



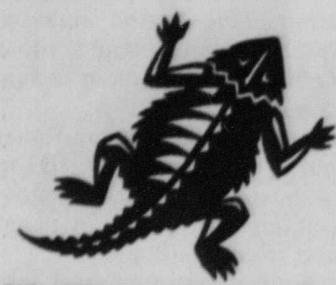
**SPORTS**  
The 2006-2007 NCAA bowl schedule is being finalized. See how the BCS system is organized and managed on **PAGE 10**.



**FEATURES**  
Find out if Tenacious D strummed fans' wishes with its new movie **TOMORROW**.



**NEWS**  
Learn about TCU's biggest fan and her collection of Horned Frog memorabilia **TOMORROW**.



# TCU DAILY SKIFF

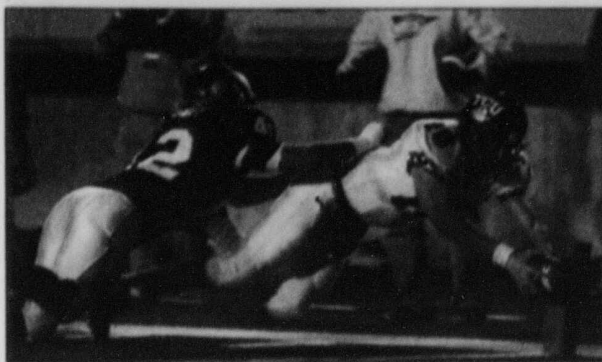
Tuesday

November 28, 2006  
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## Football team accepts bid to Poinsettia Bowl



JUSTIN SOGGE / The Rocky Mountain Collegian  
Quarterback Jeff Ballard dives past Colorado State linebacker Jake Pottorff and into the end zone to score a touchdown Saturday. TCU won 45-14 and will play Air Force at home Dec. 2.

By MARCUS MURPHREE  
Staff Reporter

The Frogs collect their eighth postseason berth in nine years as they are set to take on the Northern Illinois Huskies in the second annual San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

"It's a reward for the kids and how they played all year," head coach Gary Patterson said during a press conference Monday afternoon.

Mark Cohen, director of athletics media relations, said the Poinsettia Bowl on Dec. 19 will be

the first bowl in the 2006 NCAA Bowl season and will come 17 days after the Frogs' regular season ends.

"Last year we played 11 straight weeks with no breaks, and then we had 49 days before the Houston Bowl," Cohen said. "This year we only have 17 days to wait."

This will be the first bowl game that the Frogs have not played in Texas since the 2002 Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn., according to espn.com. During that game, TCU beat the Colorado State Rams 17-3.

Patterson said the early announcement of the bowl bid will help with travel plans for fans and families of the Frogs.

Patterson said bowl-travel rules differ from those during the regular season, so TCU can bring all of the eligible athletes to San Diego for the game.

"Everyone who is both eligible with grades and transfer rules

can go to the bowl game," Patterson said. "It is a reward for all the guys who have worked hard."

The Frogs are teetering on the edge of a top 25 ranking, according to the AP and USA Today polls.

"I am a believer that the bowl game is a big thing for us, for the outlook of next season's rank," Patterson said.

See **BOWL**, page 2



## President: SGA needs student feedback

By MICHAEL BISHOP  
Staff Writer

Students involved in student government have to face many challenges — from gaining the support of their peers to working with university administrators; student government leaders find themselves working to overcome many obstacles.

Student Government Association President Trevor Heaney said the goal of student government is to act as a liaison between the administration, the students, alumni and the surrounding community.

"SGA should do things to bring everyone together," Heaney said. "It needs to judge and see what it is everyone wants TCU to form into over the next few years."

In order to be an effective representation of the students, Heaney said, SGA must first hear from them.

One of the best ways for students to voice their opinions is through voting in elections, said Butch Oxendine Jr., executive director of the American Student Government Association.

Voter turnout in campus elections, however, is not that high.

According to ASGA data, 2 percent to 4 percent of U.S. students vote in campus elections. Private schools often see 15 percent to 20 percent voter turnout.

Oxendine said TCU is above average with 22 percent, but 30 percent is often considered to be the sign of a great SGA.

"Voter turnout is an indicator if (the SGA) is well-known and treated with respect," Oxendine said.

Taylor Russ, student body president at Southern Methodist University, said one-quarter of SMU's student body, on average, votes in elections.

Despite the voter turnout, Russ said, SGA positions are almost always full.

"Very rarely do people run unopposed," Russ said.

Mark Laymon, student body president at Baylor University, said despite poor voter turnout, the buildup to the election is active.

"There are often huge campaign teams for the student body officers," Laymon said.

Citing past state and national college-age voter turnout, See **SGA**, page 2



MICHELLE THOMAS / Staff Photographer  
Freshman premajor Kelsey McDaniel, left, and freshman fashion merchandising major Haley Luper view senior art education major Christin Sharp's ceramics senior exhibition Monday evening at the University Art Gallery in Moudy North. The exhibition ends Friday. Sharp said she has been working on these pieces since 2005.

## In a League of Her Own

### Senior art exhibition to showcase 1 student

By MATT MABE  
Staff Reporter

The senior art exhibition is featuring the work of just one senior this semester.

Senior art education major Christin Sharp is the lone artist featured in the exhibition hall in Moudy North this semester. This is a rarity considering most semesters feature about four or five graduating seniors.

Sharp's emphasis is in

ceramics, and six of her pieces are on display in the exhibition.

Sharp said she has been working on these pieces since 2005 and said the inspiration behind her works isn't necessarily one single thought or idea.

"My inspiration is everything floating up in my head," Sharp said. "It is the sort of thing where it flows and just happens."

Sharp said her adviser and instructor Chris Powell has helped guide her way through the art program at TCU.

"Chris Powell is my ceramics teacher," Sharp said. "He's the one that pushes me, and he knows my strengths and weaknesses, which is what I need to hear to keep going."

Powell said he's very proud of what Sharp has accomplished.

Exhibit is on display Today — Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Christin has really stretched above and beyond with her works," Powell said. "I'm very happy for her."

Sharp said after graduation she plans to teach art in Argyle or Keller schools. She has currently been a student-teacher at Arlington Heights High School.

## Professor's 45-year run ends in May

By LAURA FLORES  
Staff Reporter

At 8 a.m., anyone would need a cup of coffee as the smell fills the little corner office and the early sun washes through the second floor window onto the carpeted floor. Posters of European countries and French sayings adorn the white walls. Everything is in order for a Monday morning.

It's just another early day for Jean Knecht, who will spend almost 40 minutes preparing for his four 50-minute classes.

"You think after all these years I would know my material," Knecht said.

What he does know after 45 years of teaching French at TCU, he said, is each of his classes needs different attention, and planning the day's lesson is a way to cater to that.

Knecht said his teaching is a reflection of his European discipline and high expectations of his students, and after four decades of consistent hard work, Knecht will be on leave next semester and retire in May.

"I'm going to miss him," said Betty Nance, an administrative assistant in the department of modern languages and literatures. "He is a good example of what a university faculty member should be. He's dedicated, he expects his students to do their best and he will do whatever it is for them to do their best."

Lauren Bringle, a freshman See **KNECHT**, page 2

## Officials: ID card price increased to deter loss but success remains to be seen

By RACHAEL EMBLER  
Staff Reporter

The replacement student ID card price was raised from \$10 to \$20 as a deterrent to students losing cards and for security reasons, said a university director — but whether this

### ID INFO:

**LAST FALL:**  
• 1,605 cards were replaced  
• 731 were found and re-encoded

**THIS FALL:**  
• 1,312 cards have been replaced  
• 520 have been found and re-encoded

has caused a decline in the number of replaced ID cards remains to be seen.

Emily Burgwyn, the director of student affairs and information services, said as of Nov. 17, there have been 1,312 cards replaced, which is about 290 fewer cards than last year. There have also been about 211 fewer cards found and re-encoded, she said.

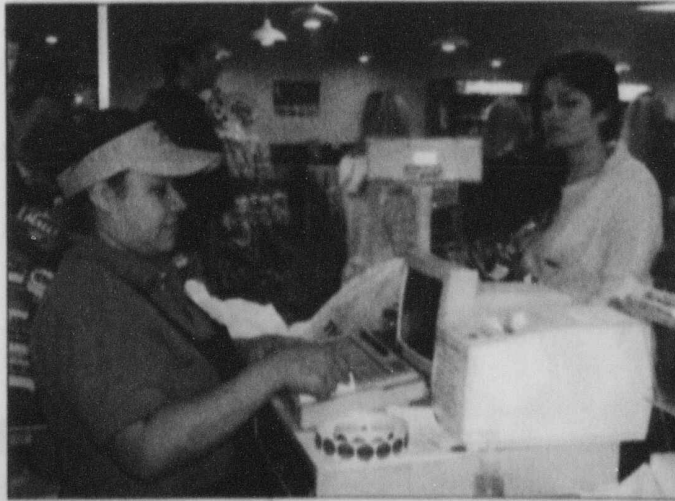
However, she said she won't know if the number of replaced cards has actually decreased until the end of the semester, and it is hard to determine whether a decrease would be due to the price increase.

Student ID cards are needed for a variety of on-campus services including meal plans, access to the library, dorms, athletic events and to receive certain student discounts, she said.

Many students have several cards in their possession and are giving their extra IDs to people who shouldn't have them, which is one of the reasons for the price increase, Burgwyn said.

### ONLINE

To find out more about this and other stories, check out the Skiff Web site at [dailyskiff.com](http://dailyskiff.com)



VICTORIA PUENTE / Staff Photographer  
Sophomore premajor Michelle Mastick stocks up with groceries at Frog Bytes last week. The price to replace ID cards has increased from \$10 to \$20.

### WEATHER

**TODAY:** Isolated T-storms/Wind, 79/62  
**WEDNESDAY:** Isolated T-storms, 76/35  
**THURSDAY:** Light Wintry Mix/Wind, 41/24

### PECULIAR FACT

**GETTYSBURG:** A woman who admitted smoking marijuana daily with her 13-year-old son to reward him for completing his homework was sentenced to three months in prison. — AP

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

**SPORTS:** The Horned Frogs win another one, page 12  
**OPINION:** Library meant for studying, page 3

### CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at [NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU](mailto:NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU)



SGA

From page 1

Laymon said many students don't take time to vote no matter what the election.

"If they're apathetic about national elections, we are fortunate to get 25 percent," Laymon said.

Communication between student governments and their constituents can be achieved through a variety of means.

Heaney said students can contact any of SGA's committees or drop by the SGA office to talk with SGA members.

Laymon said he sends out alerts to the student body each week about what student government is doing.

The Student Congress at the

University of Texas at Arlington makes a video recording of each meeting and posts the video on its Web site.

A recent trend in university elections is the use of online voting.

Oxendine said online voting, when done correctly, can increase voter turnout.

"The key is to have online voting accompanied by visible polling places," Oxendine said.

The University of Central Florida, primarily a commuter campus with an enrollment of 46,719, has had great success with elections recently, Oxendine said.

Aside from having multiple candidates in many contested races, UCF has 25 percent voter turnout, far above the average for a public school, Oxendine said.

"Sometimes policy is made without realizing the impact it will have on students."

Mark Laymon  
Baylor University  
student body  
president

administration on a regular basis. "Most administrations are not as accessible as TCU's." Larry Markley, SGA adviser

at TCU, said the administration is a major factor in the success of student government.

"The administration listens to what the students tell them," Markley said. "If (students) want to get things done, they can accomplish what they want if they are willing to work towards it."

SMU's Russ said the relationship between him and his administration is great.

"I consider the vice president for student affairs a colleague of mine," Russ said.

Laymon said one goal of Baylor's student government is to be an advocate for the students during the decision-making process.

"Sometimes policy is made without realizing the impact it will have on students," Laymon said.

One example of this occurred last semester when Baylor's calendar committee wanted to take Labor Day as a holiday by taking away one of the study days for students at the end of the fall semester, Laymon said. The student government worked with the administration to have the study day reinstated.

Alan Ross, student body president for the University of North Texas, said the administration will sometimes come to student government leaders and ask them to appoint a student to attend and provide input at meetings.

UNT recently hosted an event called "Really, Let's Talk" where students were able to ask any questions they had of university President

Gretchen Bataille.

"We try to portray a friendly atmosphere so (the students) don't feel intimidated," Ross said. "We want them to feel comfortable."

Oxendine said this and other public events help students to understand what student government is, who is involved and what it is doing.

Student governments should be visible at times other than during elections, Oxendine said.

"Where are they at other times of the year?" Oxendine said. "Some students don't know the names of their officers."

Heaney said TCU students are apathetic when it comes to SGA.

"Students are not as interested in the process as they are in the result," Heaney said.

KNECHT

From page 1

history major in Knecht's class, said Knecht appreciates students who try to do well.

"He is a really nice man who cares whether or not his students succeed, and he works really hard to make sure they do," Bringle said.

Knecht, who is a naturalized U.S. citizen, was born in 1935 in Brussels, Belgium, and began working at TCU in the modern language department in 1961. He has been with the program since and is known to be a favorite in French courses, Nance said.

Before he came to TCU, Knecht taught French and

Dutch in the Belgian Congo in 1959. He worked in the colonies with his wife teaching at the high school level at a Disciples of Christ school.

"Our main duty was to teach," Knecht said. "When the Congo became independent in 1960, we had to leave to save our lives, literally."

When he returned to Belgium, finding a job was difficult because jobs were awarded based on the number of years spent in the colonies.

Knecht had only one year. Friends in Fort Worth contacted him and asked if he and his wife were interested in coming to Fort Worth. Through the TCU French program, Knecht began a career

that expanded into the next millennium.

"This is a nice big school now, compared to when I came," he said. "There's a lot more traffic all around. It's grown immensely; that's what I noticed the most, and tuition, that's increased incredibly."

But as Knecht sits at his desk while the steam rises out of his half-full coffee cup, he said TCU's growth is a good thing and the friendly atmosphere is a reason he has stayed.

"I've had one guy come visit with me. He was in my first French class at TCU and has stayed in contact with me through the years if only through a Christmas card," Knecht said. "When they come

to town they always call me up and we meet. That's kind of nice."

Knecht was the chairman of the Department of Modern Languages from 1996 to 2002. His career also included lecturing at TCU for the Advanced Placement Institute, a program that teaches courses to high school students, and translating for businesses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Sharon Fairchild, chairwoman of the modern languages and literatures department, said Knecht is

known for his strict teaching in grammar and pronunciation in his classes; however,

he is still a very funny and animated professor who knows how to make light of correcting his students, Fairchild said.

"When you find a professor who has taught that long, they kind of slowed down, but he still teaches with enthusiasm and energy," Fairchild said.

Jeremy Rao, a freshman premajor in Knecht's second semester French class, said he agrees.

"His classes are fun and interactive, unlike some of my other classes," Rao said. "His class is one that I genuinely look forward to."

Next semester, the department will hire a temporary faculty member. Next fall, department officials expect to have a full-time member, Fairchild said.

"But I will miss the colleague I could talk to and run things by," Fairchild said. "Plus, he makes the best coffee."

Knecht doesn't know what his plans are after retiring: maybe gardening, definitely traveling and possibly a hobby, he said.

"I haven't given it a lot of thought yet," Knecht said. It's probably a first in 45 years.

"He is a really nice man who cares whether or not his students succeed, and he works really hard to make sure they do."

Lauren Bringle  
Freshman history  
major

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Skiff.

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COMMENTARY



David Hall

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AMY HALL ADRIENNE LANG LESLIE HONEY KATHLEEN THURBER JENNIFER BICKERTOFF





QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no pleasure in having nothing to do: The fun is in having lots to do and not doing it"

- Mary Wilson Little

THE SKIFF VIEW

Housing requirement has upsides

An increase in tuition isn't ever a big surprise at TCU, but it still creates a great deal of conversation.

However, a bigger change is going to take effect at TCU that is worth a lot of consideration.

On Nov. 10, the board of trustees approved new housing requirements at the university, requiring all freshmen and sophomores to live on campus beginning Fall 2007.

While immediate responses might strongly oppose this decision, the change in residential requirements has many promising factors.

In line with TCU's Vision In Action plan, the housing requirement will further promote a residential campus.

The sense of community at TCU should increase because more students living together on campus will lead to more student-interaction.

This is possible thanks to other aspects of Vision In Action.

The construction of the new dormitories will alleviate any concerns of having too many students and not enough space on campus to house them all.

These new dorms, along with the renovation of current ones, will help create an on-campus environment in which students won't mind sacrificing the freedom to live off campus following their freshman year.

A large number of students already live on campus through their sophomore year, many for all four years.

The large Greek population and the Worth Hills area of campus also contribute to the number of students who already choose to live on campus beyond their freshman year.

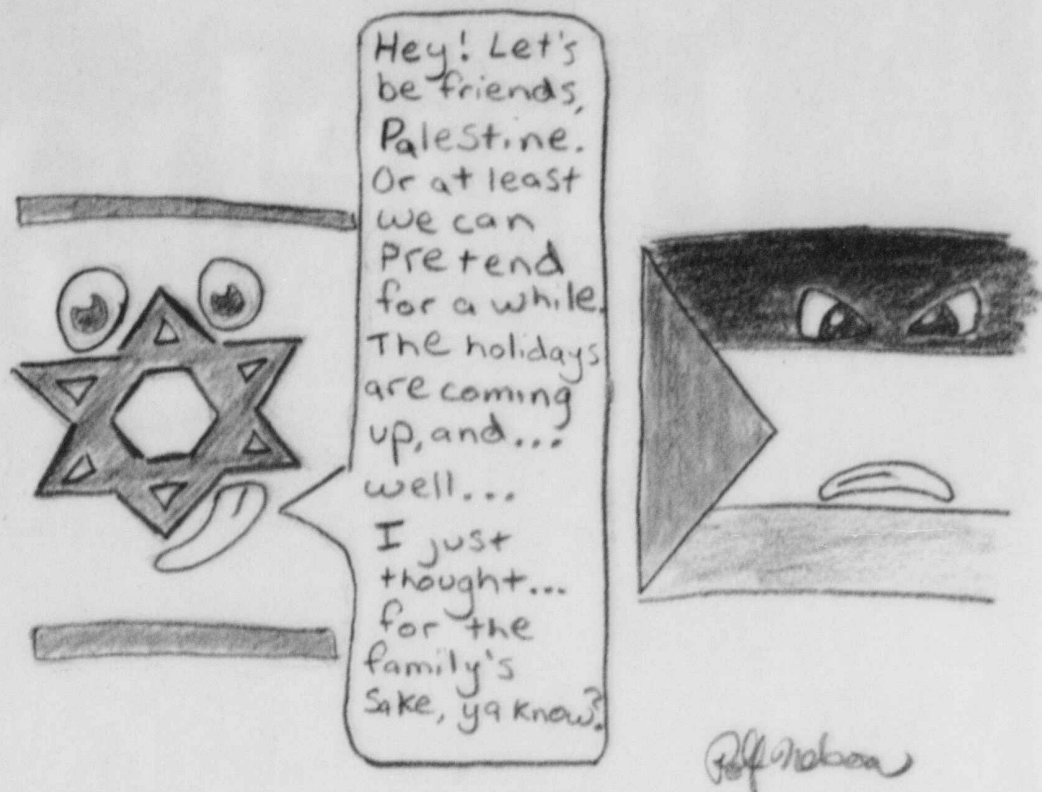
Another positive factor of the new residential requirement is that parking will present itself as less of a problem.

Most parking issues stem from the number of commuter students who must drive to campus each day, all hoping to park in the lots behind the library and Beasley Hall.

With a more residential campus, students would have most everything they need within walking distance and would not need a vehicle as often, eliminating one of the most frustrating aspects about attending TCU.

Opinion editor Ryan Claunch for the editorial board.

DOOFSPOOF BY ROLF NELSON



Computer addiction takes away from life

Computers controlling people. While it might sound like a plot from a really bad science fiction movie starring some washed-up actor, our society grows more and more dependent on our little mechanical friends every day.

COMMENTARY



David Hall

Sure, I understand that computers are needed for saving lives and controlling our nuclear weapons silos, but we could live without recreational computer-use for a week.

Let's start with the GPS systems that are becoming more and more common in today's automobiles.

What would we do if we didn't have that soothing voice mapping out every square inch of our travel from beginning to end? Judging by the degree to which some people rely on these things, I wouldn't be surprised to see flaming piles of mangled metal

everywhere, accompanied by crazy naked people running around the wreckage exclaiming they "don't know where to go."

And what about computer games?

I happen to know a handful of people who would die if you took "World of Warcraft" away from them. And by die, I mean collapse due to exhaustion when forced to assume an activity involving any sort of physical exertion. After being cooped up in their rooms for the better part of the last year, drinking dreadfully unhealthy amounts of Mountain Dew, they would find such tasks such as crossing the street or playing catch with Dad as a form of Gulag-style torture. The process of assimilation back into mainstream society would be a long and arduous task.

E-mail also falls under the umbrella of recreational computer-use. As much as people would like to regard it as a necessity, humans didn't have it for the better part of existence and still

managed to get along just fine.

They managed to build the pyramids, create a polio vaccine and achieve the miracle of flight. Not too shabby for a bunch of guys lacking instantaneous communication. With e-mail out of the picture, we would be forced to use that one thing in our front yard where that strange white car stops every day except for Sundays and holidays. Oh yeah, it's the mailbox.

Snail mail could be fun again, but in the electronic age, the mailbox has turned into an edifice of fear. It constantly houses nothing but credit card bills and junk mail from some company that you bought a Hello Kitty place mat from five years ago.

In the event of a seven-day layoff from Hotmail, one might be able to venture out to the mailbox without knee-buckling fear or overwhelming depression, knowing that a nice letter from Grandma might be out there waiting for you.

Lastly, we come to Face-

book. College students live and die by this social network. I mean, we came pretty close to a full-scale riot over the stupid (and in retrospect, relatively minor) News Feed. So what would happen if Facebook decided to shut down for a week?

Simple, the combined force of the anger, grief, confusion and shock of the nation's collegians would create a cosmic disturbance that would take Earth out of orbit and send us hurtling headlong toward the sun. OK, maybe that was a bit overboard, but I would be lying if I said I expected anything less.

OK, so maybe taking away our technological conveniences would cause exponentially more harm than good to the world populace. Bad idea, David. But remember, there's a lot more to this world than keyboards and internal processing chips, and it would be wise to experience it all.

David Hall is a freshman news-editorial journalism major from Kingwood. His column appears every Tuesday and Friday.

Library meant for studying, not eating, talking, napping

We have all been guilty of this at one time or another.

COMMENTARY



Jennifer Boone

It's different when it's the phone call that just needs to be answered, the papers that have to be every-

where or the bag of chips that has to be eaten.

But when it is someone else committing these crimes against your studious ways, the call is the last thing you're interested in hearing, the papers seem a little bigger, and the chips always sound a little louder.

A library is a place to study, to start or finish a paper or do a little research.

Taking a nap, eating with friends or talking on the phone can be done elsewhere.

Sure, it's quiet in the library and the chairs are comfortable, but your napping causes good students to lose their study space.

If a study break requires utensils or opening a bag, do so in the atrium. No one needs to hear or smell your food.

How annoying is it to have someone plop down next to you, log in to the computer and then proceed to talk loudly on a cell phone? How hard is it

to call someone back?

Etiquette coach Emily Post says, "The consideration for the rights and feelings of others is not merely a rule for behavior in public but the very foundation upon which the social life is built."

When everyone in a 10-foot radius can hear about who had sex with whom last night, you are showing a serious lack of consideration. If your phone rings and you must answer it, do so, and then step into the atrium to finish the call.

So that covers basic computer dos and don'ts. Now, let's talk about printers.

Simply stated, if a person is clearly in the middle of printing 100 pages worth of work, do not ask to jump in and do not be annoyed with them for beating you to the printer. There are four other printers that could use the attention.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

While churning out a project, a girl sat down next to me. Her phone rang not five seconds later so she answered it. Two minutes into the conversation, she turned and asked me if her conversation is bothering me. At that particular moment, procrastination had taken hold, so I told her to chat away.

Jennifer Boone is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Irving.

Religion should not influence government

Like it or not — and I don't — America is a religious nation.

Millions of our fellow citizens follow their chosen religions with a cult-like and not-so-ironic fervor, and I've come to terms with the fact that a great majority of this country feels differently than I do about free exercise of religion. But as a life-long separatist, I cannot stand by idly and watch as the promise of our founding fathers is so blatantly and excessively ignored.

Since our Constitution was written, people have argued over the true meaning behind the most potent and enigmatic phrase in American history: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Deciphering this part of the First Amendment has taken Americans on a Leonardo da Vinci-type journey into the minds of men who long ago called Philadelphia their capital. The task of finding an acceptable compromise between creating a free nation and religion rested with these brilliant figures — most

notably James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson coined the famous phrase "separation of church and state," which points out that because the Constitution allows freedom of religion, "a wall of separation between church and state" had to be built.

Madison followed Jefferson in the fight to keep religious influences outside of government. In a letter to North Carolina's Baptist churches in 1811, Madison wrote that "practical distinction between religion and civil government as essential to the purity of both, and as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States." In the letter, Madison is clear about the importance of keeping religion outside the government.

Sadly, these monumental characters are being forgotten, and their words ignored.

Since President Bush took office in 2000, the United States has taken a decidedly sharp turn toward the religious right. When Republicans speak about "igniting the base," to whom do you think they're referring to?

Our country is based on the Constitution. Religions are based on books, fables, myths, legends and stories of people walking on water.

Successful nations thrive because they handle their governing in appropriate ways that allow for equal treatment of every citizen.

Religion, by nature, is divisive, segregating, unstable and unequal. How do I not understand why everyone loves it so much?

Just look around the world, for example. Sunni and Shiite Muslims are getting along great. Everything is going swimmingly for Catholics and Protestants. Jews and Arabs in Israel? They're having a potluck next week. Oh, wait, that's not really how it is.

Well, at least the governments that choose to run their countries based on religion are succeeding. All was going great under the theocratic Taliban in Afghanistan until we came in and busted things up. Saddam Hussein's Sunni-run government had Iraq in top-notch shape. Other religious groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Al-Qaida have close ties to governments all

over the Middle East, which has created a peaceful and prosperous region. Oh, wait, reality check.

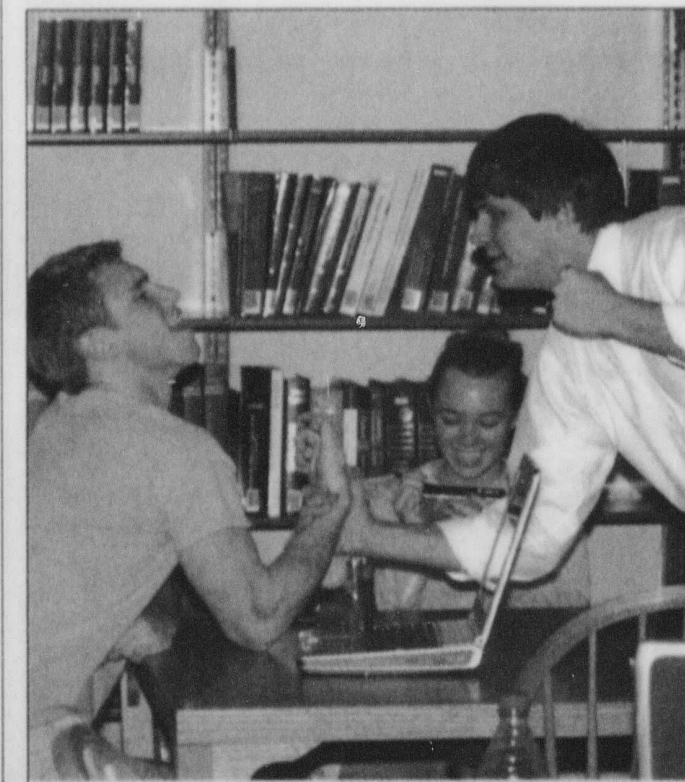
The sarcasm I use to refer to the religious pandemic is only because the role of religion in practices is laughable. From "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to "in God we trust" on our currency, the persistence of religion in this country prevents us from fulfilling our true potential.

Because religion is so omnipresent in this society, you may often overlook how far it truly extends. Be it in government or on college campuses, the infiltration of religion must be eliminated. The words God, Jesus, Allah, etc. have no place in our secular world. Religion is a personal choice for those who feel somehow incapable of living a liberated, independent life.

Religion hasn't, doesn't and won't ever belong in the public sphere.

Heed the wise words of those who spoke so long ago. They haven't been wrong about much.

Ben Shore is a columnist for The Daily Aztec (San Diego State U). This column was distributed by U-wire.



STEPHEN SPILLMAN / Staff Photographer

Sophomore radio-TV-film major Joey Parr, left, sophomore advertising/public relations major Tiffany Bullock and sophomore business major Clayton Simons joke around in the Mary Couts Burnett Library on Monday afternoon.

AMY HALLFORD JOHN-LAURENT TRONCHE ADRIENNE LANG RYAN CLAUNCH LESLIE HONEY MICHAEL DODD KATHLEEN THURBER JENNIFER BICKERSTAFF

Editorial Policy

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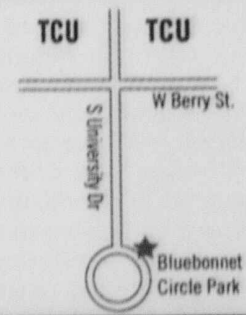
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**Baghdad**  
militia

By HANNAH A. MOHAMMED  
McClatchy News Service

Sectarian violence turned Baghdad into a jigsaw puzzle of neighborhoods. Bands of Shiite militias battle Sunni fighters that are similar to an old campaign tactic, acknowledging the Tigris River. Still the shiite blue line divides Baghdad. Predominantly Shiite in the west, the city Shiite militia. But in the past several years, Shiite cleric al-Sadr's Army militia backed by police forces, has western side driving Sunni in the east. Sunni militia youth members — are purges to on the west brethren and Residents.

**Baghdad**  
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# Baghdad residents say civil war has begun; militias split, fight for land in Iraqi capital

By HANNAH ALLAM AND MOHAMMED AL DULAIMY  
McClatchy Newspapers

Sectarian violence has turned Baghdad into a deadly jigsaw puzzle of contested neighborhoods where armed bands of Shiite and Sunni Muslims battle daily for control in fighting that is far more similar to an organized military campaign than is generally acknowledged.

For the most part, the Tigris River is still the shimmering blue line that divides Baghdad's predominantly Sunni west, the Karkh, from the majority Shiite east, the Risafa. But over the past several months, Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, often backed by government security forces, has pushed into the western side of the capital and is driving Sunnis from their homes in the east.

Sunni forces — neighborhood youths, former Baath Party members, Islamist extremists — are conducting their own purges to expand their grip on the west and defend their brethren across the river.

Residents trapped in the cap-

ital's most fiercely contested districts braced Sunday for a new wave of bloodshed when a 24-hour curfew ends Monday. Reached by telephone, they all offered the same grim assessment: civil war has begun.

That assessment seemed bolstered by a three-pronged assault by the Mahdi Army late Sunday into the Jihad neighborhood, a western Baghdad district once the domain of athletes, diplomats and other middle-class Iraqis of both sects who relied on their lower-income neighbors, mostly Shiites, for vital supplies such as cooking gas and heating fuel.

"If we have to die here in this house, we will. But we will never leave it."

Salah Ahmed

A Sunni, on leaving the house he was born in.

Sunni and Shiites traded gunfire from behind sandbags piled in front of mosques and from rooftop posts until U.S. troops entered the fray and tamped down the violence.

Fighting also has been fierce in the Hurriyah district, a one-time mixed district where the Mahdi Army's efforts at complete segregation have been stopped only by the stubbornness of some families who'd rather face death than abandon their homes.

"I was born in this house. My father built this house," said Salah Ahmed, 34, one of the few remaining Sunnis in the area. "If we have to die here in this house, we will. But we will never leave it." For months, the sects have traded kidnappings, gunfire and intimidation on families to flee. Last Thursday, a series of car bombings in the vast Shiite district of Sadr City killed some 200 people and injured at least that many more.

An old Iraqi love song celebrates a woman's eyes as so beautiful that "you won't find the likes of them in Karkh or Risafa." These days, both sides of the river are battlefields for sectarian supremacy.

The most violent reprisal attacks for the Sadr City blasts came in Hurriyah, the blue-collar neighborhood where Saddam Hussein's bureaucrats stored tea and other government rations in large warehouses. Until recently, Hurriyah remained a mixed-sect neighborhood, celebrated by Iraqis as the home district of the country's best-loved singer, Kadhim al-Saher, who is said to have a parent from each sect.

For the first two years after the U.S. invasion, Hurriyah was known as a hotbed for the Sunni insurgency. In 2006,



Militiamen from the Mahdi Army of militant cleric Muqtada al Sadr march through the streets of the southern Shiite Muslim holy of Najaf, Iraq on Sunday. The Mahdi Army's military show of force in the south comes as the Baghdad branch of the militia fights its way into Sunni-controlled parts of the capital.

however, Mahdi Army militiamen began inching into the area from Shiite districts to the northeast and northwest.

Local Sunnis, along with extremist groups, are fighting back to prevent the militia's capture of Hurriyah. Losing it would mean near-total Shiite control of the northwest side of the Tigris. So far, at least three of about a dozen Sunni mosques have been taken over by the Mahdi Army and converted into Shiite places of worship. Two others were flattened in bombings and burnings, including one in the past week.

Residents estimate that two-thirds of Hurriyah is now under Mahdi Army control, with just one large Sunni holdout that's protected by the Batta tribe, known as fierce warriors with roots in the western Anbar province.

Another flashpoint area in western Baghdad is Kadhemiyah, home to the landmark gold-domed shrine of a revered Shiite saint. Just across the

river is Adhemiya, where the Abu Hanifa mosque houses the most important Sunni shrine in the capital.

With the Shiite shrine on the Sunni side, and the Sunni shrine on the Shiite side, fighting became so fierce that the bridge linking the neighborhoods was sealed. Now, each side pelts the other with mortars and small arms fire, and there are fears the violence could return soon to hand-to-hand combat.

Sunnis have been all but eliminated from the northwest neighborhood of Shoala, whose name means "torch" in Arabic. The Mahdi Army is in control of the area and recently renamed it "Shoalat al-Sadrein," or "Torch of the Two Sadr's," a reference to Muqtada al-Sadr and his late father.

Ghazaliya is another flashpoint. Bordering Shoala, Ghazaliya is still a predominantly Sunni area that is home to Umm al-Qura Mosque, the headquarters of the militant

Association of Muslim Scholars, the leading Sunni religious faction in Iraq that's accused of having close ties with the insurgency.

The Sunnis in Ghazaliyah, an upscale district with clusters of former officers from Saddam's regime, have pushed Shiite residents to the border of Shoala with a campaign of intimidation and violence. This ribbon of Shiite families has turned into a front line as each side tries to push into the other's district.

Another sign of the Mahdi Army's foray into western Baghdad is sporadic fighting in Mansour, once the capital's most exclusive neighborhood, but now a virtual ghost town, its shops shuttered and its well-heeled residents gone. Residents say the Mahdi Army has seized control of the former headquarters of the Baath Party and sectarian violence is rising, with at least one report of a Shiite man executed by insurgents solely because his wife was Sunni.

## Baghdad's flashpoints

Major areas where violence between Sunnis and Shiites has erupted over this weekend.



- 1 Ghazaliyah**  
Upscale, majority-Sunni district; headquarters of the militant Association of Muslim Scholars; Shiites pushed to Shoala border
- 2 Shoala**  
Sunnis all but driven out; under Mahdi Army's control and packed with poor Shiites
- 3 Hurriyah**  
Mixed-sect; local Sunnis fighting to prevent Shiite militia (Mahdi Army) from capturing, but about three-fourths estimated to be under militia's control
- 4 Kadhemiyah**  
Home to a landmark Shiite shrine
- 5 Mansour**  
Once exclusive, now a virtual ghost town; militia controls Baath Party headquarters
- 6 Jihad district**  
Once home to middle-class Iraqis of both sects; now divided between Sunni insurgents and Mahdi Army
- 7 Saidiyah**  
Once heavily mixed, but many Sunnis have fled; militia has sent forces, and residents anticipate heavy fighting
- 8 Doura**  
Christian enclave, but most have fled; now a battleground for al Qaeda-allied insurgents and the Mahdi Army; southern part is a Sunni insurgent base
- 9 Adhemiya**  
Abu Hanifa mosque houses important Sunni shrine
- 10 Sadr City**  
Shiite ghetto and Mahdi Army headquarters; formerly Saddam City
- 11 Baladiyah**  
Explosive area filled with Sunni extremists, the Badr Brigade, the Mahdi Army, a Christian community and Palestinian refugees
- 12 Zaafaraniya**  
Two Shiite militias vying for power with the Shiite Dawa Party of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

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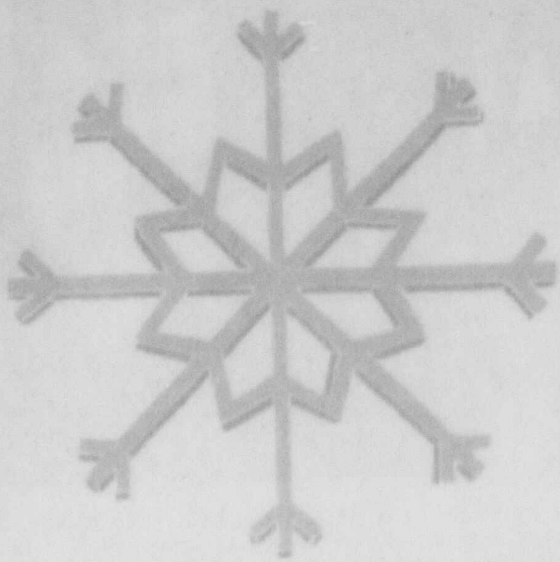
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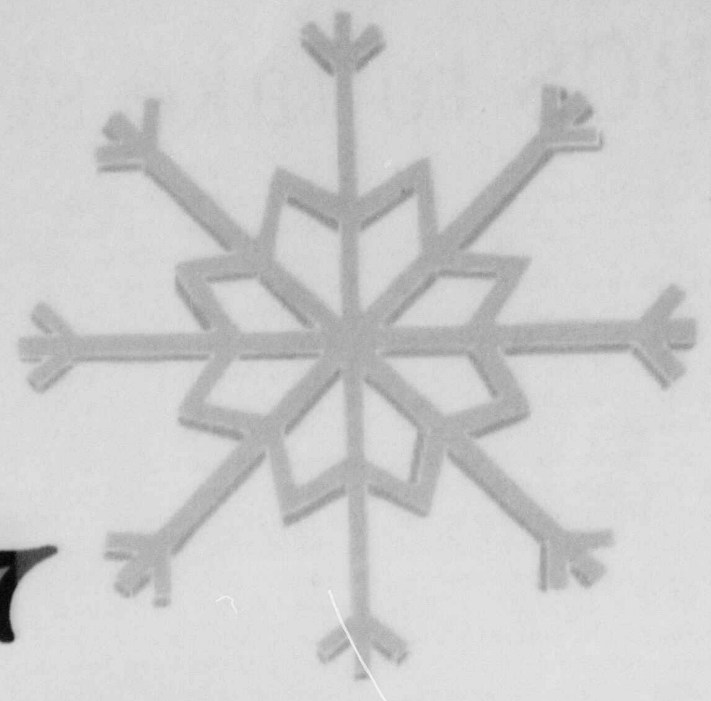
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# BCS to take shape Saturday

By MIKE HUGUENIN  
The Orlando Sentinel

All USC has to do to play for the national title is to beat UCLA on Saturday. The Trojans have clinched the Pac-10 title and a loss to UCLA would send them to the Rose Bowl.

But there are three BCS play-in games next Saturday, with title games in the Atlantic Coast, Big 12 and Southeastern conferences.

ACC: Georgia Tech has perhaps the nation's best wide receiver in Calvin Johnson. Unfortunately for Johnson, his quarterback is Reggie Ball, a four-year starter whose career completion percentage is less than 50 percent. Tech has a strong ground game and a defense that blitzes as soon as it hits the field. Wake is perhaps the nation's biggest surprise, but its mediocre offense usually gets bailed out by a big-play defense. The winner goes to the Orange Bowl.

Big 12: Nebraska and Oklahoma meet for the first time in the league title game. The Huskers are eighth in the nation in total defense. It's the offense that's led the way. OU's defense has been

superb, and even without Adrian Peterson, the Sooners have been able to run the ball. The winner goes to the Fiesta Bowl.

SEC: Florida hasn't impressed anyone with its offense, but the Gators are 10th nationally in total defense and fifth nationally in rush defense. That rush defense gets its biggest test of the season with Darren McFadden and Arkansas' No. 4 rush offense on the horizon. The Hogs have rushed for at least 259 yards in six of their past eight games; oddly, the only games they didn't reach that plateau were against bottom-feeders Ole Miss (141 yards) and Mississippi State (128). The winner goes to the Sugar Bowl, but Florida has a minuscule chance at the BCS title game should USC lose.

Don't tell us about the great jobs Ohio State's Jim Tressel or Michigan's Lloyd Carr or USC's Pete Carroll did this season. As well as their teams played, those guys don't deserve even a sniff of the coach of the year award. There can only be one legitimate candidate: Wake Forest's Jim Grobe.

Michigan, Ohio State

and USC should be good every season. Wake Forest? It's something when the Demon Deacons simply go to a bowl, which has happened just six times since the school started playing football in 1888.

This season, Wake has a shot at a BCS bowl. The Demon Deacons thumped host Maryland 38-24 on Saturday night to win the ACC's Atlantic Division title; they play Georgia Tech in the league championship game.

This is a Wake team that was expected to finish fifth or sixth in its six-team division. Instead, it's 17th in this week's BCS standings and playing for an Orange Bowl berth.

And you want a legit candidate who's going to get no notice at all? Rice's Todd Graham. In his first season as the Owls' coach, Graham has them going bowling for the first time since 1961. This is Rice's first winning season since 2001 and just its seventh since 1961.

The best game Saturday was BYU's 33-31 victory over the hosting Utah Utes in "The Holy War."

The BYU Cougars (10-2)

are headed to the Las Vegas Bowl.

Cougars' senior quarterback John Beck had four TD passes in the game giving him 30th on the season.

Whatever happened to stepping up when a lot is on the line?

Boston College had a chance to play for the ACC title, but the Eagles looked awful in the second half in Thursday's loss to host Miami.

West Virginia still had a shot at the Big East title and a resultant BCS bid, but the Mountaineers were outplayed at home in a loss to South Florida.

Middle Tennessee needed a victory to win the Sun Belt Conference and lock up a bid to the New Orleans Bowl, but the Blue Raiders allowed visiting Troy to score two touchdowns in the final 2:19 and lost.

Maryland had a chance to play for the ACC title, but the Terps were overrun by Wake Forest and lost by 14.

Texas needed to win to move on to the Big 12 Championship Game, but the Longhorns were shut down by the Texas A&M Aggies.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BRIEF

# Women raise record with 2 holiday wins

By MARCUS MURPHREE  
Staff Reporter

The Lady Frogs have found their way into the win column with a pair of home wins against the Houston Cougars and Rice Owls during the holiday.

After starting the season 0-3, the Frogs have brought their record to 2-3 with a two-game winning streak led by junior shooting guard Adrienne Ross.

Ross leads the team in scoring with 89 points on the young season and made a career-high seven steals against the Owls on Saturday.

Other notables include senior forward Ashley Davis and freshman point guard Danielle Nunn.

Davis leads the Lady Frogs with 14 3-pointers while Nunn has earned the most playing time out of any freshman on the squad and her 45 points is good enough for third in scoring, according to gofrogs.com.

Conference play has yet to begin for the Lady Frogs.

## MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE STANDINGS

| UNIVERSITY          | OVERALL |
|---------------------|---------|
| Wyoming Cowgirls    | 5-1     |
| New Mexico Lobos    | 4-2     |
| BYU Cougars         | 3-2     |
| Colorado State Rams | 2-2     |
| Air Force Falcons   | 2-3     |
| SDSU Aztecs         | 2-3     |
| TCU Horned Frogs    | 2-3     |
| UNLV Rebels         | 2-3     |
| Utah Utes           | 1-4     |

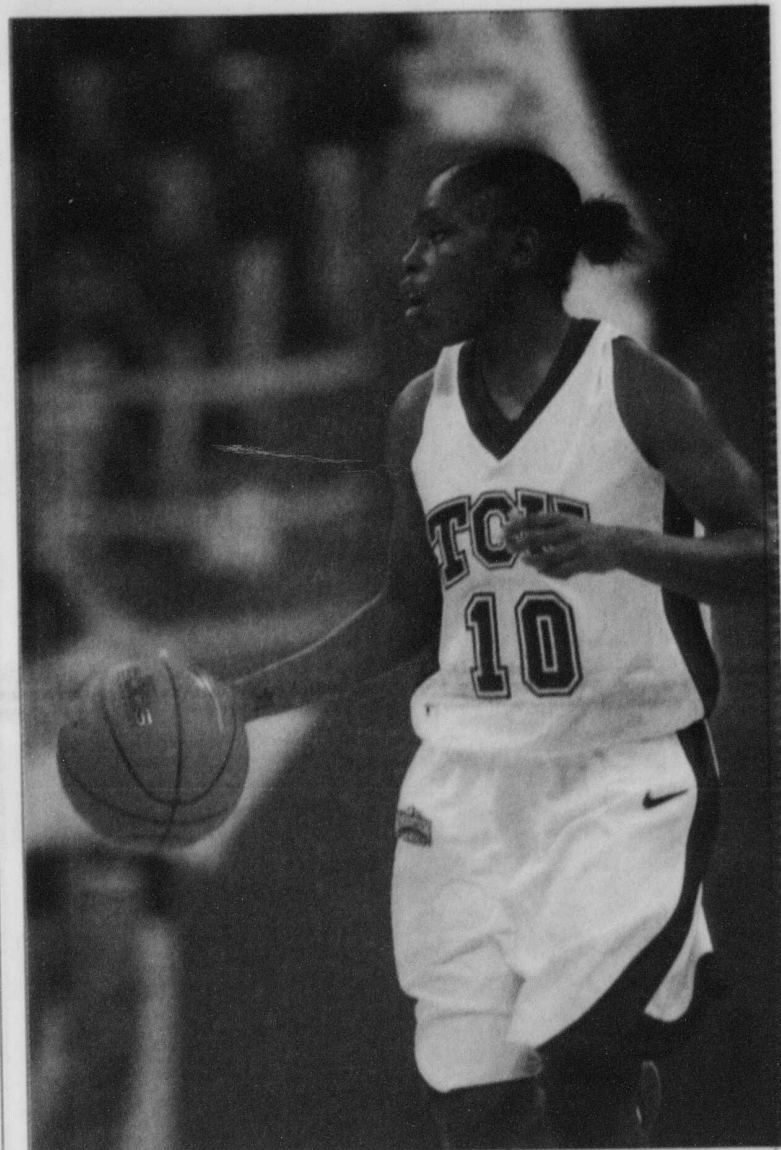
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| Date    | Bowl Game        | Matchup  |
|---------|------------------|--|
| Dec. 19 | Poinsettia       | TCU Horned Frogs** vs. Northern Illinois Huskies     |
| Dec. 21 | Las Vegas        | BYU Cougars** vs. Oregon Ducks                       |
| Dec. 23 | New Mexico       | New Mexico Lobos vs. San Jose State Spartans         |
| Dec. 23 | Armed Forces     | Rice Owls vs. Utah Utes**                            |
| Dec. 30 | Meineke Car Care | Clemson Tigers vs. Navy Midshipmen**                 |
| Dec. 30 | Alamo            | Texas Tech Red Raiders vs. Iowa Hawkeyes**           |
| Dec. 31 | MPC Computers    | Nevada Wolf Pack vs. Miami Hurricanes                |
| Jan. 1  | Outback          | Penn State Nittany Lions** vs. Tennessee Volunteers  |
| Jan. 1  | Cotton           | Auburn Tigers vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers               |
| Jan. 1  | Gator            | Wake Forest Demon Deacons vs. Texas Longhorns        |
| Jan. 1  | Capital One      | Wisconsin Badgers** vs. Arkansas Razorbacks          |
| Jan. 1  | Rose             | Michigan Wolverines vs. LSU Tigers                   |
| Jan. 1  | Fiesta           | Oklahoma Sooners vs. Boise State Broncos             |
| Jan. 2  | Orange           | Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets vs. Louisville Cardinals |
| Jan. 3  | Sugar            | Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. Florida Gators         |
| Jan. 6  | International    | Cincinnati Bearcats vs. Western Michigan Broncos     |
| Jan. 7  | GMAC             | Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles vs. Ohio Bobcats  |
| Jan. 8  | BCS              | Title Game: Ohio State Buckeyes** vs. USC Trojans    |

\*Predictions from USA Today \*\*Denotes accepted bid to play



ANDREW CHAVEZ/Staff Photographer  
Guard Moneka Knight dribbles down the court in the exhibition game this season. The Lady Frogs beat Rice and Houston last week and play SMU on Thursday night at home.

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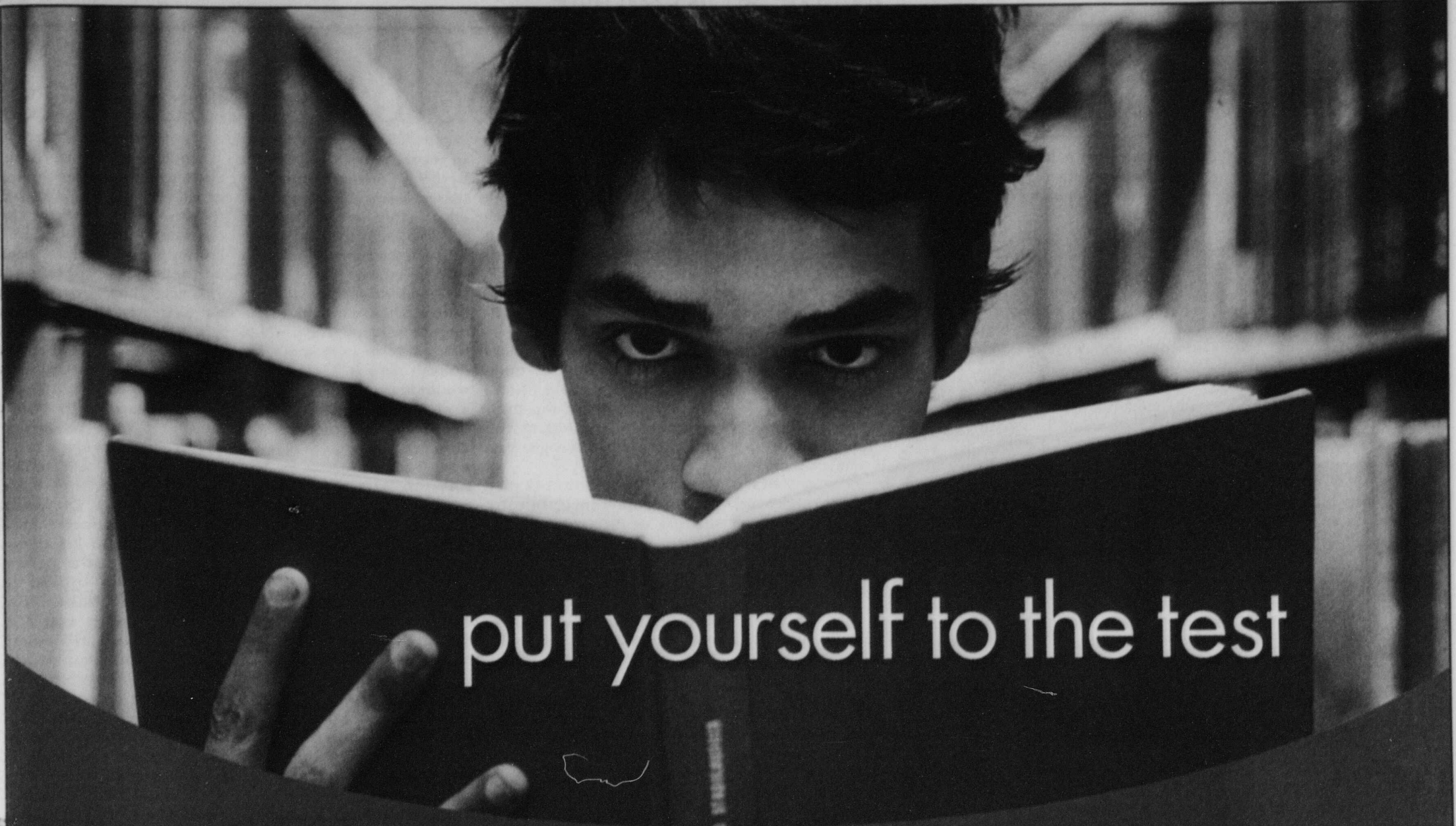


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# Series of polls decide complex football rankings

By MICHAEL DODD  
Sports Editor

With the college football season entering its final week, the Bowl Championship Series rankings have gone through a number of changes culminating in a projected national championship between wire-to-wire No. 1 the Ohio State Buckeyes and last season's national champion runner-up the USC Trojans.

But with so many changes resulting from a multitude of factors, the question of the ranking system's integrity and makeup has seemingly been a subject of national debate since its inception in 1998.

The BCS polling system is based on three main components: the Harris Interactive Poll, the USA Today Coaches' Poll, and a computerized system of rankings, said Mark Cohen, director of media relations at TCU.

"The AP Poll used to factor into the BCS rankings, but the media got together and decided to stop doing that," Cohen said. "They felt it was their job to report the news, not create it."

While Cohen said the AP Poll's departure from the BCS compilation of rankings is one of the ways in which the BCS rankings are becoming more accurate, former TCU athletic director Frank Windegger said the real problem lies in the treatment of non-BCS teams.

"There is no bias in how the poll is set up," Windegger said. "The Harris Interactive Poll is made up 120 individuals in the United States ranging from former coaches, administrators and players. It is a well-diversified group that is pretty well spread out and involves representation from many of the conferences."

Although Windegger said the BCS poll isn't based on biased decisions, Cohen said there is an inherent prejudice against non-BCS teams concerning both overall team strength and even Heisman voting.

"(LaDainian Tomlinson) didn't really burst onto the scene until his junior year," Cohen said. "His success paralleled the team's. It's rare to have a (non-BCS) guy finish in the top five for the Heisman."

In order to fairly and accurately rank teams, Windegger, who is a voting member of the Harris Interactive Poll, said he watches as many of the games as he can each weekend. His deadline for turning in rankings is noon on Sunday. Although he said he doesn't always get to see every game, he watches highlights and records them for later viewing so his rankings the next week take into account the teams' performances all season long.

Although Windegger said there is not an overt bias against teams such as the Horned Frogs, he said the BCS conference commissioners are in control and can sway support their way when necessary. Earlier this decade, this monopolistic ideal of the BCS commissioners was called into question and Congress began an investigation into how college football is run and regulated.

"They stated that the BCS commissioners held all the cards," Windegger said. "The extra BCS bowl game this season is an appeasement to Congress and non-BCS teams. It allows a better chance for non-BCS teams to make it into a BCS bowl."

Cohen said money and exposure are the main reasons the BCS is under such scrutiny from the public and why those already in BCS conferences don't want to admit more teams or conferences.

"I hate to say it's money right off the bat," Cohen said. "But, prestige, revenue, visibility and exposure are the benefits of playing in a BCS bowl."

Until this year, there were only four BCS bowl games. Non-BCS teams had almost no chance of making it into the financially lucrative BCS bowls. They had to finish in the top 12 in the BCS and place above other teams with guaranteed BCS bowl bids.

TCU finished No. 14 last year, and Cohen said that, had the new BCS berth rules been in effect last season, the Horned Frogs would have gotten a bid to a BCS bowl, because they finished above the ACC's automatic qualifier.

Although the fifth BCS bowl game allows for a better chance for non-BCS teams to make it to a BCS bowl, they are still expected to reach the top 12 and, coming out of a non-BCS conference, an undefeated record and high team prestige is about the only way to do so, Windegger said.

"Strength of schedule plays a major role in the BCS rankings," Windegger said. "Notre Dame is the only (non-BCS) team to be treated at the table as almost being a part of the BCS."

Notre Dame does not play in any conference, but the history of the team gives it nearly equal footing with BCS teams, a feat Windegger said is something only Notre Dame could achieve. The Fighting Irish are currently ranked No. 10 in the BCS, even with two losses against them.

Texas felt the sting of the strength of schedule following its Sept. 30 game against the Sam Houston State Bearkats. Although the Longhorns were ranked No. 5 in both the Harris Interactive Poll and the USA Today Poll, they were ranked No. 15 in the computer rankings giving them an overall No. 9 ranking. The reason for the shift in the computer rankings was based on the fact that they played a Division I-AA school.

Cohen said teams need to root for their opponents to win all the time, especially when they are playing outside of their conference. By doing so, a fellow conference team could help by making the strength of schedule seem a little bit stronger than first thought.

"Anytime your league can get out-of-conference victories over BCS teams, it just adds to a team's credibility," Cohen said.

Although non-BCS teams do have this slim chance to make it into the BCS bowls,

in recent years, the cries for better BCS involvement by lesser-known schools has culminated in the demand for a college football playoff series, a move Windegger said he enjoys.

"I was on a special committee to look into it," Windegger said. "Division I-A football is the only sport that doesn't have it. I would love to see a championship because there are about 32 bowls now. That means there are 32 winners."

Cohen said the fact that there are so many winners actually takes support away from proponents for a college football playoff.

"A lot of coaches like the old system, because there are about 30 bowl games and that's about 60 teams that can say they went to a bowl game," Cohen said. "It solidifies coaches if they are on shaky ground, the alumni feel happy and the players feel happy."

But the enormous monetary benefits of the BCS bowls raises the question of how far will players, coaches, and schools go in order to be the best and make an appearance in a BCS bowl.

Although recruiting, enhancement drugs and grade inflation have always been widely reported upon and known as problems facing college football, the USA Today Coaches' Poll relies on honesty to work.

"At the end of the year, they make the final ballot public," Cohen said. "For every coach, you could see how they voted. There's something there to hold the coaches accountable. It's been an ongoing debate whether to make their (week-to-week) votes public, too."

Since each individual coach's rankings are released at the end of the season, there is motivation for the coaches to make sound and fair judgment week to week on their picks, Cohen said. This doesn't necessarily work out perfectly, though.

When Texas played Ohio State, Buckeyes head coach Jim Tressel said he ranked Texas above the Ohio State Buckeyes, but when it came out, his ballot had Ohio State No. 1. There was a reported mix-up in his office with the person who turned in the ballot, but Cohen said TCU head coach Gary Patterson doesn't allow for such possible errors in his balloting.

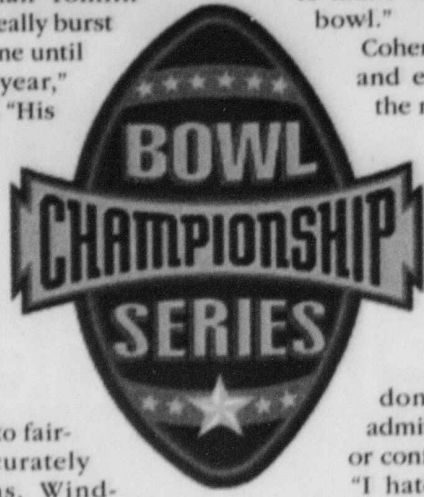
"Coach Patterson filled out his own ballot, and he takes tremendous pride in it," Cohen said.

With the AP Poll gone, the question of media sway is gone, but Windegger said teams that have no concrete place in the BCS deserve their place and have equal footing.

"Some of your major conferences are holding all the playing cards and keeping (the BCS) at a select number," Windegger said. "Hopefully conferences like the Mountain West Conference and the (Western Athletic Conference) would become a part and have their seat at the table."

And as of right now, the Mountain West Conference's main goal is to try and get an automatic bid to a BCS bowl within the next two years, Cohen said.

"Everybody wants to see that non-BCS team crack it," Cohen said. "It's just a small margin of error, but you stub your toe once and...?"



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## BOWL

From page 1

Even with losses to the BYU Cougars and the Utah Utes, the Frogs have managed to take second place in the Mountain West Conference and earn a bowl bid.

"It is hard to be undefeated this day and age, and if we win out the season and are 10-2, we would still be going to San Diego," Patterson said.

The Huskies are currently 7-5, but Patterson said they are still a threat.

"Anytime you play someone who wins more than they lose you have to be ready to play," Patterson said.

The city of San Diego gives the players and fans a chance to enjoy some of the tourist attractions, Patterson said.

"People can watch (LaDainian Tomlinson) play on Sunday before we play on Tuesday, and they could go to Sea World or the (San Diego) zoo," Patterson said.

The game will be Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN 2, according to gofrogs.com.

## BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RANKINGS:

1. Ohio State Buckeyes
2. USC Trojans
3. Michigan Wolverines
4. Florida Gators
5. LSU Tigers
6. Louisville Cardinals
7. Wisconsin Badgers
8. Boise State Broncos
9. Arkansas Razorbacks
10. Notre Dame Fighting Irish
11. Auburn Tigers
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13. Rutgers Scarlet Knights
14. Virginia Tech Hokies
15. West Virginia Mountaineers
16. Tennessee Volunteers
17. Wake Forest Demon Deacons
18. California Golden Bears
19. Texas Longhorns
20. Nebraska Cornhuskers
21. BYU Cougars
22. Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets
23. Texas A&M Aggies
24. Oregon State Beavers
25. Hawaii Warriors

The month of October has passed us by along with the all popular display of the pink ribbon. Everyone knows the pink ribbon is dedicated to breast cancer. But what about the teal ribbon? It represents ovarian cancer, the deadliest of the gynecological cancers. All too often women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer without having ever heard of it. This cancer affects men and women. Women who go to the doctor regularly are still NOT checked for ovarian cancer. Men who have a history of prostate cancer can pass a mutation, the BRAC, down their future children.

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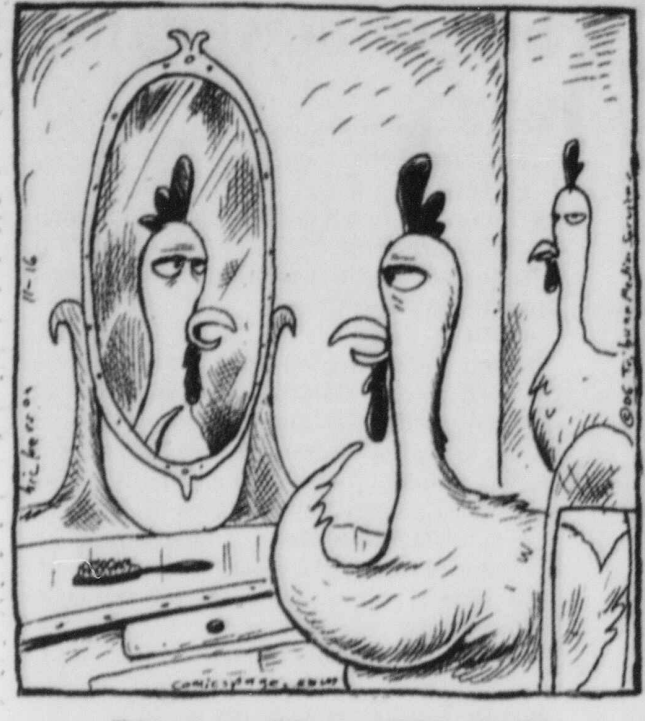
1582: William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway pay a 40-pound bond for their marriage license in Stratford-upon-Avon.

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Q: Why did the dinosaur cross the road?  
A: Chickens hadn't evolved yet.

### Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



"I know we all have wattles, Muriel, but mine has definitely dropped."

### Quigmans

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### SUDOKU PUZZLE

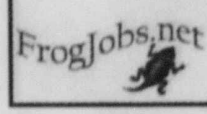
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**Directions**  
Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

### Tuesday's Solutions

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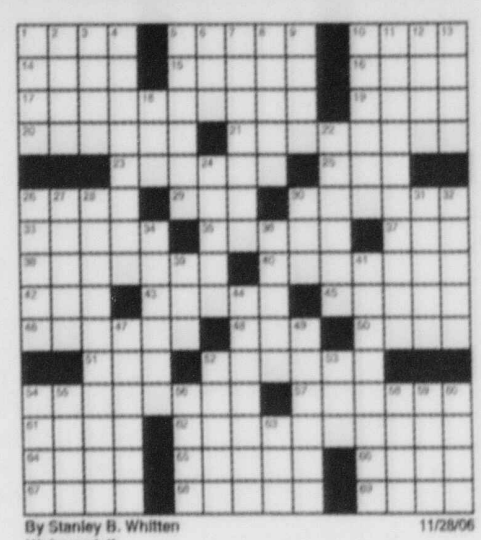
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- 1 Cell body
- 5 Carolina rails
- 10 Island west of Java
- 14 Leave out
- 15 Dizzying pictures
- 16 Regrets
- 17 Old man with a scythe
- 19 Swenson of "Benson"
- 20 Half a buck's rack
- 21 Flemish map-maker
- 23 Fled to wed
- 25 Tropical American cuckoo
- 26 Stubby, erect tail
- 29 Ashen
- 30 Set a tax
- 33 Chairmaker
- 35 Puts away
- 37 culpa
- 38 Inverse math function
- 40 Whole
- 42 Russian chess great
- 43 Winter coat
- 45 Finalists' determiners
- 46 "A Streetcar Named Desire" character
- 48 Vigor
- 50 Funny Jay
- 51 Fish eggs
- 52 Wine container
- 54 Bedroom items
- 57 Long stole
- 61 Goals
- 62 Bonanza
- 64 Ventilation duct
- 65 Marriage
- 66 Toward shatter
- 67 Handy girl
- 68 Religious groups
- 69 Desires
- DOWN
- 1 Chesterfield
- 2 Middle Eastern sultanate
- 3 Catcher's glove
- 4 Sports participants
- 5 Sadness
- 6 Choose
- 7 Clothing
- 8 Packing a piece
- 9 Gang following
- 10 Era and Mulroney
- 11 Rosalind Russell title role
- 12 Big name in building blocks
- 13 Munich's river
- 18 Sniggler's prey
- 22 Black currant liqueur
- 24 VW model
- 26 Skedaddles
- 27 Jeweler's measure
- 28 Joel Chandler Harris creation
- 30 Grain beard
- 31 Green finch
- 32 Authorization
- 34 Long guns
- 36 External
- 39 Gun lobby
- 52 Old hag
- 53 Christmas tree
- 54 Goofy
- 55 Arger
- 56 Cassowary kin
- 58 Gdansk man
- 59 Biblical garden
- 60 Golf gadgets
- 63 Very warm



By Stanley B. Whitten  
Highwood, IL

11/28/06

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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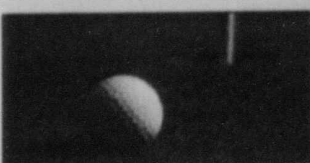
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# Frogs earn 2nd in MWC after win

By TIM BELLA  
Staff Writer

As the college football season comes to a close, fans are starting to gain clarity as to when and where their team will be playing this post-season.

While BCS contenders have been grabbing headlines, the Horned Frogs inched closer to another 10-win season thanks to Saturday's 45-14 road win against the Colorado State Rams.

The solid play of senior quarterback Jeff Ballard coupled with the career day of sophomore running back Aaron Brown led a unit that accumulated more than 600 yards of total offense.

Ballard finished 17 of 25 for 238 yards and three total touchdowns. Brown had a career-best 166 yards on 14 carries to go with three rushing touchdowns.

As it has been throughout the season, the defense only allowed 34 yards on the ground on 18 carries — less than two yards per carry.

The team, led by sophomore linebacker Robert Henson's six tackles, improved on its nationally ranked rush defense by passing the Miami Hurricanes and moving to No. 3 in rush defense.

Heading into the last game of the regular season, the team is allowing less than 65 yards a game on the ground.

The win catapulted the team one step closer to re-entry into the top 25 polls. The USA Today poll has TCU at No. 26, while the AP poll has the team at No. 27.

Although the rankings might be lower than they were several weeks back, the team's current six-game winning streak has silenced the team's critics after the back to back losses to

## MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

| UNIVERSITY          | CONFERENCE | OVERALL |
|---------------------|------------|---------|
| BYU Cougar          | 8-0        | 10-2    |
| TCU Horned Frogs    | 5-2        | 9-2     |
| Wyoming Cowboys     | 5-3        | 6-6     |
| Utah Utes           | 5-3        | 7-5     |
| New Mexico Lobos    | 4-4        | 6-6     |
| Air Force Falcons   | 3-4        | 4-7     |
| SDSU Aztecs         | 2-5        | 2-9     |
| Colorado State Rams | 1-6        | 4-7     |
| UNLV Rebels         | 1-7        | 2-10    |

BYU and Utah earlier in the season.

"We are still the same No. 15-ranked team that everyone voted for seven or eight weeks ago," head coach Gary Patterson said.

Patterson said although the team would love to have a crack at BYU or Utah at this point in the season again, "you can't always get a 'get-out-of-jail-free' card."

"It's like the Ohio State/Michigan game," Patterson said. "Second chances aren't always there."

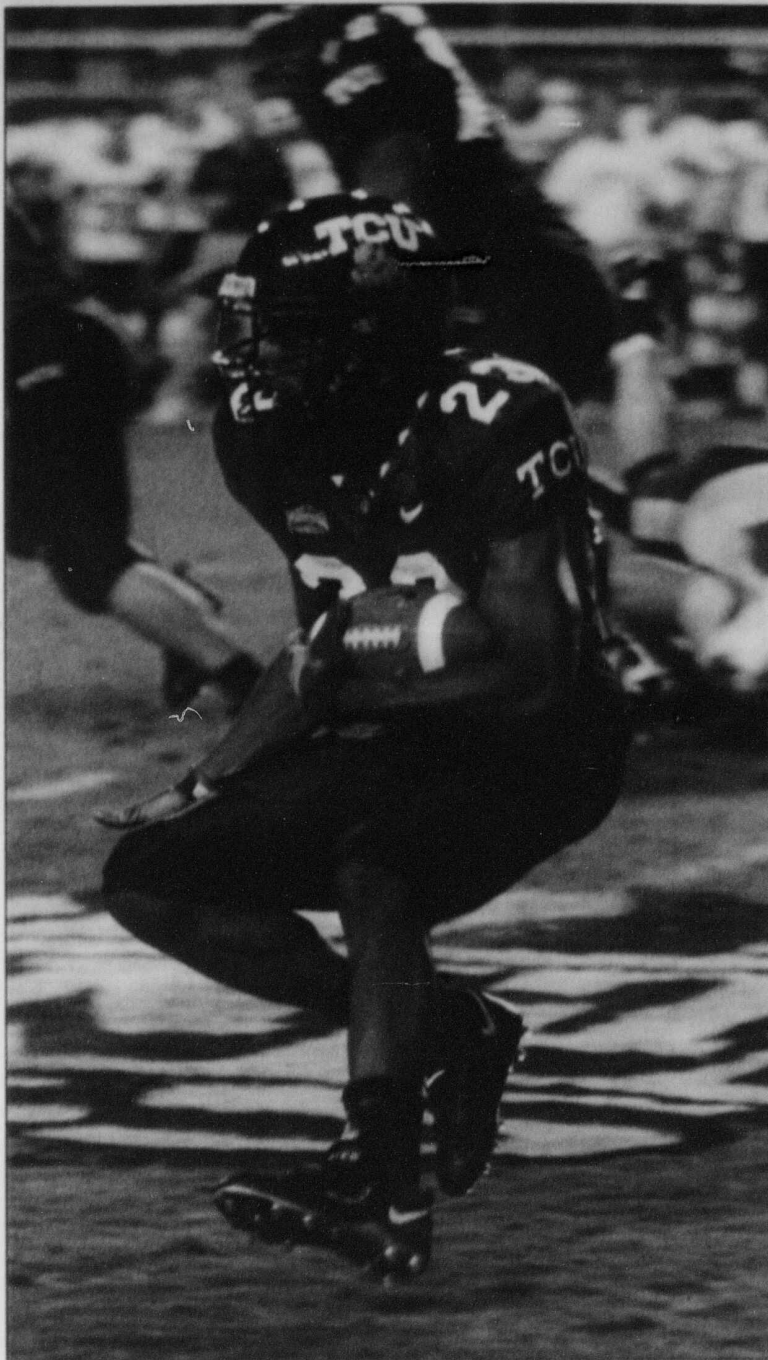
With the victory at Colorado State and Utah's last-second loss to BYU, the Horned Frogs all but clinched second place in the Mountain West Conference — BYU took first place.

A win this weekend against Air Force in the final game of the regular season will officially clinch second. Patterson said the team controlled its own destiny in its win against Colorado State.

In addition to the second-place conference finish, the Horned Frogs accepted an invite to the second-annual Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego, Calif., to be played Dec. 19.

The bowl, sponsored by San Diego County Credit Union, will pit TCU against a team considered an "at-large" bid.

It is the first bowl of the bowl season, and will give the team four days between the Fri-



SKIFF ARCHIVES  
Tailback Aaron Brown rushed for 166 yards and scored three touchdowns for a win against Colorado State on Saturday. The USA Today Poll has TCU at No. 26 while the AP Poll has the team at No. 27.

day of finals week and its bowl game.

When questioned about the quality of the bowl, Patterson said he's never been to a bad bowl game and is looking forward to the game.

# Football sized up before bowl games

By LYDIA CRAVER  
McClatchy Newspapers

## THUMBS UP

### 1. BYU

The Cougars ended a four-game skid against rival Utah, winning, 33-31, on a touchdown pass from John Beck with no time remaining. The win improved BYU to 10-2.

### 2. RICE

Jarrett Dillard scored three touchdowns, and the Owls secured their first bowl bid since 1961, defeating SMU, 31-27. Dillard finished the season with a Rice single-season record 82 receptions. He has a touchdown reception in 14 consecutive games, dating to last season.

### 3. SOUTH FLORIDA

Freshman quarterback Matt Grothe passed for a touchdown and ran for another as the visiting Bulls upset seventh-ranked West Virginia, 24-19. USF's defense not only limited the nation's best scoring offense, it held Steve Slaton, the nation's No. 2 rusher, to just 43 yards.

## THUMBS DOWN

### 1. BAYOU CLASSIC TEAMS

Southern beat Grambling, 21-17, in New Orleans, but for the first time since 1991, neither team will advance to the postseason. Southern finishes 5-6 and Grambling 3-7. Thank goodness for the bands.

### 2. NORTH CAROLINA

The Tar Heels have been down since Mack Brown left after 1997's 11-1 season, but a 45-44 win against 0-12 Duke? The same Duke that was outscored 406-179 this season? Butch Davis might have been better off opting for North Carolina prep power Independence High for his next stop.

### 3. PITT

After winning six of their first seven, the Panthers lost their fifth straight game, falling to Louisville 48-24. Though Pitt is bowl-eligible at 6-6, the team could find itself home for the holidays — not having won since mid-October.

## HEISMAN CANDIDATES

### 1. TROY SMITH

Ohio State Buckeyes senior quarterback. Smith pretty much locked up the Heisman race with last week's performance in a regular season-ending win against Michigan. Smith and Buckeyes await opponent in national-title game on Jan. 8.

Season: 199-260, 2,499 yds pass, 31 TD, 4 INT

### 2. BRADY QUINN

Notre Dame Fighting Irish senior quarterback. Quinn's dominating performance against Southern Cal might have given voters a reason to consider Quinn for the Heisman Trophy.

vs. USC: 22-45, 274 yds pass, 3 TD, 0 INT

Season: 274-433, 3,279 yds pass, 35 TD, 5 INT



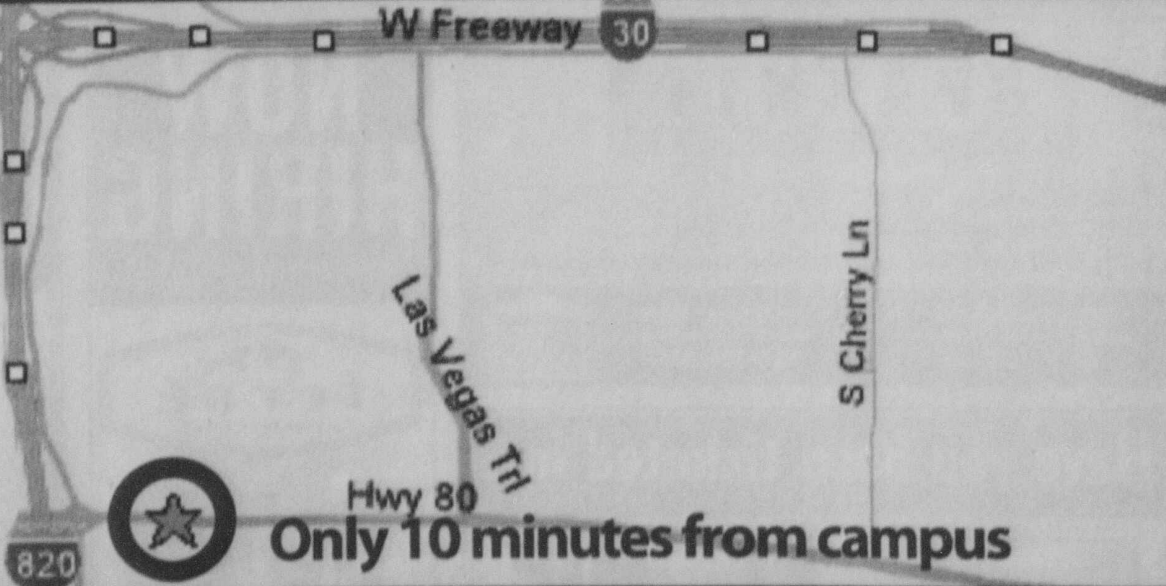
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