don't think it will happen again."

The high school serves about 700 students in the city of 12,000 that sits on the border with Michigan's Upper Peninsula. District officials had closed the



building Tuesday as inves-

tigators combed through

the classroom and inter-

viewed students at their

homes. Classes were set to

to happen," said 15-year-old

Austin Biehl, a wide receiv-

er and point guard on the

school's junior varsity foot-

ball and basketball teams

who was in the class that

Hengel held hostage. "It's go-

"I don't know what's going

resume Wednesday.

MIKE ROEMER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students arrive for class at Marinette High School with police standing guard outside Wednesday morning Dec. 1, 2010 in Marinette, Wis. School was canceled on Tuesday after 15-yearold student Sam Hengel held 23 students and one teacher hostage at the school on Monday. Hengel died Tuesday morning of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

# **FLORIDA** Drilling ban remains in place

**By Brendan Farrington** Associated Press

The Obama administration will maintain a long-standing oil drilling ban in the Gulf of Mexico off Florida after considering loosening it before the BP spill, a senior administration official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Just a month before the spill started in April, the Obama administration had announced plans to allow drilling in the eastern portion of the Gulf as part of the management plan for the Outer Continental Shelf.

"In light of the BP spill, we've learned a lot and understand the need to elevate the safety and environmental standards," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision hadn't been announced vet. "We took a second look at the announced plan and modified it to remove the Eastern Gulf of Mexico from leasing consideration."

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar planned to discuss the decision Wednesday afternoon.

The eastern Gulf — an area stretching from 125 to 300 miles off Florida's coast — was singled out for protection by Congress in 2006 as part of a deal with Florida lawmakers that made available 8.3 million

acres to oil and gas development in the east-central Gulf. Under that agreement, the protected region is to remain off limits to energy development until 2022.

"That's news that will be very favorably received by the tourist industry throughout the state, but also by the people."

### Charlie Crist

## Florida Governor

But the administration had entertained the idea of expanded drilling, until the BP spill that spewed an estimated 172 million gallons of oil into the Gulf. In order to open more of the eastern Gulf to drilling, the administration would have to ask Congress to lift the drilling moratorium.

Florida has long banned drilling in its state-controlled waters - those immediately off its shores, before federal jurisdiction takes over farther out — because of fears that a spill would damage its beaches, the state's biggest tourism draw. But even state lawmakers, including Gov. Charlie Crist, were considering opening those waters to drilling before the spill.

On Wednesday, Crist called the decision "wonderful news"

"That's news that will be very favorably received by the tourist industry throughout the state, but also by the people," Crist said.

He also said he's not surprised that the BP spill would make the administration take another look at its management plan, considering it was one of the country's largest environmental disasters.

"If that's not a wake-up call, I don't know what would be," Crist said. "If that doesn't have an impact on your thinking, you must not be thinking."

U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., who represents the Tampa area, also praised the decision.

"The White House obviously learned lessons from the BP oil disaster. Drilling for oil off of Florida's coast poses a threat to Florida's economy, jobs and environment. Our small businesses and hotel owners are still suffering from the devastation left behind by the BP blowout," she said in a press release. "Even before the BP disaster, I stressed to the administration that oil drilling off the west coast of Florida simply is not worth the risk."

Officials for the major oil drillers and firms that service the industry did not immediately respond to requests for comment from the AP.

# INTERNATIONAL WikiLeaks access blocked in China

**By Christopher Bodeen** Associated Press

China, one of the biggest Internet policers, took no chances with the latest online sensation and blocked the WikiLeaks website Wednesday amid potentially embarrassing claims made in leaked U.S. diplomatic memos posted there.

Attempts to access wikileaks.org and cablegate.wikileaks.org were met with a notice saving the connection had been reset, or were diverted the user to popular Chinese search engine Baidu.

The U.S. Embassy memos — called cables, though they are mostly encrypted electronic communication – contain some frank talk about and attributed to Chinese figures and their North Korean allies.

In one, a Chinese diplomat is quoted describing North Korea as a "spoiled child" for attempting to win U.S. attention with a provocative missile test.

"China takes note of relevant reports. We hope the U.S. side will properly handle the relevant issue. As for the content of the documents, we do not comment on that."

Hong Lei Ministry spokesman

China's representative to six-nation disarmament talks, meanwhile, is described by a South Korean

diplomat as an "arrogant, Marx-spouting former Red Guard who 'knows nothing about North Korea, nothing about nonproliferation."

Another memo reveals details of a Chinese contingency plan for North Korea's collapse — the existence of which is likely to drive a wedge between the allies at the very least.

The leaks also claimed that leadership of China's ruling Communist Party directed a cyber-intrusion into Google's computer systems, and expressed concern over attempts by Iranian front companies to obtain Chinese nuclear technology.

The massive leaks were "embarrassing" and "awkward," but the consequences for American foreign policy should be limited, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said.



### LEGAL

# Polygamist leader to face trial in Texas on sex charges

By Paul J. Weber Associated Press



and sexual assault charges, the Texas Attorney General's Office said Wednesday.

Jeffs, who is being held

without bail in Texas, is set to make a court appearance Wednesday morning in San Angelo. Texas authorities have charged the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with felony bigamy, aggravated sexual assault and assault.

Attorney General's Office spokesman Jerry Strickland said the 54-year-old Jeffs arrived Tuesday night at a West Texas jail, but declined to specify where he is being held. Jeffs' Southern Utah-based church practices polygamy in arranged marriages that have involved underage girls.

Strickland said a Texas Ranger and an officer from the Attorney General's Office went to Utah to pick up Jeffs and flew with him back to Texas. Utah Department of Corrections spokesman Steve Gehrke said Wednes-

day that prison officials transported Jeffs to the Salt Lake City airport Tuesday afternoon and turned him over to Texas law enforcement personnel.

At Wednesday's hearing, Jeffs was expected to have his rights and charges read to him, but was not expected to enter a plea, Strickland said.

The Utah Supreme Court on Nov. 23 ruled it would not block the transfer of

Jeffs to Texas. In court papers, defense attorneys had argued that sending Jeffs to Texas before a long-running criminal case in Utah is resolved denies him the right to a speedy trial.

Jeffs' lawyers also objected to the conditions of an extradition agreement signed by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and Texas Gov. Rick Perry that would deny Jeffs bail in Texas.

The Utah Attorney Gen-

eral's Office contended that Jeffs had no legal grounds to argue against extradition.

Prosecutors also said the question of bail is moot because the laws that govern extradition agreements permit judges in the "demanding state" - in this case Texas — to set or deny bail. Jeffs' Texas charges stem from evidence gathered

during a raid on the Yearning for Zion Ranch near Eldorado in April 2008.

# TODAY'S CROSSWORD

Jeffs

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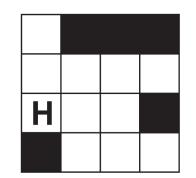


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| blast                      |                   |                |            |         |                |            |          |             |          |              |       |       |     |             |      |     |     |     |      |
| 20 "Forget it,             | 42                |                |            | 43      |                |            |          |             |          |              | 44    | Т     |     | 45          | Т    |     |     | Т   |      |
| comrade!"                  | <u> </u>          | <u> </u>       | <u> </u>   |         | <u> </u>       |            | <u> </u> | <u> </u>    | _        |              |       |       |     |             | ╇    | _   |     | +   | _    |
| 21 Ancient Andean          | 46                |                |            |         | I 1            |            | I        | L 1         | 4        | 7            |       | 41    | 3   |             | L    |     |     |     | - 1  |
| 22 Davenport               |                   |                |            | 49      |                | -          |          |             | -        | i0           | 51    |       | _   |             | -    |     |     |     |      |
| shopper,                   |                   |                |            | 49      | 1              |            |          |             | 5        | ~ I          | 51    |       |     |             |      |     |     |     |      |
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| 25 Branch honcho:          | 61                | <u> </u>       | <u> </u>   |         |                | 62         |          | +           | +        |              |       | 6     | 3   |             | +    | -   |     | +   | -    |
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| 29 "So I hear your         |                   |                |            |         |                |            |          |             |          |              |       |       |     |             |      |     |     |     |      |
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| 41 Airport safety org.     | - 0               | fson           | g          |         |                | L          | AT       | E           | X        |              |       |       | к   | Е           | γ    |     | s   | Р   | Α    |
| 42 Carousing               |                   | sland          |            |         | 9              |            | MS       | _           | E        |              | s     | А     |     | _           | N    | Α   | s   | A   | L    |
| 44 Shiny fabric            |                   | odes           |            |         |                | E          |          | _           |          | -            | _     | -     | -   |             |      |     |     |     | _    |
| 46 "So I hear your         |                   | look           |            | esis,   |                |            |          | D           | R        |              | Ρ     | D     | 0   | W           | Ν    | М   | Е   | Ν   | U    |
| trash removal              |                   | or she         |            |         |                |            | SL       | A           |          | в            | Α     | М     | в   |             |      | Т   | Т   | Е   | M    |
| business is                | 81                | lonte          | rrey       | wate    | er             | Т          | HA       | Т           | s        | 0            | Ν     | Е     | 0   | N           | М    | Е   |     |     |      |
| 48 Revenge seekers         |                   | a (            |            |         |                | T          | ID       | +           | L        | -            |       | N     | E   | E           | D    |     | L   | А   | С    |
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| 49 Dollar sign shape       | 12 -              | ield o         | лех        | perti   | se             |            | L        | E           | M        | 0            | Ν     | М     | Е   | R           |      | Ν   | G   | U   | E    |
| 50 Baltic resident         |                   | Comi           | ng H       | iome    | ).             | Т          | ΑU       | Т           |          | Ν            | T     | Е     | С   | Е           |      | Е   | R   | М   | Α    |
| 52 Early afternoon         |                   | ctor           |            |         |                | o          | NC       | -           |          | A            | F     | 0     | Ŭ   | L           |      | M   | E   | E   | т    |
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| delivery                   |                   | ubjeo          |            | vVill   |                |            | _ash     | La          | ru       | e III        | п,    |       |     | Alge        |      |     |     |     |      |
| 62 "So I hear your         | Rogers            |                |            |         |                | ə.g.       | - الم    |             | با م     |              |       |       | Apç |             |      | gp  | •   |     |      |
| scuba diving               | 24 Watching       |                |            |         |                |            | Joine    |             |          |              | ng    |       | 54  |             | act  |     |     |     |      |
| business is"               | "Avatar," say     |                |            |         | 34 Artist Hals |            |          |             |          |              |       | Byg   |     |             |      |     |     |     |      |
| 64 Wine region             | 25 Cretan king of |                |            |         | 36 Parts of    |            |          |             |          | 1            |       | Ted   |     |             |      | eve | et  |     |      |
| south of the               | myth              |                |            |         |                | directions |          |             |          |              |       |       | bio |             |      |     |     |     |      |
| Matterhorn                 |                   | 26 SLR setting |            |         |                |            | MBA      |             |          |              |       |       |     | "I h        |      |     |     | _!" |      |
| 65 "Got it, Daddy-         |                   | éa of          |            |         |                |            | Dne      |             |          | g            |       |       |     | Stu         |      |     |     | ot  |      |
| 0!"                        | "Spanglish"       |                |            | askance |                |            |          |             | - 1      | 60 Arg. miss |       |       |     |             |      |     |     |     |      |

| actor                                  |      |     |      |     |       |        |       |       |     |   |     |      |   |
|--|------|-----|------|-----|-------|--------|-------|-------|-----|---|-----|------|---|
| 18 "Delta of Venus"                    | 0    | Ν   | С    | Е   |       | Α      | F     | 0     | U   | L |     | М    | Γ |
| author                                 | W    | 0   | к    | s   |       | Ν      | Е     | W     | s   | γ |     | γ    | Γ |
| 22 "Everybody is,<br>only on different | (c)2 | 010 | Trib | ine | Med   | ia Se  | ervic | es, I | nc. |   |     |      |   |
| subjects": Will                        | 32   | La  | shl  | _aF | Rue   | e filı | n,    |       |     |   |     | an j |   |
| Rogers                                 |      | e.ç |      |     |       |        |       |       |     |   |     | 13   | i |
| 24 Watching                            | 33   |     |      |     |       |        | ing   |       |     |   | act |      |   |
| "Avatar," say                          | 34   |     |      |     | Ha    | ls     |       |       |     |   |     | ne k |   |
| 25 Cretan king of                      | 36   |     |      |     |       |        |       | 3     |     |   |     | Rc   |   |
| myth                                   |      |     | ect  |     |       |        |       |       |     |   |     | ιph  |   |
| 26 SLR setting                         | 40   |     |      |     |       |        |       |       |     |   |     | e ai |   |
| 27 Téa of                              | 43   |     |      |     |       | 1      |       |       |     |   |     | nt's |   |
| "Spanglish"                            |      |     | kar  |     |       |        |       |       |     |   |     | niss |   |
| 28 Of a pelvic bone                    | 45   |     |      | aw  |       |        |       | 1     |     |   |     | hile |   |
| 30 Gascony good-                       | 47   |     |      |     | - 11- |        |       |       |     |   |     | ng   | С |
|  |      |     |      |     |       |        |       |       |     |   |     |      |   |

65 'Got It, Daddy-o!" 66 Party person 67 DEA agent 68 Frosty's button 69 Honshu city

showing one's ards bye dramatically 31 Caboodle partner 51 Breakfast fare 63 Actor Tognazzi



## "Human Growth Hormone"

Sample

"Freeze'

### How to play:

Spell the phrase in the grid above it, writing each unique letter only once. The correct solution will spell the complete phrase along a single continuous spelling path that moves horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Fill the grid from square to square - revisiting letters as needed to complete the spelling path in order. Each letter wil lappear only once in the grid.

## Wednesday's Solution

|                      | G | R | D |  |  |  |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
|                      | Μ | I | A |  |  |  |
|                      | Ζ | E | С |  |  |  |
|                      | S | Η |   |  |  |  |
| "Migraine Headaches" |   |   |   |  |  |  |

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|   |   |   | 3 |        | 2 |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--------|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 |   |   |        |   |   | 7 | 2 |
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|   | 1 |   |   | 3      |   |   | 6 |   |
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|   | 6 |   |   | 2      |   |   | 1 |   |
| 4 | 5 |   |   |        |   |   | 9 | 6 |
|   |   |   | 7 |        | 6 |   |   |   |

## Directions

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

See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

## Wednesday's Solution

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

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a positive response from Re-

publicans," said House Repub-

lican leader John Boehner of

Ohio, who is in line to become

the new speaker in January. "If

the lame-duck Congress is un-

able or unwilling to act, the new

House majority will in January."

Jacob Lew to the tax negotiat-

ing group. Rep. Dave Camp

of Michigan, the top Repub-

lican on the House Ways and

Means Committee, will rep-

resent House Republicans and Rep. Chris Van Hollen of

Maryland will represent House

Democrats. Sen. Max Baucus

of Montana, chairman of the

Senate Finance Committee,

will represent Senate Demo-

crats; Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona,

the second ranking GOP leader

in the Senate, will represent

The president appointed Geithner and Budget Director

### INTERNATIONAL

# Police on alert for WikiLeaks founder



MARTIAL TREZZINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS/ KEYSTONE In this Nov. 4, 2010 file photo, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange takes his seat during a news conference at the Geneva press club in Geneva, Switzerland.

### By Malin Rising and **Raphael G. Satter** Associated Press

Police ratcheted up the pressure on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Wednesday, asking European officers to arrest him on rape charges as his organization continued to embarrass the Obama administration with a stream leaked diplomatic of cables.

"Given that Sweden is a civilized country, I am reluctantly forced to conclude that this is a persecution and not a prosecution."

#### Mark Stephens London-based lawyer

The 39-year-old Australian computer hacker disappeared from public view after a Nov. 5 press conference in Geneva. He has spoken publicly only through online interviews, while a statement from his lawyer said the Australian was being persecuted by Swedish officials who are seeking his arrest on sex crime charges.

Sweden's Director of Public Prosecution Mari-

anne Ny said that a European arrest warrant had been issued for Assange in connection with the allegations.

London-based lawyer Mark Stephens complained that Assange had yet to receive formal notice of the allegations he faces - something he described as a legal requirement under European law.

Stephens was scathing in his condemnation of Ny, saying he'd never come across a prosecutor who has "such casual disregard" for her obligations

"Given that Sweden is a civilized country, I am reluctantly forced to conclude that this is a persecution and not a prosecution," Stephens wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Ny's office said that "for secrecy reasons, she cannot give more information concerning this matter at the moment," while Scotland Yard and Britain's Serious and Organized Crime Agency, which processes European warrants, also declined comment.

Assange is wanted on suspicion of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion. Swedish prosecutors have disagreed about whether to label the most serious charge as rape.

# POLITICS House plans vote on Bush-era tax cuts

Pentagon's practice of discharg-

ing openly gay members of the

military service and give legal

status to young illegal immi-

grants who join the military or

Reid has made both mea-

sures a priority as Democrats

attempt to enact legislation long

sought by groups that support-

ed them in the recent midterm

tive to make major concessions

in December, considering their

power on Capitol Hill will great-

ly increase in January. Demo-

crats still control both chambers

until the end of the year, but

they need Republican votes in

"If President Obama and

Democratic leaders come up

with a plan in the lame-duck

session to cut spending and stop

all the tax hikes, they can expect

the Senate to pass a tax bill.

Republicans have little incen-

attend college.

elections.

### By Stephen Ohlemacher Associated Press

Democrats and Republicans are working to reach a deal to extend Bush-era tax cuts that expire at the end of the year, but neither side is budging as negotiations begin in earnest.

Even as they talk, House leaders are planning to hold a politically charged vote Thursday to extend middle-class tax cuts while letting taxes for the wealthy rise.

The bill, even if it passes the House, stands no chance in the Senate. Nevertheless, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he is considering holding a similar vote.

"House Democrats have long supported extending the tax cuts for America's middle class," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. "Democrats continue to have concerns about the impact on the deficit of giving a tax cut to the nation's wealthiest 2 percent."

A small working group of administration officials and lawmakers from both parties began meeting Wednesday morning to negotiate a deal on tax cuts. They emerged after nearly two hours to say they had agreed to continue talking later in the day.

"No surprises," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said. "We went through everything on the table, and we agreed we were going to come back this afternoon late in the day and continue the conversations. And we also agreed it's very important that we're not to characterize discussions in the room."

Obama and Democratic

leaders in Congress want to extend tax cuts for individuals making less than \$200,000 and married couples making less than \$250,000. Republicans and some rank-and-file Democrats want to extend the tax cuts for evervone.

Obama signaled he was ready to compromise after elections in which Republicans won control of the House and gained seats in the Senate. But the president has yet to make a detailed proposal.

Senate Republicans, meanwhile, said they intend to block action on all Democraticbacked legislation until the Senate votes to the fund the government and prevent the looming tax increases, according to a letter to Reid signed by all 42 Senate Republicans.

If carried out, that strategy could doom Democraticbacked attempts to end the

Democratic Congressional leaders.



President Barack Obama makes a statement in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, on the White House campus in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, about his meeting today with Republican and

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| Skiff Advertising<br>817.257.7426<br>dailyskiff.com   |  |

# Miami Heat need to man up and learn to play as a team



### Judge Howell

Who needs to man up this week? The Miami Heat.

The Heat have gotten off to a slow start this year and have lost four of their last six games. This is a team that had huge expectations coming into the season after adding two superstars, LeBron James and Chris Bosh, to compliment Dwayne Wade.

So who is to blame for this unexplainable start? Sure you can blame their head coach, Erik Spoelstra, but if you have three superstars playing on the same team, it shouldn't matter who the coach is.

There are multiple ownership issues that could be blamed for this start. One of these problems is the lack of depth on the roster. After the big three, Miami has very little depth. They are starting a no-name point guard and their centers were back-ups in both Dallas and Cleveland. The rest of their players are there to fill the roster.

This blame cannot be put on Pat Riley. How can you blame a guy for luring away Lebron James and Chris Bosh from their respected teams to come play with Dwayne Wade? A team of that magnitude has been unheard of until now.

It's the players who need to step up for the Heat to start winning. Bosh, James and Wade need to not only step up and play well on the court, but they need to start playing as a team and help some of the other guys on the roster improve. The big three have seen a steep decrease in their numbers this season. This could be because of several different issues, but they just aren't stepping up and playing well.

No one said this was going to be easy, and no, you don't have to go 82-0, but you can't limp into the playoffs with a .500 record and expect to win a championship.

Bosh's numbers have been especially bad. He has scored six points per game less than season ago since he has not been able to average 20 points per game this season. However the stat that hurts him the most is rebounds. Bosh averaged over 10 rebounds per game last season. This year he is averaging seven per game.

Bosh will need to start rebounding better going forward in order for the Heat to even think about playoffs.

Wade's numbers have also fallen off as he has scored about five points less per game than last season and nine points less than two seasons ago. The biggest issue I see with Wade's numbers is his assists. Over the last two seasons he has averaged eight and seven assists per game respectively. This season he has averaged four.

This lack of assists is just another example of how this is an organization that isn't playing as a team. Too many of Miami's players have been unable to play as a team and the team really lacks a true leader. James has been the best of the three, but his numbers have also

seen a drop off. His scoring and

rebounding numbers have been the worst since his rookie season and he hasn't been up to the standard "King James" that we have seen for so many years.

No one said this was going to be easy and no, you don't have to go 82-0. But you can't limp into the playoffs with a .500 record and expect to win a championship. Sure you need to boost individual numbers, but more importantly you need to play as a team. In addition there needs to be a leader. Whether it is James, Wade or Bosh, someone needs to step up.

Until the Heat start playing as a team, they will have no real shot of winning the championships that everyone dreamed they would be winning over the next five seasons.

Judge Howell is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Plano.

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# Team working to attract more fans

### By Leah Watkins Staff Reporter

TENNIS

The men's tennis team has hopes that community involvement will help them increase attendance at home matches, the team's coach said.

Head men's tennis coach David Roditi said he put a plan in action to raise attendance at home matches. The team set a goal to have 1,000 fans in attendance at a home match.

Senior tennis player Zach Nichols said the goal stemmed from Roditi, also a former TCU tennis player, and the experience he gained while on the team. When Roditi played, the team was top 10 in the nation and had a large number of people at their matches.

Sophomore tennis player Santiago Centeno said, "I think it's a very reachable goal if we expand our audience and our community."

Roditi said the fans who would choose to support the current team would watch exciting matches at a higherlevel of play.

"We have guys that will be playing in the professional tour someday. It's by far the best tennis in town," he said.

Even with talented players, the program recognized that increased community involvement was necessary to reach their goal, Roditi said. The team has joined forces with people in the area to target individual groups from different demographics.

"TCU is growing and I think it's a good idea if we start stepping up and helping out with the community in anyway we can."

Zach Nichols Senior tennis player

The men's program created a committee of 10 people from different community areas such as country clubs and high school teams to help spread the word about TCU tennis, he said.

"We [the team] can't be arrogant enough to think they [the community] are going to come to us, we have to go to them," he said.

Nichols said one way the program worked to become well-known in the area was through the hosting of a free tennis clinic at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center. Attendees of the clinic were able to take part in drills and play alongside the players and coaches.

"TCU is growing, and I think it's a good idea if we start stepping up and helping out with the community in anyway we can," Nichols said.

Attendee of the clinic and longtime TCU tennis fan Becky Moorhead said she enjoyed being able to meet the players and support Roditi as head coach.

"I watched David play when he was a student here at TCU. That was part of the attraction for coming out," she said.

Jennifer Ledbetter was in attendance and said that being at the clinic peaked her interest in bringing her family out to a match.

Roditi said the tennis center was a place that all ages could enjoy, from families that have brought picnics to students cheering for their Horned Frogs. The program also plans to have competitions and prizes at the matches to create an event that people want to come to.

"It's a great sport and a great environment, so the community has to get involved," Centeno said.

Roditi said he had confidence that the 1,000 fan goal will be reached with time and effort put in from him and his team.

"Whether it takes us three months to get there or two years to get there...We will get there."

# BASKETBALL Lady Frogs look to return to winning ways at home against Houston tonight

# By Kayla Travis

Staff Reporter

Coming off of its third loss on the road this season, the women's basketball team will return home to the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum to face the University of Houston tonight at 6:30 p.m.

The TCU women's basketball team currently has a 3-3 record and have won both home games this season.

The University of Houston women's basketball team has won three consecutive games on the road this season leaving with a 4-0 record.

Historically, the two teams have faced off 41 times since. At the last meeting with the Cougars in 2009, the Lady Frogs captured a victory, 66-61, at the Hofheinz Pavilion.

This weekend the Lady Frogs competed in the 11th annual Paradise Jam in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Lady Frogs came close, yet lost all three games in the tournament against West Virginia, Iowa State and Virginia. At the final game Satur-

## Virginia, 59-55. Senior guard Emily Carter

led the team with 14 points with sophomore Starr Crawford coming behind her scoring 13 points and grabbing eight rebounds against Virginia. Senior Helena Sverrisdottir not only had 10 points and nine rebounds against Virginia, but was also named to the all-tournament team.

# day night the team fell to fellow NCAA tournament selection



TOM MARVIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Freshman Briesha Wynn drives past Tia Jackson of Houston Baptist in a season-opening 96-38 victory in Fort Worth.

## ANALYSIS

# Del Conte has great first year as Frogs' AD

Women's Basketball vs. University of Houston



### **Josh Davis**

It's easy to praise an athletic director when times are good. Chris Del Conte arrived at TCU just a couple months before the football team went to its first BCS bowl, and about a month after that the baseball team began a season that ended in Omaha.

Times were good.

And now, about 13 months after Del Conte's arrival, times have legitimately never looked better for TCU athletics. And Del Conte is to thank for that.

I'm not sure who else could have pulled off fundraising a \$105 million stadium renovation, securing the university a spot in an automatic BCS conference and making the Ohio State president look like an old fool in a calendar year, but I know who did.

So does Brian Grummell, a writer for AOL's NCAA Football FanHouse. He wrote in a column Monday, "Del Conte seems like a shrewd face to add to the mix of Big East athletic directors." Indeed he does.

Which is why the Board of Trustees should approve a raise that keeps Del Conte in Fort Worth and happy for the

foreseeable future. While his body of work is small, in it he's shown three traits of a great athletic director.

1) He's a fundraiser.

When: 6:30 p.m. Tonight

Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum

Del Conte came to the university with a reputation as a fundraiser. Now he's a certified donation-securing legend. He, his staff and head football coach Gary Patterson made the most of TCU's momentum last spring and secured \$90 million worth of commitments in just over four months for renovations to Amon G. Carter Stadium.

## A modest baseball stadium expansion is expected in the near future, though not officially planned.

While the athletics department is currently preparing to begin the renovation, there's always more to do. A modest baseball stadium expansion is expected in the near future, though not officially planned. And you better believe the Big East commissioner would like a facelift for Daniel-Meyer Coliseum before they send down Dick Vitale and ESPN.

The press release announcing the stadium renovation said it aimed to be "the Camden Yards of college football." Give Del Conte another four months, and he'll have the

Lambeau Field of college basketball, to continue mixing metaphors.

2) He makes "big time" AD decisions.

Look no further than the last month for proof of Del Conte's poker abilities. It "leaked" that the Big East was considering TCU, Villanova and Central Florida, and was suggested that the conference would prefer to add only a football program. If TCU had agreed, their other sports would have likely landed in the now-raided Western Athletic Conference or the Missouri Valley Conference.

Del Conte didn't skip a beat in telling The Sporting News that TCU would not be splitting up its programs. It was a gutsy call — he could have lost the university their only option for getting access to the BCS since its inception.

He bet that the Big East was bluffing. The conference desperately needed TCU's football program and its BCS credentials, which it wouldn't get from UCF and Villanova. Sure enough, the tough call was the right call, and all of the university's athletics stand to benefit.

3) He knows when to politick and when to shut up.

Both gifts are equally important, though shutting up is (generally) easier.

The first eight weeks of the college football season, it's probably bad news if your athletic director or college president is being interviewed about football. Nowadays, it probably means a scandal. Let the football team speak for itself for two months.

But a switch flips as the BCS race heats up. There are too many teams fighting for too few spots, and you need a well-prepared rhetoric as well as a solid quote that wins hearts and minds. The power of propaganda.

Del Conte proved he could deliver a solid quote in response to Ohio State University President Gordon Gee's slight of TCU and Boise last week.

"Anytime. Anyplace. Anywhere," he said. "Buckeyes against the Horned Frogs. Tee it up." But more impressive was

his overall message — if Ohio State cares enough to take shots at TCU, then the Horned Frogs have truly arrived.

Both the quote and the message were direct, and Ohio State hasn't offered a rebuttal. What could it say? After last weekend, even "See you at the Rose Bowl" isn't an option.

Del Conte has had an incredible first year in Fort Worth. But now that he's secured a BCS conference for TCU, it's time to lock him up long term. You never know when Ohio State could use an AD.

Josh Davis is a senior broadcast journalism major from Dallas.



The women's basketball **INSIDE** team takes on Houston at home. **Page 11**  **SPORTS** 

Athletic Director contrib-Uted to rise of Horned Frog athletics. Page 11



Junior guard Hank Thorns drives past an Prairie View A&M player on Wednesday night. The Frogs won the game 78-61 and moved to 6-2 on the season. The start is the team's best since the 2000-01 season.

# Men's basketball tops Prairie View A&M 78-61

By Nathan Dewitt Staff Writer

Junior guard J.R. Cadot led TCU in scoring with 15 points and was perfect from the field, shooting 7-for-7 on field goals, as the Horned Frog men's basketball team defeated Prairie View A&M 78-61 Wednesday night.

TCU entered the game against the Panthers looking to improve its home record to 5-0 and its overall record to 6-2 for the first time since the 2000-01 season. Cadot also led the way defensively, reeling in nine rebounds for the Horned Frogs.

The Frogs (6-2) jumped out to an early 9-1 lead, forcing a Prairie View timeout, and TCU never relinquished that lead. TCU's three-point shooters also were on fire early, going 3-for-3 and bringing the lead to 16-5 just five minutes into the game.

Sloppy offensive play from Prairie View (1-8) led to 12 turnovers in the first half, allowing TCU to excel offensively in the first 20 minutes.

Prairie View narrowed the deficit to five later on in the first half, but TCU rebounded to give itself a 12-point halftime lead after head coach Jim Christian called a timeout with two minutes left in the half to get his team together.

"I challenged our guys and J.R., specifically, to do a good job on the break, and they responded," Christian said. "We did a much better job of advancing the ball tonight." "I challenged our guys and J.R., specifically, to do a good job on the break, and they responded. We did a much better job of advancing the ball tonight."

**Jim Christian** Head coach The Horned Frogs got off to a good start after the break, shooting 6-for-8 in the first five minutes of the second half. They took their lead to 20 points on freshman forward Amric Fields' layup with 12:56 to go in the game.

Prairie View refused to quit, however, and the game remained within reach until TCU widened the margin to 24 with less than five minutes to go.

"In the second half we were able to lighten up," Cadot said. "I feel like I should take open shots, and tonight that's what I did. I've been working on that."

**CAROLINE HARDWICK / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** 

TCU's next home game will be at 1 p.m. Saturday against Northern Iowa and Christian said he hoped to see more fans in the seats for that contest.

"With each game, there's a little more excitement, a little more buzz," Christian said. "We just have to keep doing our job out here. If we do that, it will happen for us."