



News
Find out what more than 800 students and faculty will be doing Saturday morning **TOMORROW**.



Features
Find out how to turn that prison-like dorm room into a place more like home **TOMORROW**.



Sports
The women's cross country team is preparing for the NCAA Pre-Nationals. Read about the team's expectations for the meet **Page 8**.



TCU
DAILY SKIFF

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Ms. TCU nominees receive disqualification notices for rules violations

By KELLY FERGUSON
Staff Reporter
Three Ms. TCU candidates said they have been barred from today's ballot because of Facebook groups created on their behalf.
Seniors Jill Rutherford, Liz Hamner and Katie Williams all said they received e-mails from Natalie Boone, an assistant director in the Student Center, informing them of their disqualifications because of a rule prohibiting solicitation.
Rutherford and Williams said they were contacted Monday, and Ham-

ner said she was contacted Tuesday. Boone confirmed Wednesday morning that the disqualifications were because of Facebook groups.
All former nominees said groups lobbying for them were created by friends without their knowledge.
"I had no idea it was a rule," said Rutherford, an advertising/public relations major nominated by Pi Beta Phi. "It's not fair because the entire campus was not aware of the rule."
The Mr./Ms. TCU nomination form requires candidates to sign a document stating: "By signing below

you indicate your understanding and compliance of the Mr./Ms. TCU guidelines. Violation of any of the conditions outlined in the Homecoming packet or TCU policy is subject to investigation or disqualification."
Kristen Chapman, a Programming Council special events director, said the nominees violated the guideline stating "solicitation of votes by any method, including Facebook and MySpace, is grounds for disqualification."
Chapman, a sophomore business major, said groups promoting candi-

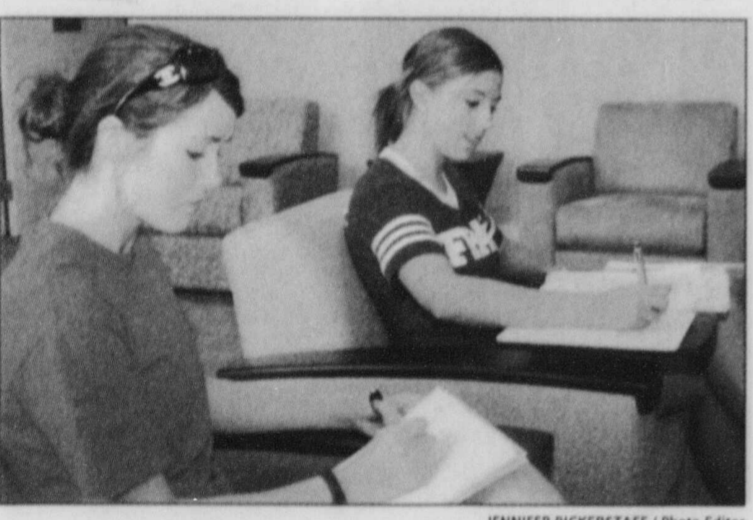
dates creates an unfair advantage.
Hamner, a marketing major nominated by Zeta Tau Alpha, said she interpreted the rule differently than the way the university has applied it.
"I thought it meant I couldn't solicit myself, not that others couldn't do it for me," Hamner said. "But I understand that they had a policy that they had to follow."
Hamner said it is unfortunate she will no longer be able to represent her chapter because of something she had no control over. She said she did

not know a friend was creating the group for her. Once she heard about the group, she said she purposely didn't join it because of the rule.
Williams, an education major nominated by Sigma Kappa, said she also
See **FACEBOOK**, page 2
Preliminary voting for Mr./Ms. TCU is today on my.tcu.edu. Voting for the top five candidates in each category is Oct. 26. The winners will be announced at halftime of the Homecoming football game on Oct. 28.

Residents encounter problems

By ALEX ZOBEL
Staff Reporter
Broken elevators, unreliable Internet connection and constant construction: These are some of the problems students living in the GrandMarc at Westberry Place said they have encountered since the complex opened in August.
"The first weekend I was here I got stuck on the elevator for three hours," said sophomore marketing major Mark Aughinbaugh. "It just stopped between floors."
Johanna Janovsky, business manager for the GrandMarc, said the problems with the elevators were the result of maintenance work.
Janovsky said new motors were installed in the elevators because the old motors were too loud.

While switching the motors out, some of the elevators went down for long periods of time, she said.
Janovsky said it also took a while for the GrandMarc to establish a connection to TCU's network, and as a result, students who moved in before Aug. 18, the standard move in date, were without Internet.
The Internet was also out during Labor Day weekend due to a power outage caused by a storm, a problem Janovsky said has been corrected by the implementation of battery backups.
Sophomore business major Peter Volkmer, who lives in the GrandMarc, said the complex seems as if it was quickly thrown together in order to open in time for the fall semester.
See **GRANDMARC**, page 2



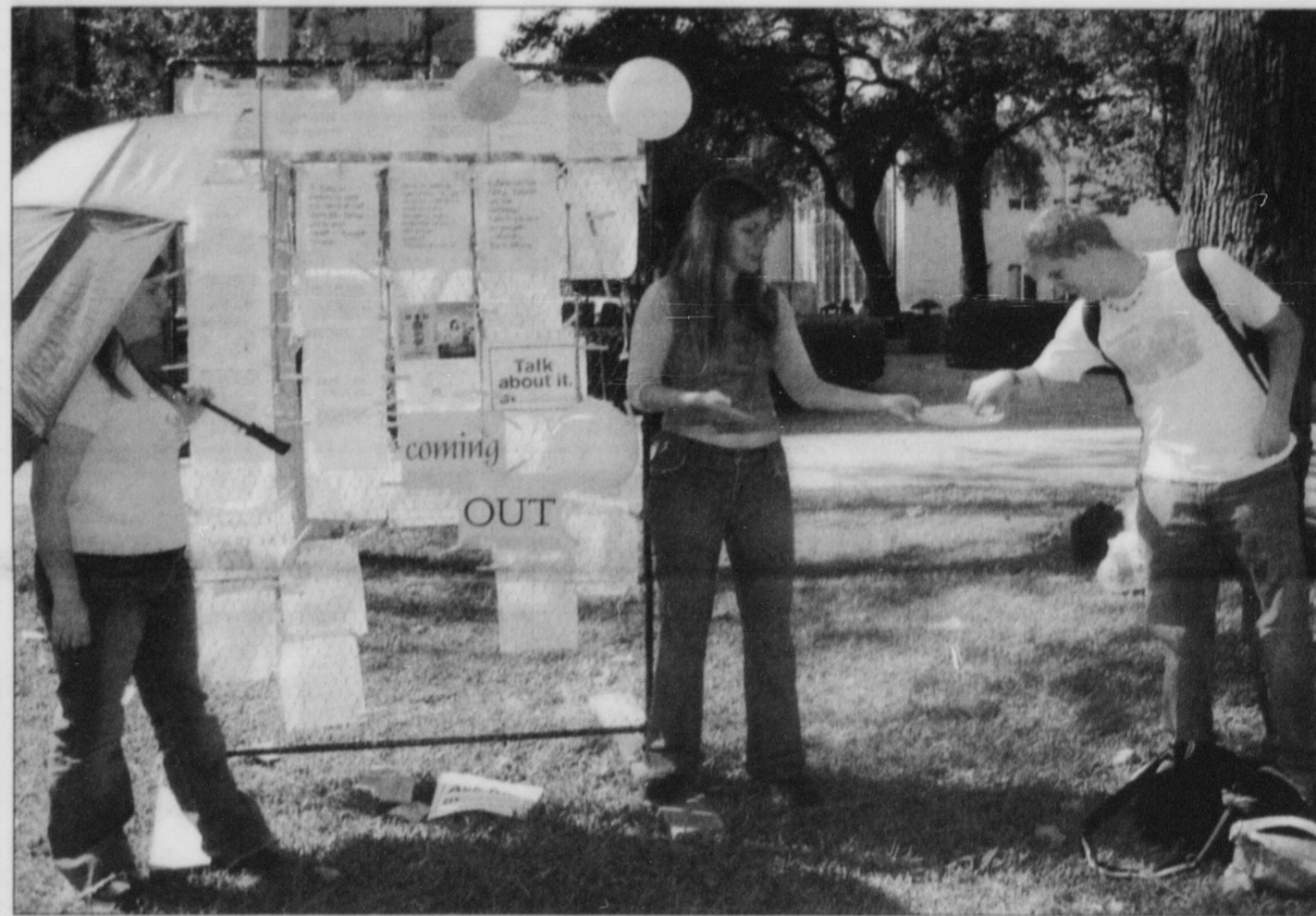
Sophomore business major Andrea Myhra, left, and Bevan Mason, a sophomore political science major, catch up on their studies in the GrandMarc's Internet/study lounge Monday.

MCAT receives new format, provides more testing days

By RASHI VATS
Staff Reporter
Students who recently took the Medical College Admission Test are some of the last to view it in its pencil and paper format.
Starting January 2007, the MCAT will only be offered in a computerized format, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.
Kristi Tebo, a junior neuroscience major, took the MCAT in August and is scheduled to receive the results of her test on Saturday.
"I am hoping I did as well as I did in the prep tests I took before," said Tebo, who took about nine prep tests with Kaplan.
Other students, such as junior biology major Kristen Rice, are waiting to take the computer-based test, which will be offered 22 times next year

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Previous MCAT format offered two tests a year.
The new computerized format of the MCAT will be offered 22 times a year.
as opposed to the two times the paper test was offered in the past.
"I took the Princeton Review, which helped me a lot, and I do a lot of outside studying," said Rice, who said she plans to take the MCAT in June or July.
Many students take a preparation course before taking the MCAT, said Antoine Scott, a senior biology major and president of the TCU pre-medicine honor society, Alpha Epsilon Delta.
"It is a big exam with a lot

DON'T HIDE YOUR PRIDE



Senior history major Krystin Peters, left, and senior radio-TV-film major Jessica Fleming hand out sweets to senior philosophy and political science major Paul Rinnah for the Gay-Straight Alliance on Wednesday. The group promoted National Coming Out Day by providing information to dispel myths about the gay community.

Picnic program gets late launch

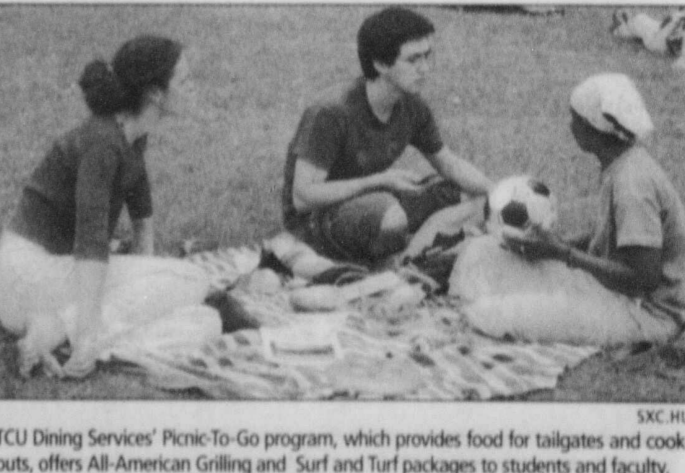
By KATHERINE LANE
Staff Reporter
There has been little interest in the Picnic-To-Go program since the program's launch Oct. 2, says the marketing manager for TCU Dining Services.
As of now, no students have ordered or purchased the Picnic-To-Go packages, which, Dining Services marketing manager Legia Abato said, is mainly because there has not been great weather.
"This is something we have been working out for a while now, and there was too much going on at the beginning of the year for it to be launched,"

Abato said.
"We were expecting the warm weather to stay the same until November, like last year," she said.
The picnic package idea came from requests from resident assistants and hall directors who knew students wanted more opportunities for on-campus cookouts, similar to the barbecue pit outside Milton Daniel Hall, said Rick Flores, general manager for Dining Services.
"One hall director knew of a similar program at a different school, which helped with the ideas," Flores said.
The All-American Grilling

package costs \$169.99, serving 16-30 people, and the Surf and Turf package costs \$189.99, serving 12-20 people. When the cost is split among all the people eating, the cost is considerably lower, Abato said.
"The orders are placed online, and you are able to put as many ID numbers as you like to pay for the package," she said.
The Picnic-To-Go packages are created to be perfect for tailgates and on-campus groups planning on providing food, Abato said.
It cuts down on costs because you are cooking the

food yourself, she said.
Reginald Nash, a junior English major, said he would consider ordering one of the meal packages.
"I would definitely order one for a tailgate, and splitting the price definitely sounds better," Nash said.
Melissa Terrill, a sophomore theatre and business major, said she probably will not purchase a Picnic-To-Go package because she does not have time to organize a large cookout.
Orders need to be placed through e-mail at least 48 hours in advance, Abato said.
See **PICNIC**, page 2

<p>ALL-AMERICAN GRILLING 20 Hamburger patties (1/2 pound) Hamburger buns 40 All-beef hot dogs Hot dog buns 16 ounces Tostitos medium salsa chips (choice of Tostitos, Ruffles or Doritos) Ozarka Water Condiments, cutlery, plates and cups Plastic red-checked tablecloth Coppertone 20-SPF sun tan lotion SERVES: 16-30 People PRICE: \$169.99</p>	<p>SURF AND TURF 12 10-ounce NY strip loin steaks 12 8-ounce salmon steaks Dinner rolls Corn cobbettes 16-ounce Tostitos medium salsa chips (choice of Tostitos, Ruffles or Doritos) Condiments, cutlery, plates and cups Plastic red-checked tablecloth Coppertone 20-SPF sun tan lotion SERVES: 12-20 people PRICE: \$189.99</p> <p>To order call TCU ext. 7283</p>
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TCU Dining Services' Picnic-To-Go program, which provides food for tailgates and cookouts, offers All-American Grilling and Surf and Turf packages to students and faculty.

WEATHER
TODAY: Partly Cloudy, 70/46
FRIDAY: Mostly Sunny, 74/54
SATURDAY: Few Showers, 75/63

PECULIAR FACT
A woman who authorities say steered the horse she was riding onto the highway and collided with a car has been charged with drunk driving. —AP

TODAY'S HEADLINES
ENTERTAINMENT: Bob Saget gets a new gig, page 5
OPINION: Take advantage of voting rights, page 3
SPORTS: Volleyball team optimistic, page 8

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

FACEBOOK

From page 1

thinks the rule is unclear, but she said she thinks the disqualifications may be reviewed. She had not been notified of any changes as of Wednesday afternoon.

Boone said she would neither confirm nor deny the names of the people disqualified, but said it is too late for organizations who had their representative disqualified to nominate someone new.

"I'd like to keep this as pri-

vate as possible," Boone said of her decision not to release the names of the disqualified nominees.

Boone said she searched for Facebook groups promoting candidates and the ones she saw were removed from the competition. She said she understands people may be upset but said the rules are strict and must be followed as much as possible.

Chapman said she agrees. "It's very unfortunate, and I wish it hadn't happened that way," Chapman said. "But rules are rules, and you can't bend them or break them."

MCAT

From page 1

of material, and taking a prep course is recommended because it is a lot of studying, and you need to be disciplined," said Scott, who also recently took the MCAT.

Scott said the MCAT is worse than taking college final exams, but students always have the option to take it again. "I did well, but if students have received a low score, they can always take it again, and they will if they have that drive and passion to be in the medical field," Scott said.

Scott said the medical field

needs not only smart doctors but also people who are personable and can break medical information down into Lehman's terms for patients. Otherwise, she said, doctors are referred to as a non-social "doc in a box."

Tebo, who spent about four weeks in South Africa this summer, said her strive to become a doctor comes from wanting to work in Africa and help people there.

John Homeycutt, a pediatric neurosurgeon at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, said doctors have to love what they do.

"If you want to get rich, this is not the way to go," Homeycutt said.

GRANDMARC

From page 1

"It seems like the way they put this place together is kind of rag-tag," Volkmer said. "When we came in here nothing was clean, fixtures were hung crooked. It looks like the ceiling is about to fall on us, and they've been constantly working on the elevators."

Janovsky said extra effort was made to complete the physical residences in the complex so students could move in

on time for school.

"We did everything we could to try and accommodate the students for the time frame they wanted," she said. "Some of the amenity areas though were still kind of a work-in-progress when students moved in."

Volkmer said he felt it was unfair amenities were paying for promised amenities, such as the pool and the game room, that were not complete.

Both Volkmer and Aughinbaugh said the maintenance crew seems unresponsive.

"In the stairwell, there were five puddles of throw-up that they left there festering for weeks," Aughinbaugh said. "I couldn't even use those stairs for a while, it smelled so bad."

Resident services manager Marcus Martin said he knew about incidents of throw-up in the stairs but was unaware of it ever going uncleaned for weeks.

"General policy is that when a maintenance item is brought to our attention we try to address it within 24 hours," Martin said.

PICNIC

From page 1

After picking up the food from FrogBytes, students can go straight to cooking with little preparation, Flores said.

"We have this program because we heard (students)," Flores said. "We will find out if it is truly going to be used," Flores said.

Modern 'til Midnight: Mark Time at the Modern

Photo © Timothy Hurley

Live Music
Stumptone
Dove Hunter
Octopus Project
Special assistance provided by Daughter Entertainment.

Café Modern and Lobby Bar
Cash bars are available from 6 pm until last call at 11:45 pm. Enjoy Café Modern food service from 6 to 11 pm.
*Beverages and food are not included in admission price.

Film Programs
Screenings at 6 and 8 pm
A retrospective featuring two of Academy Award-winning director Pedro Almodóvar's greatest films.
Film tickets are \$7.50, \$5.50 for Modern members.

Happenings in the Galleries
Hiroshi Sugimoto: End of Time

Friday, October 20, 6 pm-midnight
Admission is \$10; FREE for Modern members

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth • www.themodern.org

DRIVE U TO SUNDANCE SQUARE

Ride The T For Free With Your TCU ID!
Now TCU students, faculty & staff can ride the T for free just by showing your TCU ID card!
Take the bus to Sundance Square. Go shopping at Ridgmar Mall. Or ride Trinity Railway Express to Dallas. It won't cost you a dime. And think of the money you'll save on gas and parking! You can catch the bus just about anywhere in the city, including on the TCU campus! To find out about routes and schedules, call 817-215-8600 or go to www.the-t.com. We put the T in TCU.

DRIVE U get smart. be driven.

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We drive drivers.



Research

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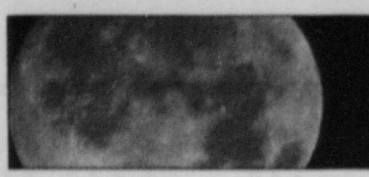
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Q: What did the reviewer say about the restaurant on the moon?
A: Great food, but it had no atmosphere.

THE SKIFF VIEW

Research policies, issues before voting

College students are only a few short years away from entering the job market. How competitive will that market be? How much money will we have to pay in taxes once we receive that first paycheck? And what type of job security will there be? Students assume they have little influence on the answers to these questions. But in reality, they do. Decisions affecting those issues will be made by the men and women elected to office — from local government to Washington D.C. This coming election will not only affect citizens in the business world but also in the societal future. College students' control is in the voting booth, but, as young people, it is not enough — as some urge — to just get out and vote; it is important students become well-informed on issues that matter and vote in the best interest. Decisions made by elected officials directly affect young Americans. They

decide foreign policy such as the war on terror and the war in Iraq that affect not only brave service men and women and their friends and family, but also politicians have a huge impact on our economy and our national security. Many people have all seen P-Diddy jump around on MTV's Total Request Live and shout "Rock the vote." Those just urging college students to vote emphasize the importance of making voices heard but they don't seem to realize the importance of making that voice educated and worth listening to. If students do not take the time to research the issues, they may actually be voting against their best interests. Many young people believe there is no reason to vote, that it won't make any difference because those elected only listen to lobbyists or the big campaign donors. But if that is true — or even a little true — doing nothing only accelerates the problem.

Jamie Crum for the editorial board

OOOFSPOOF • ROLF NELSON



Text-messaging too confusing for meaningful conversations

Wuz up u goin 2 the party 2nite?
no. can't hav hmwrk.
ok. call l8r
will u b my friend? i

COMMENTARY



Tasha Hayton

plan 2 talk thru text only. sry. i dont hav nuff time to call. i tell jokes w/ j/k after them 2 show im kiddin. i say wuz up but

voice, and through text messages, these elements of communication are lost. I have a friend who understands my sense of humor and who is just as sarcastic as I am, but when we have a basic text message conversation, our foundation of understanding is lost.

I smile while insulting you so you know I'm joking. My friend is the same, but when we start talking through text, our methods of subtle communication are lost, and we are left with expressionless words.

I sent a message to my friend asking whether we still had plans that night, and I got a brief, "Ya, i guess i just ate tho."

I was offended at the brief blow off of our night since we had planned on dinner. By saying he had just eaten, I assumed our plans were canceled.

So I responded: "fine i'll find something better to do."

That set off a long sequence of text messages which ended with us being so angry we couldn't even call each other. The problem would have never occurred had I called him or he called me.

Predictive text has made it difficult to decipher whether your friend thinks it's all right that you meet later, but the response you get is, "thats book."

That's book? Is that a new slang? No, it's just the

same letter combination as "cool." It's a convenience, like the text message, and can be abused.

We are careless enough in our text responses without adding the confusion of a mistakenly chosen word. Of and me are the same. Home, gone and good are the same. Hate, have and gave are the same.

Awake and cycle are the same (which was funny when I got a message that said, "call me when you're cycle").

You get a message that looks like this: "I hate to in good, but she's good gone without of."

The intended message was: "I have to go home, but she's gone home without me."

I got a message once from a friend who was locked out of his dorm, and he wanted me to come get him. But, I didn't know what he meant when he said: "Can u bone get of?"

I am still a fan of the text message; it is convenient. I have learned there are some people I can text message without needing extra explanation and there are many whom I can't.

Take time to read what you say before you send it off into the world. It's still writing, and you can't take back something once it has been written. Be careful, and when in doubt, just call.

Tasha Hayton is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Flower Mound.

Scandal shouldn't discourage

Disgust, outrage, betrayal: The scandal centered on former Florida Representative Mark Foley has left a sour taste in the mouths of American citizens.

COMMENTARY



Matt Messel

The scandal began when concerns were raised about inappropriate contact Foley had with teenage pages through electronic messages.

Just when it seemed Americans' faith in Congress could not slip any lower, it has. Since the unfolding of the scandal, Congress' approval rating has plummeted to a meager 27 percent, according to a New York Times poll released earlier this week.

I am apathetic toward the situation. Like millions of Americans, I am fed up with the corruption on Capitol Hill — on the sides of both Republicans and Democrats.

As there seems to be little I can do to stop the corruption, I am simply tempted to stop caring about our government.

Yet this apathetic approach to political involvement — or noninvolvement — is certainly not the wisest choice. Corrupted or not, politicians on Capitol Hill will continue to make the decisions that affect our futures. It is the men and women of Congress who will set our tax rates, make our laws, and involve us in long-term foreign conflicts.

As a result of the Foley

scandal, 5 percent of Americans are more likely to not vote at all, according to The Times poll. The numbers may be significantly higher for college-aged voters, who have not experienced as many political scandals and are more likely to be turned away from political involvement by the current one.

These findings are troublesome. We must not let ourselves fall into this 5 percent. We can run from political involvement, but we cannot hide. Political decisions affect every aspect of our lives.

Rather than disengaging from politics in response to political scandals, we should take the few positive steps we can to prevent them. We should start by getting to know the candidates in the upcoming election.

We must ask some important questions: What is the track record of this candidate? Has he or she been involved in any questionable practices or decisions? Through such questioning, we may be able to lessen the chance of future political scandals.

Many were shocked when President Bill Clinton, a widely-respected leader, was involved in an extramarital affair with young intern Monica Lewinsky. Likewise, Foley's own wife refused to believe the content of his inappropriate instant message conversations with teenage pages, according to a The New York Times report.

Such cases remind us of

"Rather than disengaging from politics in response to political scandals, we should take the few positive steps we can to prevent them."

Matt Messel
Skiff Columnist

another truth: politicians are human. They are apt to make mistakes just like the rest of us.

This does not mean congressmen should not pay for their indiscretions. Foley deserved to be ousted from political office for his actions, as many believe Clinton should have been for his.

It only means we cannot expect politicians and the political system to be perfect. More importantly, we should not become disillusioned and, consequently, disengaged when the political system falters.

Our reaction to political scandals should be one of engagement rather than disengagement. We should voice our complaints and we should research the candidates in the upcoming elections, but we must never give up on political involvement.

We must continue to care. We have far too much at stake to simply give up on the government.

Matt Messel is a sophomore sociology major from Omaha, Neb. His column appears every Thursday.

Musicians should remember original fans, old days

Remember the one band you found before anyone else? That one band, that only around 50 fans showed up to its concerts ... the band about which you thought, "I can't wait 'till they get famous,"

COMMENTARY



Saerom Yoo

not only because it plays good music, but also because the band members are great people whose passion you respect. That's the kind of freshness and humility I hope for more bands to preserve in the future.

But instead, these talented musicians eventually develop a huge fan base, get recognized by major record labels, and all of a sudden, their music loses the unique touch that attracted you to them in the first place.

Music is one of those things people cannot live without.

Tastes in music vary, but no matter the preference, people passionately adhere to their own.

Check out any music forum on the Internet, such as Absolute-Punk.net, and you'll see plenty of name-calling and attacking because someone made the mistake of commending a band, such as Simple Plan, that others dislike. It is sad but intriguing how some people correlate music taste with the quality of a person's character — such as how smart or how cool that person is. But the passion and love people have for their preferred music is also beautiful.

What's even more powerful is the musicians' passion and love for their own music. Talent takes them far, but talent alone is not enough for them to reach music

fans' hearts. And the most important factor in earning a fan base is being able to interact with fans through a common goal — to become one through their mutual love for the band's music.

The one most important circuit to musician-fan interaction is live performance — not just any live performance — but a small-venue-one-heart-and-one-soul-waiting-outside-the-band-trailer-with-a-camera kind of show.

But when bands get big, they no longer play at the more personal, interactive venues such as Gypsy Tea Room in Dallas. Their fame and popularity have upgraded them to the standards of headlining at the Nokia Theater. These musicians no longer shake hands and exchange names with fans in the venues' parking lots. Now, these gods of teeny-boppers are

too divine for the fans to be able to touch them.

By this time, love and passion for music has been replaced by greed for money and fame. The musicians no longer play the kind of music that inspired them to start bands in the first place. Instead, they cater to the mainstream corporate record labels and radio stations, even if it means sacrificing their originality.

I am not censuring the increasing number of fans or the mainstream record labels. The growth of fans of good music is inevitable and excellent, considering there would not be a music scene without it. As for the record labels, no one can blame them for doing their jobs. The responsibility is purely upon the shoulders of the musicians.

Congratulations, your hard work and talent has paid off, and now

you are signed to a huge record label with the support of thousands of fans. What are you going to do now?

The higher musicians climb up the fame ladder with the more influence they have on the music scene and, most importantly, the fans. It is the musicians' responsibility to stay consistent with their original goals and purposes they had in mind in the very beginning of their journeys. It is their responsibility to show gratitude to the fans who kept them alive during their pre-fame, pre-money years. They should come back down to Earth every once in a while, play at smaller venues, talk to their fans and reconnect with their initial passions and goals.

Saerom Yoo is a sophomore news-editorial journalism major from Pusan, South Korea. Her column appears every Thursday.

AMY HALLFORD
ADRIENNE LANG
LESLIE HONEY
KATHLEEN THURBER
JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF

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

Yankees pitcher crashes plane into NY skyscraper

By STEVENSON SWANSON
Chicago Tribune

A small fixed-wing aircraft piloted by a New York Yankees pitcher slammed into a posh Manhattan residential skyscraper Wednesday afternoon, leaving at least two people dead and the city reeling with initial fears of terrorism over what was determined to be a tragic accident.

Nonetheless, as a precaution North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) scrambled fighter jets over several U.S. and Canadian cities minutes after the plane crashed into the midsection of the 50-story building at 2:45 p.m. Eyewitnesses said the plane smashed into the north face of the red brick building, producing a fireball that engulfed several apartments around the 30th floor and dropped debris into the street.

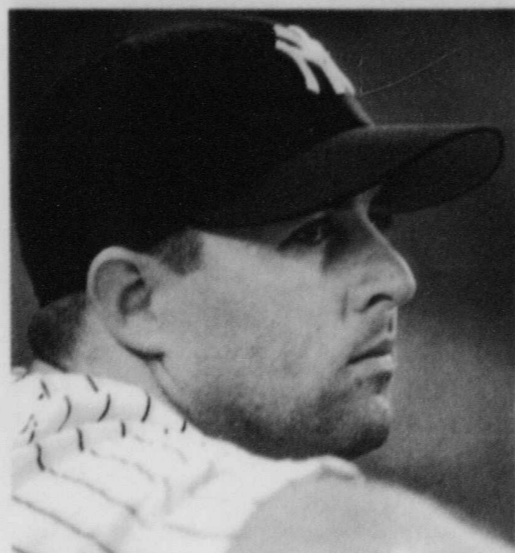
The aircraft, a Cirrus SR 20, carrying an instructor and a pilot believed to be Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle, took off from New Jersey's private Teterboro Airport, just across the Hudson River from northern Manhattan, at about 2:30 p.m. The pilot reportedly made a distress call just before colliding with the 18-year-old Upper East Side structure.

Joe Torre, manager of the New York Yankees, confirmed that the plane belonged to Lidle, 34, who came to the Yankees from the Philadelphia Phillies on July 30. Lidle reportedly earned his pilot's license about one year ago and bought the 2002 four-seat aircraft, with about 400 hours in the air, for \$187,000.

With the constant scream of sirens echoing through the city and television images of fires blazing and smoke billowing from windows, the aftermath of the crash immediately invoked memories of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But, within 90 minutes of the crash, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued statements describing the incident as an apparent accident, not terrorism, in hopes of reassuring the public.

A spokesman for the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications said the city was monitoring the crash in New York, while communicating with federal aviation and emergency management contacts. The Illinois Air National Guard knew of the New York crash, but had not contributed fighter jets from the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield to air defense anywhere in the state, a spokeswoman said.

Among the swiftest to respond was the



MCT CAMPUS

Sears Tower. Management spokesman Mark Spencer said an e-mail was sent soon after the crash to reassure tenants that it appeared to be an accident.

Shortly after the crash, hundreds of New York police officers and firefighters swiftly converged at the Belaire condominiums, on East 72nd Street between York Avenue and the FDR Drive in a response that was "massive, quick and coordinated," said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaking at a late afternoon press conference.

Manuel Larrea, 66, was in his 24th floor apartment when he heard the plane approach the building. "It was a motor, it was roaring. One or two seconds later, I heard the explosion. I felt a boom. It was all of a sudden. It was terrible," said Larrea, who works as a butler for a family living in a 48th floor penthouse.

The neighborhood is one of the city's most affluent, filled with hospitals, medical offices and expensive apartments like those at the Belaire, where an 864-square-foot two-bedroom unit currently is listed at \$1,049,000. A number of the lower floors of the Belaire house medical offices.

Long tongues of flame flared from shattered apartment windows before firefighters brought the fire under control about 30 minutes after it began. Eleven firefighters were treated for minor injuries. No fatalities or serious injuries among building residents initially were reported.

Bush focuses on diplomacy due to North Korea's weapons

By RON HUTCHESON AND JONATHAN LANDAY
McClatchy Newspapers

President Bush stressed diplomacy over military action in the standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program Wednesday as North Korea threatened more weapons tests.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Kofi Annan said the world faces "an extremely difficult situation" and called for direct talks between the United States and North Korea. Bush rejected one-on-one negotiations, but said he remains committed to diplomacy. He urged the U.N. to impose stiff economic sanctions on North Korea.

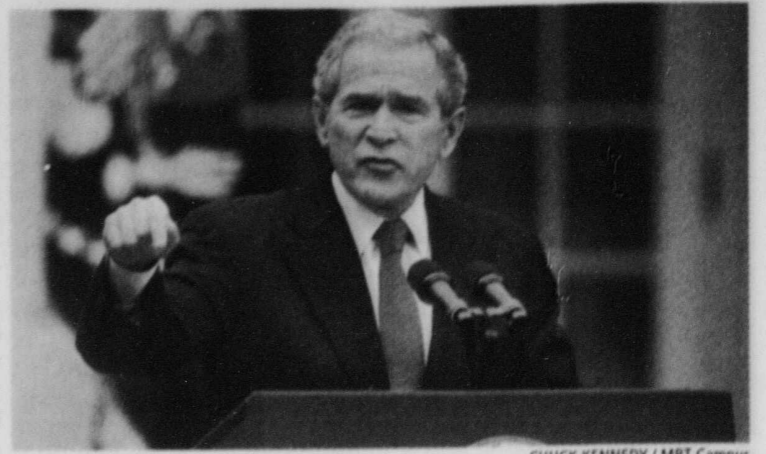
North Korea said it would consider international economic sanctions a declaration of war.

"The more they push us, the stronger our response will be," an unidentified North Korean official told the South Korean news service, Yonhap. Other North Korean officials raised the possibility of additional weapons tests.

U.S. intelligence officials were still trying to confirm North Korea's claim Sunday that it had successfully tested a nuclear weapon.

At a White House news conference, Bush reiterated previous statements that he would not tolerate a nuclear-armed North Korea. At the same time, he downplayed the possibility of military action.

"We have no intention of attacking North Korea," he said. U.S. officials are pushing the U.N. Security Council to approve a package of sanctions intended to throttle North Korea's ability to buy or sell high-tech weaponry. The United States is also seeking authority to stop and search North



CHUCK KENNEDY / MCT Campus
President Bush holds a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House on Wednesday and urged "serious repercussions" for North Korea's apparent nuclear test.

Korean vessels. "I suspect the council will come together and take a firm action against North Korea," Annan told reporters at the U.N. "It's important for the whole world."

Bush said his goal is to convince North Korean leader Kim Jong Il that abandoning nuclear weapons is the only way to end North Korea's international ostracism and revive its failed economy.

"We'll give diplomacy a chance to work," Bush told reporters. "There's a way forward for the North Korean leader to choose."

Japan, rattled by unconfirmed rumors of more North Korean weapons tests, announced a six-month ban on imports from North Korea. The Japanese sanctions also prohibit North Korean ships from entering Japanese ports and effectively ban visits by North Korean citizens.

Military analysts said the United States has few good military options if diplomacy fails.

Former Defense Secretary William Perry said the Pentagon prepared a plan to take

out North Korea's main nuclear research facility during the Clinton administration, but decided not to use it.

In a teleconference call with reporters Wednesday, Perry said an air attack might have been effective at the time because all of North Korea's plutonium was stored at the facility in Yongbyon.

"I had a detailed plan in front of me. I could have snapped my fingers and done it in a minute. It would have been effective. The point is that I never recommended to the president doing it," he said. "The military option was truly the option of last resort."

Perry said North Korea's Stalinist regime has almost certainly scattered its stocks of plutonium bomb fuel to secret locations around the country by now, ruling out the use of air strikes to destroy them. The teleconference was arranged by the Center for American Progress, a liberal policy institute.

Bush, who also might have had a chance to order an effective air strike early in his administration, said he considered "all options" but chose diplomacy.

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Army plans to maintain current troop levels in Iraq

By DREW BROWN
McClatchy Newspapers

The Army is making plans to keep its current troop levels in Iraq through 2010 if they're needed, the Army's chief of staff said Wednesday.

But Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker cautioned against putting too much emphasis on the Army's plans, saying conditions in Iraq would dictate force levels. He said it would be easier to pull troops "off the table" or shorten their tours in Iraq rather than to add more forces later.

"This is the way you'd expect us to operate," Schoomaker said to reporters. "This is not a prediction that things are going poorly or better;

it's just that I have to have enough ammo in the magazine (so) that I can continue to shoot as long as they want us to shoot."

The general's remarks came as sectarian violence in Iraq between Sunni insurgents and Shiite militias showed no signs of relenting. U.S. casualties have risen sharply while domestic political support for the war continues to slide.

There are about 142,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, with the overwhelming majority from the Army. Schoomaker said Army troop rotation plans for 2008-2010 call for keeping the current level of 15 combat brigades in the country.

But the general said that in order to sustain current levels, the Army would have to continue to rely on the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld slammed the notion that Schoomaker's remarks meant U.S. troops would be in Iraq in 2010.

"Schoomaker did not, of course, say anything like that, and it's unfortunate that stories go out mischaracterizing what people say," he said at a Pentagon press conference.

The defense secretary said he didn't want to speculate how many troops might be required to sustain the current pace of deployments.



Army trainer Sgt. Thomas Heeter oversees scaling-wall drills for pre-Iraq and Afghanistan developmental training at Fort Dix. TOM GRALISH / MCT Campus

Scientists concerned about fate of fish along Texas coast

By JACK DOUGLAS JR.
McClatchy Newspapers

Marine biologists hope a cold front forecast for this week will help dissipate a toxic red tide alga that has affected a 60-mile stretch of Texas coastline, killing thousands of fish and irritating the eyes and lungs of anglers and beachgoers.

At the same time, other scientists are preparing to test isolated pockets of water on Lake Whitney, 70 miles south of Fort Worth, in the hopes of finding a way to rid of a poisonous golden alga that has killed millions of fish in Texas lakes and rivers and drained an estimated \$25 million from the state's inland fishing industry since its detection in 1985.

On the coast, officials are tracking patches of red tide

algae, which cause red- or maroon-colored "blooms." They have been spotted from the outer coast of Matagorda Island to about 10 miles inside the Padre Island National Seashore, near Corpus Christi.

The red tide spread has become significant enough to be discussed Monday at a meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a federal-state partnership to address critical coastal issues.

"Because these blooms contain neurotoxins, they threaten human and ecosystem health and can substantially impact coastal economies," Margaret Davidson, coastal services director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said in a statement.

The blooms, first spotted Sept. 29, have littered beaches

with decaying fish, turning off tourists, especially on windy days when surf spray carries irritants from the algae, said Mark Fisher, science director for the coastal fisheries division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Because the red tide alga thrives during heat, biologists hope cloudy conditions Monday and a cold front Thursday will kill off the blooms, Fisher said.

While there is no concern that the current red tide spread will ultimately poison seafood, it still can hurt tourism and fishing industries, said Meridith Byrd, "harmful algae bloom coordinator" for the Parks and Wildlife Department.

Since 1986, red tide algae have killed 50 million fish along

the Texas coast, Byrd said. In 2000, a three-week infestation in Galveston Bay cost the area \$18 million in tourism, beach cleanup and halted harvesting shellfish, she said.

Meanwhile, experts are banking on advanced science to cope with a golden alga, a winter-born poison that has killed "well into the millions" of fish in Texas lakes, rivers and streams, said James Grover, a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington who specializes in the biology of inland waters.

In recent years, the golden alga has been a problem in Possum Kingdom Lake, Whitney and Granbury lakes, said Grover, who is part of a team of scientists hoping to find a cure for the alga's ill effects. While not harmful to



humans, the toxin has devastated Texas' fish population. "If there is a big fish kill on a lake, it will keep the tourists and fishermen away for a period of time. And that's a big economic impact," Grover said.

The UTA biologist said he was hopeful but not necessarily optimistic that a breakthrough will be found, noting that in 21 years of testing, experts have yet to find the "magic bullet" that can eliminate golden algae.



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Bob Saget takes on game-show 'mob,' shells out a million

By RICK PORTER
Zap2it.com

A significant portion of America knows Bob Saget as Danny from "Full House" and as the host of "America's Funniest Home Videos," two squeaky-clean roles on television from the past couple of decades.

A smaller portion of the populace knows Saget for his sometimes filthy stand-up act, an aspect of his career he showcased in "The Aristocrats" last year.

Starting Friday, TV viewers can see a Saget that falls somewhere between those two poles. He'll be the host of a new game show, "1 vs. 100," on NBC. The show pits one player against a "mob" of 100 people in a trivia contest. For every answer the single player gets right and others get wrong, he or she wins money. Anyone who eliminates all 100 members of the mob will walk away with \$1 million.

The 100 have something to play for too: If the "1" gets a question wrong, the remaining members of the mob split the pot. That aspect of the

show was one of the things that attracted Saget.

"It got real," Saget says. "At some points, it just felt funny — there are a bunch of people in this mob, and they know they're on television, so we'd come back from commercial, and 'It's the angry mob!' ... But when there really was money at stake, they got very serious about it."

Saget professes a long-standing love of game shows, having watched "You Bet Your Life" reruns and "The Match Game" while he was growing up. At their heart, he says, "1 vs. 100" isn't that different from those classic shows, "except when 'The \$64,000 Question' or 'You Bet Your Life' was going on, there wasn't an angry, competing mob yelling at the person."

Like NBC's other game show, "Deal or No Deal," "1 vs. 100" originated overseas and was brought to this country by Endemol USA. The game retains its basic format, but Endemol's Scott St. John, who's executive-producing the show, says he tried to give the American version its



GIULIO MARCOCCI/ABACA PRESS

own flair.

Thus, instead of just asking players the name of the secretary-general of the United Nations, "1 vs. 100" asks, "If you were playing 'The Name Game' with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, how would it go?" (Answer: "Kofi Kofi Bo Bofi.")

"I think it speaks to the fact that ... just as we have a unique host for this show,

we wanted to find a voice for the questions that was also unique and didn't feel similar to or make you think of other shows that have come before it," St. John says.

Likewise, Saget isn't there just to throw in punchlines. What he enjoys about the game, he says, is similar to what he likes doing in his stand-up act — "just bouncing off people," as he puts it.

Alternative country CD may rock listeners

By DAVID WEUSTE
Staff Writer

Spady Brannan's first album, "The Long Way Around and Other Short Stories" was released last week and has been a long time coming for country music fans who have been listening to Brannan's music for years without ever knowing it.

For the past three decades, Brannan has been one of the pre-eminent songwriters, studio musicians and producers in Nashville, Tenn.

He is an official member of "Who's Who" on the Nashville studio musician A-list, has two No. 1 recordings, six chart toppers and three country music industry awards to his name. Yet, it was not until recently that Brannan set out to release an album of his own.

This album will surprise people who have disliked country due to the genre's drawls because Brannan's vocals are as clear as any soft-rock vocalist of a Northern upbringing — if not clearer.

The album is extremely refined and evidence of someone who has been involved in the music industry for years and has been on all sides of the sound-

board. Many of the songs sound more like soft-rock than country, and the track "Smilin' Eyes" even throws in a blues flavor.

The album sticks to a familiar country theme about love and loss, yet instead of a depressing tone, it has an extremely positive outlook toward the future. The album was written after his relationship ended with a woman he calls his soulmate. Each track tells a different part of the relationship, ending with the track, "I Did" with the notion that it is better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all.

The album as a whole has lyrical content that surpasses almost anything circulating on today's country radio stations. Brannan's latest release plays more like a classic rock album rather than a current country album. It is an extremely enjoyable listen, and everyone can find one tune on the album he or she can relate to.

A good buy for fans of: Tom Petty's "A Highway Companion", Jimmy Buffett's "Beach House on the Moon" and country music in general.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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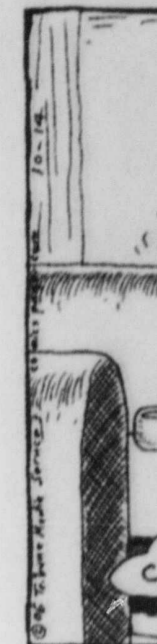
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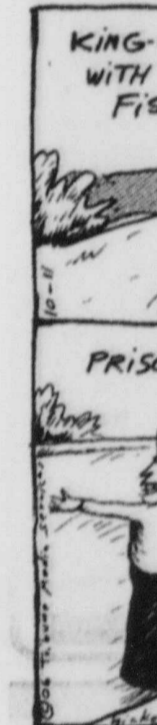


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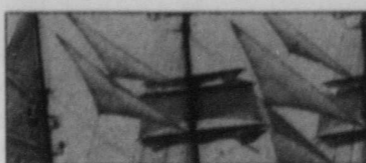
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TODAY IN HISTORY

1492: Columbus reaches the New World. After sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sights a Bahamian island, believing he has reached East Asia.

FAMOUS QUOTE

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— Franklin P. Jones

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Quigmans

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

Wednesday's Solutions

5	2	7	9	3	8	4	6	1
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3	1	2	6	7	5	9	8	4
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See Friday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

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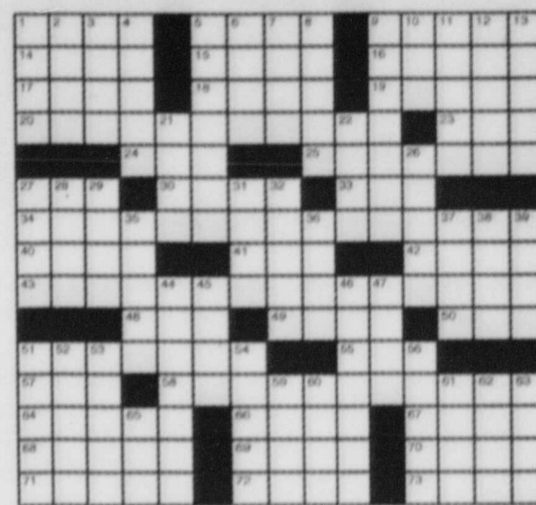
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- 15 Artifice
- 16 Liquid measure
- 17 Hosiery shade
- 18 Biblical twin
- 19 Lowest deck
- 20 Start of Olin Miller quote
- 23 Black cuckoo
- 24 Doctors' org.
- 25 Turned outward
- 27 PC key
- 30 Chemical grouping
- 33 Vacuum's lack
- 34 Part 2 of quote
- 40 Wear out
- 41 Corp. head
- 42 Arabian gulf
- 43 Part 3 of quote
- 48 Notable time
- 49 Ticket info
- 50 WWII landing craft
- 51 Passage
- 55 Ave. crossers
- 57 Gray soldier, briefly
- 58 End of quote
- 64 Violin maker
- 66 -do-well
- 67 Suffer stiffness
- 68 Mountaineer's spike
- 69 Alum
- 70 Pack down tightly
- 71 Cubic meter
- 72 Evening in Bologna
- 73 River of New York



By Alan P. Gischwang
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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See Friday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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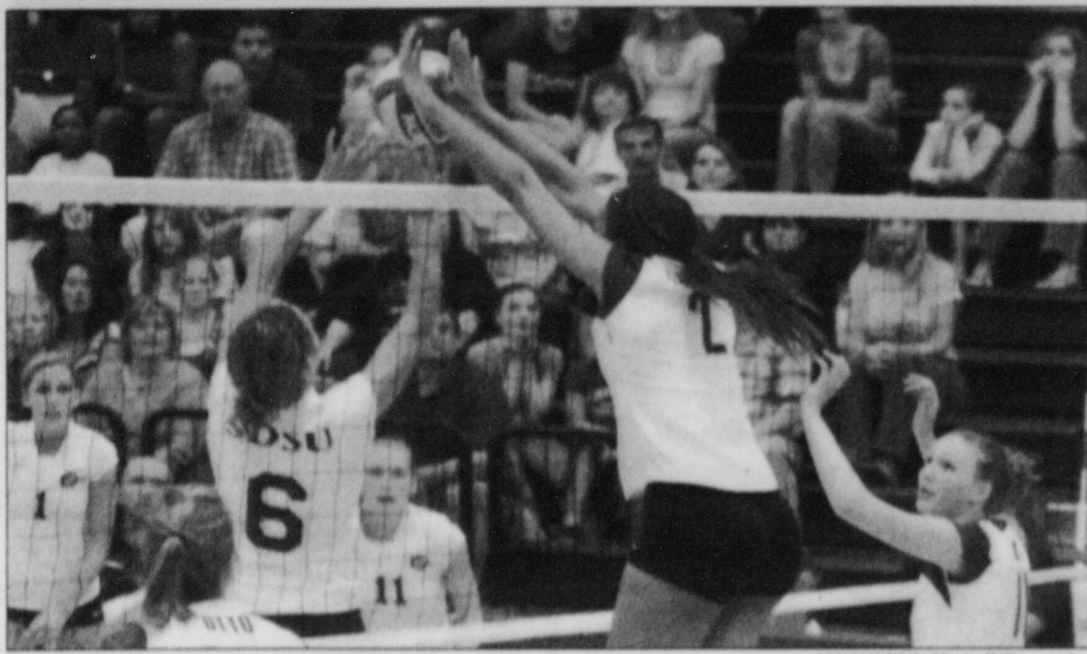
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TOMORROW IN SPORTS

Read about how the soccer team feels about its upcoming games at home against Wyoming and away against UNLV.

Team spirit still high despite losses



Senior middle blocker Kourtney Edwards returns the ball against San Diego State last week. TCU faces New Mexico and Texas-Pan American at home this weekend. The Frogs are 3-4 in the Mountain West Conference after losses to BYU and Utah last weekend.

By RACHEL MCDANIEL
Staff Reporter

The Horned Frogs' volleyball team looks to improve its record, and despite recent losses, is happy with its season thus far.

The Frogs, who are 3-4 in the Mountain West Conference, host conference foe New Mexico Lobos on Friday night, and team members said they hope to bounce back after last weekend's two losses.

"We've had a really good start," junior right-side hitter Emily Allen said. "In preseason, we did well, and we've struggled a little in conference, but I think next time in conference, we're going to pull it together and do really, really well."

The two losses last weekend came against the No. 16 Utah Utes and No. 19 BYU Cougars.

"We feel really good coming off this weekend because we played top 20 teams in the

UPCOMING GAMES

- The Horned Frogs host the New Mexico Lobos at 7 p.m. Friday and play the Texas Pan-American Broncos at 3 p.m. Saturday.
- Both matches will take place in the University Recreation Center.

nation, and we played them really well," Allen said.

Sophomore setter Nirelle Hampton said she was also not too disappointed about her team's performance last weekend.

"I think our team is going to bounce back from our losses," Hampton said. "We still play everyone one more time, so we still have a great shot even if we've lost a couple."

Head coach Prentice Lewis said she thinks her team has played fantastic so far this season and hopes it continues to do so.

"Obviously we don't play to be just mediocre," Lewis said. "Our goal is to be as good as we could possibly be, and that could be high in the confer-

ence or that could be in the middle of the conference."

Allen and Hampton both said they believe their team has a chance to finish at the top of the conference.

"I think this next time around in conference, we're going to play all the teams really hard and most likely beat them," Allen said. "I think the end of the year's going to be very good for us."

Hampton said as long as the team continues to have good practices and work on the things they need to work on, they will do well.

"I definitely think we have a really bright future as long as we continue to work hard," Hampton said.

Runners hope for national bid

By MARCUS MURPHREE
Staff Reporter

The invitational cross country meets have come to a close and the women's team is preparing for the NCAA Pre-Nationals meet this Saturday in Terra Haute, Ind.

After placing in the top three team spots in their prior meets at North Texas and the Oklahoma State Cowboy Jamboree in Stillwater, Okla., the Frogs will enter their largest race this season with hopes of better placement than last year's 25th-place finish out of 34 teams.

The Pre-Nationals is used to set the team qualifiers for the NCAA Championship race that takes place November 20.

"We are hoping for an at-large bid to the NCAA Championship this year," freshman Dani Selner said.

At-large bids are given to teams based on their performances in the NCAA Pre-Nationals meet as well as in regional competitions throughout the season. A committee of coaches from various track and field programs determines which teams should qualify to compete in the NCAA Championships, according to the 2006 NCAA Division I Cross Country Coaches Memorandum. The memo contains the latest coaches information regarding NCAA Championship regulations for the fall 2006 cross country season and was written Aug. 30.

"We need to run really

well, and we want to finish third in our region this year," head coach Eric Heins said.

TCU is part of the NCAA South Central Region, which is composed of schools from Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, Heins said.

According to the 2005 NCAA South Central Regional meet scorecard, TCU finished eighth in a field of 10 teams.

Leading the women's team through the season are senior Calanda Stewart and freshman Carlene Mayfield.

"They both create competition and a higher level of excellence on the team," Lisa Baity, a freshman teammate said.

Selner said the skill levels of Stewart and Mayfield encourages other members on the team.

"I usually feel really competitive when I'm training next to Carlene," Selner said.

Stewart's top five placements in all of her races this season put her in a position for success in Indiana, Heins said. "She is running amazing right now, and she should go in and go for a top 25 placement," Heins said.

The team may be hindered at the Pre-Nationals as Mayfield has been fighting a sinus infection that might affect her performance Saturday, Heins said.

Heins continues to push the runners this season and has been focusing on speed workouts in recent practices involving 1,000-meter



Senior cross country runner Calandra Stewart finished in fourth place at the 70th annual Cowboy Jamboree Saturday.

MEDIA RELATIONS

repeats, Selner said.

The purpose of the speed and interval workouts for the team are to improve the runners' turnover and recovery times to help prepare for the Pre-Nationals, Selner said.

In addition to helping prepare the team for the conference meet, the Pre-Nationals are a way for team members to gauge how they will perform against other teams in their region, Heins said.

The Pre-Nationals race is the predecessor to the Mountain West Conference Championships, which will be held in Salt Lake City Oct. 28.

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