

NEWS
A "General Hospital" and "Boston Legal" actor visits campus.
TOMORROW



FEATURES
Revisit your childhood with "Wild Hogs."
FRIDAY



SPORTS
Diver R.J. Hesselberg travels to Austin for the NCAA Sectionals.
PAGE 6



TCU DAILY SKIFF

THURSDAY

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WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM

Panhellenic to invite new chapter; choice to be announced

By DIA WALL
Staff Reporter

Panhellenic representatives voted Wednesday on which sorority to invite to campus, but the results will not be released until the acceptance process has been finalized.

Panhellenic sorority representatives voted between

Alpha Phi, Delta Zeta and Gamma Phi Beta. The sorority with the highest votes will receive an offer to come to TCU in the fall. The three sororities were chosen from eight applicants.

James Parker, assistant dean of Campus Life, said Panhellenic's decision will

not be announced before the finalists are notified and the organization accepts the invitation to TCU. He said the decision could be announced as early as Friday.

The top sorority will be contacted with a formal invitation to the university, and the sorority's national committee

will conduct a formal vote to accept the invitation.

"The university and the national sorority will release a joint press release," Parker said.

Each Panhellenic sorority received one ballot to select its recommendation to the university, and the 10 votes were sealed in an envelope to be tabulated.

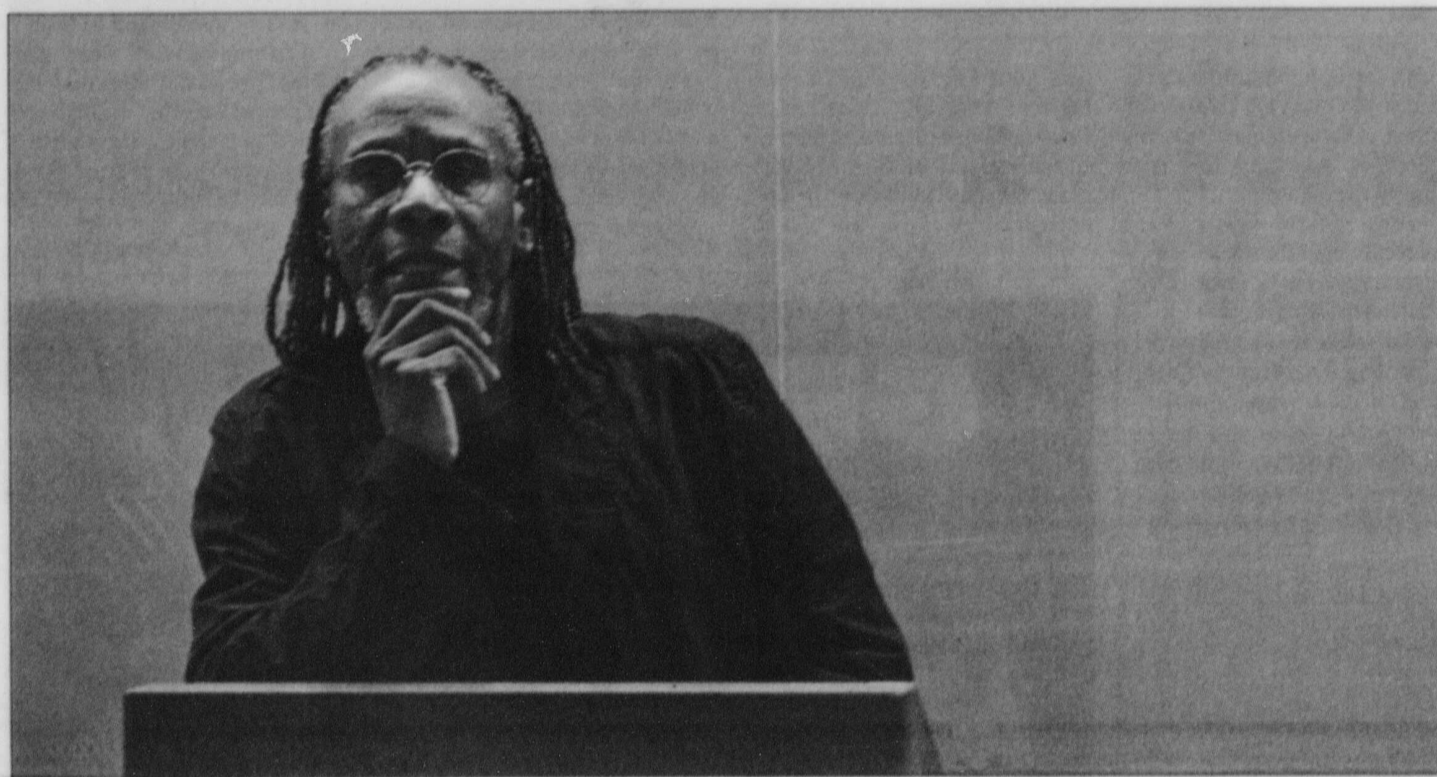
Hannah Munsch, Panhellenic president, said before the vote that the recent situation concerning DZ nationals and their Delta chapter at DePauw University will likely be considered during the process.

DePauw University is dealing with angry students, faculty, alumni and parents because

of a DZ restructuring program carried out by the sorority's national chapter that removed several overweight women from the sorority, according to a Feb. 25 New York Times article.

If the sorority elects to extend a chapter at TCU, they will notify Campus Life and preparation will begin.

POETRY IN MOTION



KYLE ROHANE / Staff Photographer

Nathaniel Mackey reads poetry from his book "Splay Anthem" Reed Hall on Wednesday evening. Mackey is a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz. "Splay Anthem" won the 2006 National Book Award for Poetry.

ONLINE

To find out more about this and other stories, check out the Skiff Web site at DAILYSKIFF.COM

Former RUF leader returns to Ft. Worth; in nursing facility

By ELIZABETH DAVIDSON
Staff Reporter

Less than three months after a bicycle accident left him in a coma, the former TCU Reformed University Fellowship leader has been transported back to Fort Worth.

Dustin Salter, former RUF leader, was moved from Greenville, S.C., on Jan. 31 to the Plaza at Ridgmar, a local skilled-nursing facility, said Ronald Pitcock, an assistant English professor and friend of the family.

Salter was transported from Greenville through Mercy MedFlight, a charitable air ambulance based out of Fort Worth. Alan Bonderud, a member of the family's local church, is executive director of the company, Pitcock said.

Salter's wife, Leigh Anne, and their three children, Jacob, 9, Nathan, 7, and Meredith, 2, moved back to Fort Worth the day before.

"They lived here the previous eight years and had a lot of friends here," Pitcock said. "This is a place that felt like home."

On Nov. 8, Salter fell off of his bicycle while riding with his two sons a block away from his home in South Carolina. He was not wearing a helmet. Salter was placed into a medically induced coma after the accident.

Pitcock said Salter is now considered to have a traumatic brain injury. He sometimes responds when asked to raise a thumb or follow with his eyes, according to the Web site of his former church, Redeemer Presbyterian in Travelers Rest, S.C.

Salter started RUF at TCU eight years ago but left last spring for Furman University

in South Carolina to be closer to his family.

Many friends and students have visited Salter and his family since his return to Fort Worth, including Lauren Babbitt, a senior movement science major, and Maggie Truitt, a junior radio-TV-film major. Both knew Salter from when he was the RUF campus minister.

"He's been a great minister, mentor, teacher and friend to me and many other people," Truitt said.

Truitt said she went to visit Salter's family in South Carolina after finals last semester.

"Moving back to Fort Worth allows the family to be back with friends and a network of people who can support and love them throughout this time of need," Truitt said.

RUF is the campus ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America, although campus chapters are nondenominational in terms of their fellowship, according to TCU's RUF Web site.

"Dustin's sphere of influence continues to amaze me as we hear about the people who were touched by his life," Babbitt said. "We love him and ask for continued prayers for him."

FOR YOUR INFO

• Get updates on Salter at: redeemerchurch.net/dustin/

• Salter's new address:
Plaza at Ridgmar
6600 Lands End Court
Fort Worth, TX 76116

Theatre department to participate in 365-play festival

By REBEKAH HOOD
Staff Reporter

The theatre department has committed to produce part of a national festival consisting of 365 days worth of plays.

It sounds like a daunting task, but the 365 Days/365 Plays play-cycle will last one week at TCU.

In 2002, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks decided to write a play every day of the year.

According to the 365 Days/365 Plays Web site, Parks' play cycle of short works began being performed in cities and at universities all across the country in November 2006.

This national festival, ending November 2007, has created the largest theatre collaboration in U.S. history,

according to the Web site.

"There are literally hundreds of theaters across the country participating," said Harry Parker, chairman of the theatre department. "We all have a kinship."

The theatre faculty read about the idea and presented it at a faculty meeting, Parker said.

The department then submitted a proposal to produce one week of Parks' plays, having only read three out of the seven of them. The theatre faculty choice was not based on the plays but by what week was best for the department to produce them, Parker said.

"You went on faith," Parker said.

Students will perform five short plays for seven days in September 2007, in addition to the theatre department's usual six

shows a year. The 365 Days/365 Plays works were written to be very short, and all five will only take about 30 minutes to perform, Parker said.

The plays are designed to be exciting, fresh and accessible, said Alan Shorter, an assistant professor on the performance faculty.

"I think sometimes students and people outside of theatre think that theater is old, dull, dry and not necessarily pertinent to their lives," Shorter said. "This breaks those myths. It breaks the idea of what theatre can be."

Junior and senior theatre students who have taken the directing class will be given the opportunity to apply to direct the plays, Parker said.

Sophomore theatre major Tricia Williamson said she

thinks it is educational to be a part of something a lot larger than just TCU.

"Student directing is a learning process for everyone involved," Williamson said.

The student directors will not have to deal with any preconceptions on how the plays are to be produced, Shorter said.

"You really have a blank canvas to work with and can learn a great deal," Shorter said. "It's an excellent education opportunity."

The project will be "great fun" because the students won't just be replicating old plays, Shorter said. They will be getting to experiment with the plays and with freer ways that they can be produced, Shorter said.

"They're called plays, but sometimes we forget to play," Shorter said.

Honors Program hires assistant director in preparation of college

By VALERIE COOPER
Staff Reporter

A new position in the Honors Program has been created to help the growing program in its transition to becoming the Honors College in 2009.

Peggy Watson, director of the Honors Program, announced at the Honors Achievement Celebration on Feb. 11 that Eng-

lish professor Ron Pitcock will become assistant director of the program, beginning fall 2007.

"The Honors Program has grown so much recently that it needs more than just one person," Pitcock said. "This is just one way of meeting those needs."

Though the program has not increased the number of students invited into the program, which is generally around 250 incoming students, the retention rate has increased. In the past, the retention rate from freshman to sophomore

year has been around 85 percent. This year, that number increased to 93 percent.

Watson has attributed the increased retention rate to improvements in advising and housing, both of which, she said, are necessary for the expansion to an entire Honors College.

"This growth was instrumental in supporting the Honors College," Watson said. "It shows us that we're on the right path and we're getting better."

Pitcock will assist the program in advising and he will teach

three honors classes a semester.

The addition of Pitcock's position is one of several steps taken by the program in preparing for the transition to the Honors College, which will occupy a section of the current Student Center upon its completion.

A committee of seven faculty members met in the fall and will meet again this semester to discuss objectives and goals for the new Honors College.

Some of the goals discussed include: providing more support through advising, allowing more

points of entry into the program, becoming more involved with student affairs and increasing recruiting of students.

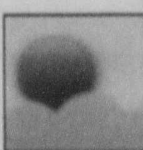
Watson said the committee will submit a plan to Provost Nowell Donovan by the end of the summer with specifics regarding the new college.

Honors students will also see a change in housing in the upcoming fall semester. Currently, honors students reside in Moncrief, Sherley and Clark halls. Beginning in the fall, honors students will also be

housed in Milton Daniel Hall.

"Having a single area will really help build the feeling of community," Honors Cabinet President Laura Hardin said. "Even if it's not as nice, it gives us an opportunity for a more cohesive community."

Milton Daniel will undergo minor renovations over the summer to convert the dorm into a coed residence, by adding women's restrooms and making fraternity chapter rooms into study lounges, complete with new furniture.



WEATHER
TODAY: Partly Cloudy/Windy,
FRIDAY: Partly Cloudy, 65/36
SATURDAY: Sunny, 61/36

PECULIAR FACT

CISARUA, Indonesia — A pair of month-old Sumatran tiger twins have become playmates with a set of young orang-utans, an unthinkable match in their habitat in Indonesia's tropical rainforests. — Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

FEATURES: Environment impacts ranching industry, page 4
OPINION: Pros and cons of the United Nations, page 3
SPORTS: Frogs end on winning note, 77-58, page 6

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS25SKIFF@TCU.EDU

International Week gives students taste of various cultures

By JENIGH POWELL
Staff Reporter

The International Student Association will host its first International Olympics today as part of International Week events promoting cultural diversity.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in several popular world sports such as soccer, and several Eastern world board games such as bocce, mancala and dominoes in front of Sadler Hall.

The International Olympics occurs on the sixth day of International Week festivities.

Following a theme of promoting different aspects of culture, the Olympics illustrate a sports theme, said Karen Estrada, International Week chair.

"In the past, events have always been the same," said Estrada, a junior accounting and e-business major. "This year, we have very diverse and different events that target every student at TCU."

Michelle Fabrega, ISA president, said she is excited about hosting the event and expects about 60 people to participate, but anticipates more students to come and go throughout the evening. Fabrega said she was

excited about the turnout thus far at previous International Week events.

"We were overwhelmed with the turnout in the beginning because of the new direction we decided to go in this year," said Fabrega, a junior advertising/public relations major.

There will be four teams of seven people for the soccer match.

Francois Piat, a graduate international management student, said he is participating in the soccer match because it will be a chance for him to be with other international students and meet new people.

The Olympics start at 5 p.m.

and will begin with the game ice and spoons, a group icebreaker that involves teams racing to fill buckets with ice. Soccer matches will follow the icebreaker as well as the board games. Traditional snacks and drinks from Asian countries such as a Vietnamese coconut drinks will also be served.

Besides incorporating cultural themes such as art, music, dance and sports in events, Fabrega contacted and met with several student and intercultural organizations asking for their participation in international week.

The result was a culmination of events co-sponsored by improvisational troupe Senseless Acts of Comedy, Students for Asian Indian Cultural Awareness, Center for International Education, International Student Services, Asian Student Association and Leadership Council.

Estrada stresses that International Week is not just for international students.

"International Week is a chance for TCU students to get out there and support other organizations," Estrada said. "We all have things about our cultures we want to share."

FOR YOUR INFO

International Olympics
5 - 7 p.m.
Sadler Hall Lawn

International Week Events:
Latin Carnival
Friday, March 2
9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Gloria's Restaurant

International Banquet
Saturday March 3
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom
\$15 per person or \$25 per couple

Report: Sunni Muslims greatest threat to U.S. troops

By DREW BROWN
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Sunni Muslim insurgents remain by far the biggest threat to American troops in Iraq, despite recent U.S. claims that Iran is providing Shiite Muslim militia groups with a new type of roadside bomb, a review of American casualty reports shows.

While U.S. military officials have held briefings to publicize their concerns about the potent bombs known as explosively formed projectiles (EFPs) or penetrators, casualty reports suggest that such weapons in the hands of Shiite militias are responsible for a relatively small number of American deaths.

U.S. officials have said attacks with such weapons increased 150 percent in the past year. But a review of bombings by location shows that less than 10 percent of attacks that killed at least two American service members in the

past 14 months were in areas where Shiite militias are dominant.

Those reports show that fewer than half the bomb attacks on heavily armored U.S. vehicles such as Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles were in areas where Shiite militias dominate.

While it's difficult to know which armed group planted a bomb, analysts say the casualty numbers show that U.S. officials are exaggerating the importance of EFPs, which military officials say have been used only by Shiites.

"There were relatively few American deaths from explosively formed penetrators until recently, but you can say the same thing about attacks on helicopters or chlorine attacks," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst with the Lexington Institute, a policy research group in Arlington, Va.

"The fact of the matter is that the insurgents, both Sunni and Shiite,

"I think the issue is not whether or not materials and supplies are coming from Iran — they are — but rather how far up the Iranian leadership is involved."

Bryan Whitman

Pentagon Chief Spokesman

are becoming a lot more sophisticated in their tactics. Explosively formed penetrators are only one part of that, and they are not a particularly important part."

Pentagon officials say the issue is important because the Iranian government appears to be involved.

"I think the issue is not whether or not materials and supplies are coming from Iran — they are — but rather how far up the Iranian leadership is involved," said Bryan Whitman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman.

Roadside bombs have killed at

least 1,150 Americans since the war began, according to Coalition Casualty Count, a Web site that tracks coalition casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of those, 496 died from Dec. 1, 2005, through Jan. 31 of this year.

U.S. military officials point to the discovery of a weapons cache in a Shiite village near Baqouba, about 40 miles from Baghdad, as the latest evidence that Iran is supplying Shiite militants with weapons.

On Monday, the Defense Department posted a video of the discovery on the Web and American officers in Baghdad displayed weapons seized in the raid, including rocket-propelled grenades, 120 mm mortars and 122 mm rockets that they said bore markings that proved the weapons were made in Iran last year.

The find also included artillery

rounds, land mines, detonation cord, triggering devices, C-4 explosives and more than 140 metal discs, which U.S. military officers said were components for making EFPs.

Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, the No. 2 commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said earlier this week that the weapons clearly were linked to Iran.

"The mortar tubes were made in Iran," he said. "We know that the pieces of the explosively formed projectiles, the machine pieces, were made in Iran. So we know they're being developed and brought into Iraq."

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U.S. News & World Report
2007
AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES

GET REAL...

Most TCU Students choose ABSTINENCE or practice SAFE SEX consistently.

72% of TCU Students reported that they DID NOT engage in sexual intercourse or that they used a condom if they did have sex within the past year*

For More Information Contact TCU Alcohol & Drug Education Center
Campus Rec. Basement 257-7100
* CORE Survey administered Spring 2005

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TCU Box 298050, Fort Worth, TX 76129
Phone: (817) 257-7428 Fax: (817) 257-7133
E-mail: news2skiff@tcu.edu

Editor in Chief: Adrienne Lang
Managing Editor: John-Laurent Trenché
Associate Editor: Leslie Honey
Copy Desk Chief: Michael Dodd
News Editors: Andrew Chavez, Aly Fleet

Opinion Editor: Lindsey Bever
Sports Editor: Marcus Murphy
Features Editor: Amber Parcher
Photo Editor: Billy Wersels
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"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."
— Langston Hughes

THE SKIFF VIEW

U.S. can benefit from women in politics

In the past 10 years, women have increasingly become more important in U.S. politics.

It's about time that, 86 years after women earned the right to vote, Americans see a significant change in political gender.

Madeleine Albright became the first female U.S. Secretary of State 10 years ago. Just this year, Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker of the House.

And divisive as she is, Hillary Clinton is, without a doubt, the first female presidential candidate with a strong chance of winning, or at least earning a significant amount of votes.

Since Eleanor Roosevelt set the bar, first ladies have also become increasingly important despite having no official powers in their role.

The trend of more females in politics isn't just an American thing; women have been asserting themselves elsewhere in the world long before Americans have.

Carrie Liu Currier is an assistant professor of political science and a member of the Women's Studies program.

Currier said gender in politics has become

less important because of a change in society.

"There is a less of a stigma attached to women running in high levels in political office," Currier said.

In the past 20 years, Currier said, women are becoming accepted as global leaders, depending on the countries.

Currently, there are 10 female heads of state serving worldwide in countries such as Chile, Mozambique and Ireland.

Angela Merkel, Germany's first female chancellor, has made tremendous changes to the nation's economy. French politician Segolene Royal is regarded by many to be the frontrunner in the 2007 French presidential elections.

It's apparent that elsewhere people know women are just as capable of holding office as men.

And according to a Feb. 11 USA Today/Gallup poll, 88 percent of respondents said they would vote for a female candidate for our highest office.

It's only a matter of time before the United States gets its own Mrs. President.

Managing editor John-Laurent Tronche for the editorial board.

OOFSPPOOF BY ROLF NELSON

PHARAOHS OF OUR TIME



HILLARY ELIZABETH Rolf Nelson

Peace organization's imperfections no reason to eliminate altogether

World peace.

It may sound like a joke, conjuring up images of pageant queens or celebrities trying to gain a bit of positive publicity, but attaining world peace is what the United Nations is all about.

COMMENTARY



Talia Sampson

It's incredible to think that an institution created to be a wartime alliance has evolved to include 192 member states, 15 specialized agencies and several ongoing funds, missions and programs.

"Numerous studies show that if you look at who is good at helping create democracy, no individual country has had success," said Eric Cox, TCU Model U.N. director. "The U.N. is more effective, by far, in creating democratic success."

Cox, an assistant professor of political science, cited the examples of Bosnia, Kosovo and Haiti, where the end of conflict and establishment of democracy was due in large part to U.N. missions.

The U.N. is the most all-inclusive global entity promoting peace, development and human rights, but this inclusiveness has created an extensive bureaucracy, which many would like to see reformed.

As a former member of the TCU Model U.N. delegation, I know that although reforms to the U.N. may be necessary, completely scrapping it would be a terrible idea.

"If it didn't exist, the U.S.

would need to create a place to go talk to states we don't have diplomatic relations with but need to talk to," Cox said.

At a press conference in Vienna last weekend, U.N. Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon addressed the growing concerns of member states over the perceived inadequacies of the U.N.

Focusing on the Secretariat, Ban said he is "committed to making reforms in management ... so that members, staff of the Secretariat, will stand on the highest level of integrity and ethical standards with a strong sense of commitment and direction."

Sounds pretty similar to the TCU mission statement, doesn't it?

"To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community."

And just as I would rather work toward improving TCU than transfer, I believe that the U.N. can be more efficient if member states work toward improving it.

"The base budget for the U.N. is smaller than the base budget for Dallas," Cox said.

However, Cox said that in the past year alone there has been significant effort toward restructuring management and procurement of funding to meet the same standards as private businesses.

And after all, we haven't had a world war since the 1940s, and since the end

of the Cold War, most conflicts have been internal as opposed to between states. This means that the U.N., for all its bureaucracy, is doing the job it set out to do.

And, to do that job even more competently, especially in the area of development, the U.N. has set out eight Millennium Development Goals, which can be found on the Web site un.org.

"Outside the U.S., the U.N. is fundamental for the interests of developing nations around the world," Cox said.

These MDGs are mostly well on their way to being met by 2015 but need the continued and increased cooperation of member states if they are to do so.

So, although reforms are necessary to the U.N., there needs to be an end to the mentality that imperfect institutions should be eliminated instead of improved if the dream of world peace is ever to be realized.

Talia Sampson is a junior news-editorial journalism and international relations major from Moorpark, Calif.



United Nations' selection criteria lacks; needs confederation system

The victorious powers of World War II created the United Nations in hope of staving off another war.

What they ended up doing

COMMENTARY



Tyler Fultz

was creating a bureaucratic and ineffective organization that does not have the power to preserve peace.

Primarily, the Security Council, the U.N.'s most important decision-making body, does not work. The five nations with veto power on the council are Russia, China, France, England and the United States.

What does this mean? This means that very rarely will anything of substance pass through the chambers. The result has been decades of nonbinding resolutions and meaningless wordplay.

The Security Council was originally intended to take vigorous military action in support of peace. The veto power makes this all but

impossible. To make matters worse, there is no hope of reforming this broken system. Any changes made to the U.N. Constitution must first be approved by the Security Council, where any of those five disagreeing countries is likely to veto the change. It is certainly not fair that a country such as France remains on the council, while Brazil and India have little or no voice. Unfortunately, the system cannot be realistically changed.

Corruption and waste are the U.N.'s hallmarks. The Oil-for-Food program has only been the most recent scandal in a long line of U.N. corruption and ineffectiveness. Nearly \$10 billion was siphoned away from the needy Iraqi people and into Saddam Hussein's hands under the program, while U.N. administrators lined their pockets with bribes and kickbacks.

Another notorious instance of U.N. corruption was the installation of Sudan and Libya, both violators of personal rights, onto the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. The U.N. was since so embarrassed that it dissolved the committee and created a new one. The U.N. has also had a notorious anti-Israel bias, often excluding them from meaningful committees and trying to ostracize this responsible member of the international community because of regional disputes or downright anti-Semitism.

To highlight the U.N.'s ineffectiveness in stopping conflict —

its primary mission — it is worth examining the behavior of peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia. During the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, 500 Dutch peacekeepers stood by and watched as an estimated 8,000 men, women and children were killed by armed militias despite the fact that the U.N. designated Srebrenica a "safe haven" for refugees. This horrific tragedy highlights the bureaucracy the U.N. has become. It is so tied up in its own rules that it cannot allow peacekeepers to effectively do their jobs.

The biggest problem with the U.N. is its lack of membership criteria. There is no reason that countries such as North Korea, Iran and Sudan should sit at the same table and pretend to have equal international status as the liberal democracies of the world. These pariah countries keep the wheels of the U.N. from turning effectively and block effective action on important issues. While the U.N. has had many successes in the area of development (especially micro-loans) the U.N. fails to live up to its original mission of preventing conflict.

The answer is the creation of a new collective security organization composed only of the world's democracies and operated without a veto power for any country. Such a "confederation" is the best way to ensure security for all the world's people and to encourage states to adopt democratic governance.

Tyler Fultz is a senior history and political science major from Indianapolis.

Hockey coach's poor behavior deserves more severe penalty

NHL coach Lindy Ruff, of the Sabres, was fined \$10,000 for sending his players to rough up the Senators in a game last Thursday between Buffalo and Ottawa, according to the MSNBC Web site.

COMMENTARY



John Boller

Ruff's coaching tip came after his forward took an elbow to the forehead from the Senators' Chris Neil. Ruff got what he wanted when every player

on the ice started fighting. After the game, Ruff was not reluctant to admit what he had done.

"Yea, I told them, 'Go out and run 'em,'" he said in an Associated Press article.

Ruff said he felt justification in his actions because Neil did not receive a penalty after putting a 20-stich gash into Drury's forehead, according to league officials.

While watching the hit on ESPN, it clearly was part of the game. The NHL has these types of hits. This is what attracts its viewers. It is a great game.

What I do not like about the game is what resulted from the hit. A coach tells his players to "Go out and run 'em." Players get in a brawl, and Ruff just gets \$10,000.

Nobody else got in trouble. He is not even being suspended from coaching by the league or from his own organization.

That is why hockey continues to struggle to gain an audience. According to the latest Nielsen Ratings, the past all-star game ratings were down by 76 percent. The game had 1.2 million viewers.

Lately the NHL has been

doing its best to change its slacking performance. It shortened the goalie's entire uniform, made the offensive scoring zones longer and made defense much harder.

This was all done to make scoring go up and get the fans back into the game after the strike. Scoring did go up. But, it is not everlasting. Hockey did not start to lose its viewers because scoring was down. It has lost viewers because it does not discipline its players and coaches correctly.

The NBA is the best example of a league that knows how to discipline. It has been

through that situation and its commissioner, David Stern, did not make scoring easier. He put his foot down. To play in the NBA, players have to agree to represent it in a professional manner. Stern implemented a dress code for players, suspensions and fines, and no back-talking to referees, according to an October 2006 Sporting News Magazine article. The players have done this and the league continues to move forward.

The NBA always seems to at least put an effort toward reshaping its image for the better. I think it is successful

because it reshapes with every viewer in mind.

Viewers do want excitement and entertainment. They do like high scores. But most of all they like to have fun. Seeing a coach gloat about the fact that he started a fight is not what hockey is about. I certainly did not think the league would let it just pass by.

Ruff should have been suspended for a few games. I like to see a good hit in hockey. But I like it when it is just that: a good hit.

John Boller is a senior broadcast journalism major from Atlanta.

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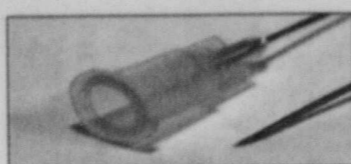
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COMING UP
Meet the professor who refuses to let her disease slow her down.
WEDNESDAY

Trouble on the Ranch

Because of alternative fuel productions, some farmers say they face problems feeding themselves and their livestock.

By ASHLEIGH WHALEY
Staff Reporter

Alternative fuel production might be causing more trouble than it seeks to fix.

As part of the 2006 Advanced Energy Initiative to reduce dependency on foreign oil, the government is giving entrepreneurs billions in subsidies to produce ethanol, an alternative fuel that will require major changes in the ranch management industry to remain sustainable.

Americans primarily make

ethanol by mixing gasoline with the by-products of corn. Meat producers on the ranch who used to feed corn to livestock must now feed it to the ethanol industry and find alternative food for animals, said Eric Brast, assistant director of the ranch management institute.

During his State of the Union Address on Jan. 23, President Bush said, "Extending hope and opportunity depends on a stable supply of energy that keeps America's economy running and

America's environment clean." Ranch managers are now wondering how the energy supply will affect food supplies.

Government subsidies for ethanol production create a higher demand for corn, taking it out of human mouths and the mouths of the cattle, swine and chickens, Brast said.

"We, as producers, don't ever like to see things come about that take food from human consumption, and I think that ethanol will be something that does that," Brast said. "So our challenge is to find other food that can take the place of corn because the way it looks right now — corn is going to ethanol production and there's nothing we can do about it."

Ethanol, made from sugar cane, is 600 percent more efficient than corn-based ethanol, Brast said.

Corn is primarily used in the United States because we grow a lot of it here, unlike sugar cane, which only exists in the United States because of trade barriers, said economics instructor John Lovett.

Decreasing dependency on

foreign oil is necessary, but getting there won't be easy, Brast said.

Director of the Ranch Management Program Kerry Cornelius said nobody knows if ethanol is here to stay.

"There have been plants built for ethanol before, most of which failed, and the reason they failed is that there wasn't enough market demand for it and it wasn't subsidized," Brast said.

Ranchers began dealing with ethanol production issues in the 1970s, Brast said. Unsure of how long government subsidies will last, ranchers still have to develop new management strategies to survive without corn, he said.

Americans will adjust to using ethanol as it becomes more available and affordable, but ranchers don't have the luxury of waiting around.

"If the price of oil goes to \$20 a barrel, there will be no ethanol industry because gas will be too cheap," Cornelius said. "If oil goes back up to \$60 a barrel, there will be a value

for ethanol production."

Unless gas prices start getting up around \$3 a gallon, ethanol is not going to be profitable as a fuel because right now it sells for about \$3.50, Lovett said.

"This is going to hurt farmers and ranchers I would say more than anybody because we're such big users of corn," Brast said. "We won't have access to it because it will be priced out of our market and we can't afford to compete with ethanol."

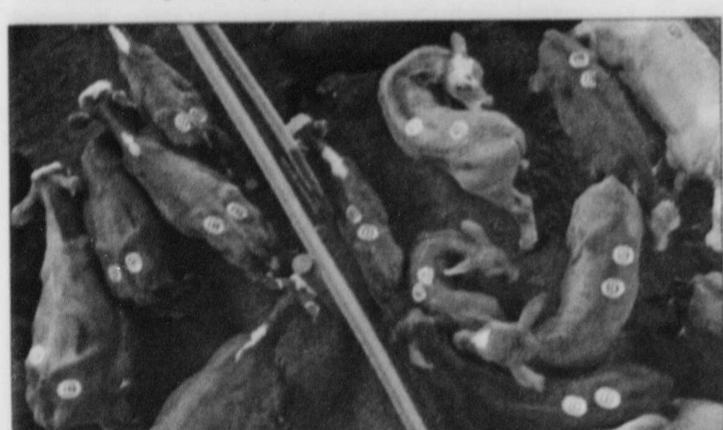
Brast said ranchers will instead have access to the by-products of ethanol production and will feed cattle with them.

He said it's important to realize that ethanol production is a government-sponsored program

with a lot of backing from the corn-rich states in the Midwest.

"The government subsidies and programs that have been set up by the administration and Congress as a means to decrease dependence on foreign oil is what has funded a lot of the initial construction of ethanol plants," Brast said. "It wasn't farmers all the sudden deciding that we're going to build ethanol plants; it was the government saying we're going to mandate that 10 to 15 percent of all gasoline contain ethanol."

Brast said the free market will take corn from ranchers to fuel producers as long as subsidies continue to be handed out by the government.



Cattle wait for their turn to be auctioned off at the Emory Livestock Auction in Emory. They face losing their food source to alternative energy, which uses corn as its main ingredient, said Eric Brast, assistant director of the ranch management institute.



BARRY SHLACHTER / MCT

A rancher gets a view of the ADM soybean facility in Mato Grosso state in central-west Brazil. Farmers are having a harder time feeding themselves and their livestock because of alternative energy sources that use corn, said Eric Brast, assistant director of the ranch management institute.

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Sophomore diver only teammate to compete in NCAA Sectionals

By ELISA GOMEZ
Staff Reporter

A back handstand double somersault with a twist, a front two and a half pike and an inward two and a half pike. These words appear to be a move combination a gymnast would use but they are not.

They make up the dives sophomore diver R.J. Hesselberg will use to compete in Austin at the NCAA Sectional D Diving Meet this weekend.

Hesselberg, who competed in the competition last year, said he feels good about the meet especially after competing in the Mountain West Conference Championships last week.

"I'm not worried about beating anyone," Hesselberg said.

Hesselberg is not new to this level of competition having participated in the Sectional Diving meet last year and finishing top-10 in three events. He said he gained experience from last year's competition and will use it this weekend.

"I just learned to relax," Hesselberg said. "I'm focusing more during practice and not playing around as much."

Diving coach Wayne Chester said he thinks Hesselberg has a good chance on the three-meter springboard even though his platform diving is the best. He also said he thinks Hesselberg's greatest strength is the degree of difficulty in his dives.

"Sometimes judges would rather see a harder dive that might not have been landed as well, rather than an easier dive landed perfectly," Chester said.

The only disadvantage presented to Hesselberg might be limited practice facilities. The

platform board at TCU is only 7.5 meters tall while the platform board at the sectional meet is 10 meters tall.

Chester said Hesselberg should not have a problem going back to his degree of difficulty. He said Hesselberg will be performing a dive that scores a 3.5 out of 4 for the degree of difficulty.

Hesselberg said he feels his greatest strength is being fearless.

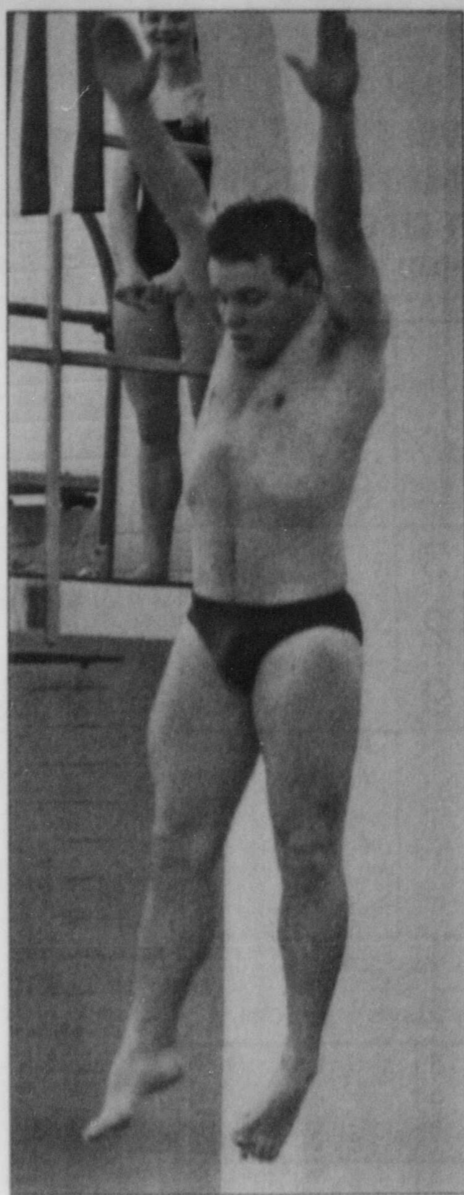
"I'm not afraid to get hurt and that scares the coaches sometimes," Hesselberg said. "But I can put everything into my dives."

Before he makes his first dive into the pool Friday, Hesselberg said he will put in some practice time to get adjusted to the diving boards before the meet begins. He also said he has a particular way he prepares before diving.

"I listen to my CD player and try to forget about the competition," Hesselberg said. "Then I go over the dives in my head."

He said he will usually do lead ups, which is the walking approach to perform the dive, on the lower boards before making the dive.

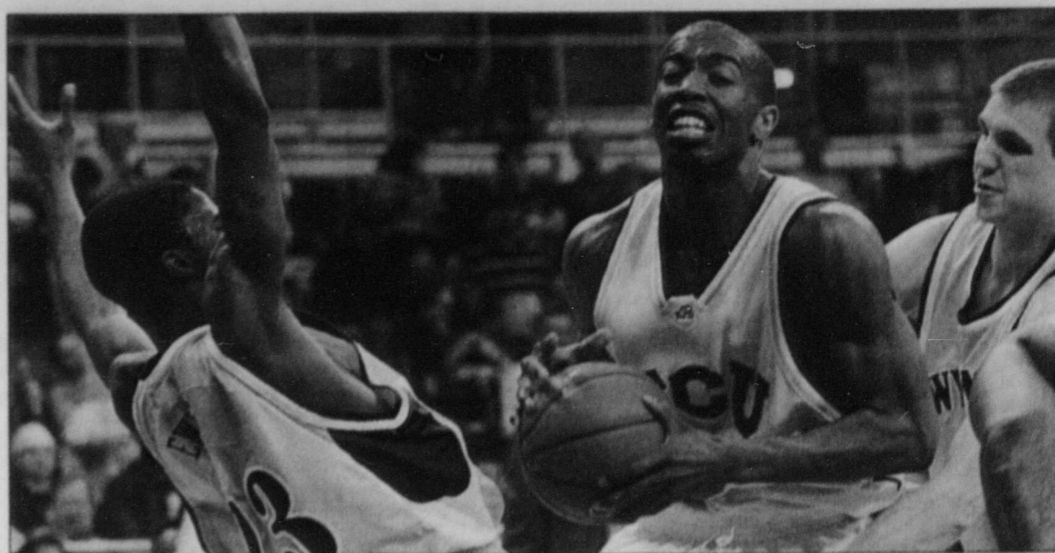
Hesselberg said he, like most divers, hopes to advance to the



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor
Sophomore R.J. Hesselberg dives in a swimming and diving event against Utah on Jan. 13. Hesselberg will compete in Austin at the NCAA Sectional D Diving Meet this weekend.

NCAA Championships in Minneapolis, Minn., in late March. "It'd take a lot of stress off of me for next year," he said.

Conference ends with win



ROBYN SHEPHERD / Staff Photographer
Forward Kevin Langford fights for an opening at the basket on Wednesday. The Frogs won their last conference game 77-58.

By BILLY WESSELS
Photo Editor

Three Horned Frog basketball players spent their final night displaying purple and white uniforms before a home crowd during Wednesday's "Senior Night" game against the Wyoming Cowboys.

Forward Femi Ibikunle, guard Neil P. Dougherty and forward Blake Adams ended their basketball careers at TCU with a 77-58 win against

the Cowboys (15-14, 6-9 conference). Ibikunle finished the night with four rebounds while Neil P. Dougherty tallied 11 points and four boards. Adams had two points and a rebound during his final night in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

The Frogs (12-15, 4-11 conference) were led by sophomore forward Kevin Langford, who scored 15 first-half points and finished the night with 24 points and six rebounds.

TCU plowed through the first half with a 17-1 run and led 39-30 going into the locker room.

The Horned Frogs outscored the Cowboys 38-28 in the second half to seal the victory.

ONLINE

To find out more about this and other stories, check out the Skiff Web site at DAILYSKIFF.COM

Men's golf to compete in 2nd tourney of season

By Amber Parcher
Features Editor

With the U.S. Collegiate Championship Tournament four weeks away, the No. 32 Horned Frogs men's golf team prepare to head to California on Monday for the second tournament of the spring season.

The Horned Frogs will play at the USC Ashworth Intercollegiate Tournament March 5 and March 6, sharing the lynx with the No. 14 BYU Cougars.

Leading the way for the Frogs are freshman Travis Woolf, ranked first in the conference with an average of 68 strokes per tournament, and sophomore Jon McClean, ranked No. 49 in the nation.

Head coach Bill Montigel said the Mountain West Conference is one of the best in the nation. UNLV leads the conference with a No. 7 national rank.

"Both UNLV and BYU have played in two tournaments

this spring and finished 1-2 in each," Montigel said.

Woolf said the team can't be intimidated by rankings.

"We've played against teams like Oklahoma State and Stanford," Woolf said. "We can compete with BYU."

Though the team hasn't played since Feb. 7 in Hawaii, sophomore Jesse Speirs said the team is shaping up to make it to the NCAA tournament.

Woolf's final-round 64 in Hawaii marked a school record for the team.

Despite the recent windy weather, the team has not withheld practicing, which, Montigel says, can only help it in the long run.

"We played on Saturday, and afterward, I learned they closed the airport," Montigel said. "It was tough on them, but they've just got to smooth out their swings, and they'll be fine."

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Staff Reporter

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By MICHELLE
Staff Reporter

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Staff Reporter

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