

NEWS

SGA is working to get school supply vending machines on campus. TUESDAY

FEATURES

Do you know where your coffee came from? PAGE 5

SPORTS

The women's tennis team hosts No. 25 VCU. PAGE 12



# TCU DAILY SKIFF

FRIDAY  
March 23, 2007  
Vol. 104 Issue 91

EST. 1902 WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM

## Administrators answer questions about gas drilling

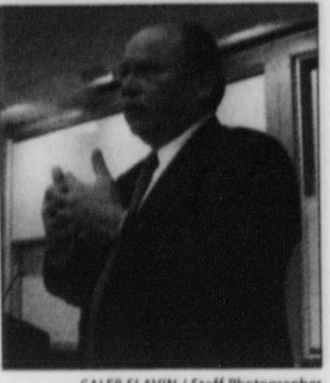
By JAMES BROWN  
Staff Reporter  
In an open discussion Thursday, administrators told members of the TCU-area community that a gas lease with Four Sevens Resources Co. was far from finalized and would have to satisfy "stringent" requirements before drilling would be allowed to commence. The meeting, which filled a conference room in the Tucker

Technology Center, was a chance for interested students, faculty, staff and TCU-area neighbors to express concerns and ask questions about the pending lease. Brian Gutierrez, vice chancellor for finance and administration, and Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, assured participants that a potential lease would consider a variety of conditions, including safety, noise and environmental effects.

"If the implications were that the safety could not be maintained for the campus or the community," Gutierrez said, "we won't do this." The majority of apprehension came from TCU-area residents concerned with the consequences that natural gas exploration would have on their communities. Kendall McCook, a nearby resident whose wife and son attended TCU, said he doesn't

think people are well informed on the implications of such an undertaking. "This place is a special kind of refuge," McCook said. "I'm not comfortable with the kind of invasion that is happening here to our peaceful community." Kathryn McDorman, an associate professor of history and resident of the University West neighborhood, shared McCook's sentiment and was cheered on

by others when she expressed her aversion to the project. "I hate this whole thing," McDorman said. "I think it is a regrettable development of modern culture that now we are so desperate for energy that we are digging under our own homes and our city and now our university." Both McCook and McDorman



CALEB SLAVIN / Staff Photographer  
Vice chancellor for student affairs Don Mills speaks to the university about drilling for natural gas on campus Thursday.

See GAS, page 2

## Senior competes at Indy hoping to win \$10,000

By LISA FALCONE  
Staff Reporter  
On Friday, a 21-year-old TCU student, who is also the owner of a thriving real estate business, will have slightly more than eight minutes to promote his idea for a new business while riding in a limousine.



Entrepreneurial management senior Adam Blake left Thursday for Indiana to compete in the Nascent 500 Business Challenge to win \$10,000. The Nascent 500 is a competition for undergraduate entrepreneurs to pitch their original business ideas to a panel of judges at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Students from around the nation have submitted their business plans to the Entrepreneurship Center at Ball State University, and 12 were selected to compete in the challenge.

The participants will be divided into teams of three. Each team has 500 seconds, one lap, to present their plans to three judges in the back of a limousine as it slowly travels around the track.

One person from each team will be chosen for the next round, the "Homestretch", where they will give a more formal presentation to three new judges.

The winner will receive \$10,000, a victory lap around the famous speedway and will partake in the Indy 500 tradition of drinking milk from a quart jar.

Brad Hancock, assistant director of the Neeley Entrepreneurship Center, will accompany Blake on his venture to Indianapolis. "Going to Indy and driving around the speedway in a limo

See CHALLENGE, page 2

## ALL THAT JAZZ



The TCU Jazz Ensemble will be hosting its 30th annual Jazz Fest this weekend. The festival will bring in 28 high school bands and two award-winning composers.

## Film composer to honor professor's 30 years at Jazz Festival

By REBEKAH HOOD  
Staff Reporter  
A Hollywood film composer will be conducting a piece he personalized for a music professor at the university's annual jazz festival this weekend. Award-winning composer Patrick Williams will conduct his piece, "The Sun Will Shine Today," in honor of the director of jazz studies Curtis Wilson's 30th anniversary at TCU.

Williams has received two Grammys, four Emmy awards, and an Oscar nomination for his film composition, and a Pulitzer Prize nomination for "An American Concerto," according to his Web site.

"He's a real heavyweight," Wilson said. "I've admired his music since I was in college. I'm looking forward to

seeing him again." This year will also be the 30th year for the TCU Jazz Festival, which draws 28 high school bands in addition to Williams and Los Angeles trombone player Andy Martin.

Martin has performed award shows as well as TV shows such as "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars."

"The high school bands participating are coming mostly from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, though some are coming from as far away as College Station, and even bands from Hawaii have been known to participate before," Wilson said.

"It's a contest, and they are adjudicated by professional musicians," Wilson said.

The winning students will receive trophies at the awards concert Saturday night. This concert is also where Williams' music will be played. Martin will perform and Wilson will play a piece he wrote in 1991 in memory of a former TCU student who was killed in an automobile accident, Wilson said.

Although it is technically Wilson's 31st year at TCU, this year's festival is special to him because of the many alumni who have been invited, Wilson said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing some of the great students we've had here in the past that normally would not come to a concert," Wilson said. "Some of them are

See JAZZ, page 2

**FOR YOUR INFO**

**FRIDAY**  
The Andy Martin Quartet  
• 7:30 p.m.  
• Ed Landreth Auditorium  
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• 7:30 p.m.  
• Ed Landreth Auditorium  
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## Minority applicants, admissions increase

By JILLIAN HUTCHISON  
Staff Reporter

This year has been a record-setting year in admissions, not just for the number of applications received, but also for the number of applications received from minorities.

Ray Brown, dean of undergraduate admissions, said 32.9 percent of the applications submitted this year were from minorities. That is up from 29.3 percent in 2006 and 23.9 percent in 2005.

Brown said an increase like this is extraordinary. Of the more than 1,300 applications submitted from minorities, 20 percent didn't actually complete the application process. Of the total applications from minority students, Brown said 29.4 percent will be admitted.

"We have been so far behind the curve for so long," Brown said. "Any increase is a welcome increase."

The increase, Brown said, may be due to the university having instituted so many programs over the last five years specifically for minority students.

Victoria Herrera, an admissions counselor, said it is a lot easier to implement those programs and ideas because of support from the administration.

"What makes TCU different is that we have the support of the administration for enhancing minorities in the student body," Herrera said.

Brown said though there have been increased efforts to increase diversity over the last five years, he said the admissions staff wasn't recruiting differently this year than last.

"Each year builds on the previous year," Brown said.

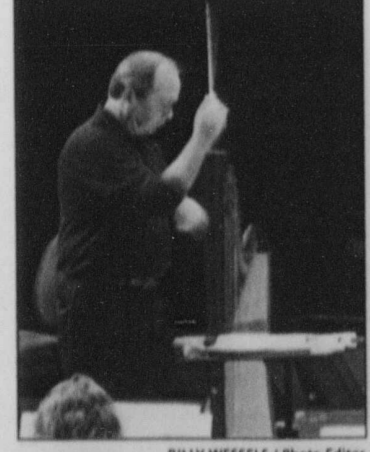
Herrera said, however, that TCU has several programs on the local, state and national levels that contribute to bringing in minority students. She said TCU works closely with Fort Worth Independent School District programs that prepare students for college.

On the state level, TCU works with other colleges in Texas to put on Camp College, an event organized over a few days on a college campus to tell high school juniors and seniors about college.

"They get the true college experience," Herrera said.

Herrera said TCU also participates in the National His-

See ADMISSIONS, page 2



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor  
Conductor Bobby Francis will lead the TCU Wind Symphony during a performance in the College Band Directors National Association's national conference.

## Symphony chosen to perform in national concert

By SUSAN GILMARTIN  
Staff Reporter  
After performing for a Texas audience in February, the wind symphony will perform for a national audience next week.

Bobby Francis, director of bands, said the wind symphony was chosen as one of the top bands in the nation to perform at the College Band Directors National Association's national conference, which occurs every other year. The symphony will play in an evening performance March 29 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Francis said he sent an audition CD to the association a

year ago and was informed the university was chosen from a blind audition, which means the judges only listened to the music and did not look at any college or university names.

Jerry Junkin, president of the CBDNA, said there were about 60 bands that auditioned and nine were selected to perform.

Francis said Richard Gipson, director of the School of Music, allotted money to fund the trip. There are 65 musicians in the wind symphony, but Francis said they will travel with 95 people which includes staff, soloists and choir members.

This is the first time in TCU's history a band has been invited to perform at a CBDNA conference, Francis said, and the university unofficially received the top ranking.

The wind symphony has been preparing for this for a year, Francis said, but has stepped up the rehearsal schedule since the spring semester began.

Adam Quinn, senior entrepreneurial management major, said members of the symphony returned to campus a week before the spring semester began to rehearse every day. He said they were also prepar-

ing for the Texas Music Educators Association performance in February, but kept to a two hour rehearsal three times a week.

"This is rewarding for me to know that this is my fifth year in this ensemble and now it's finally all paying off because the TCU Music Department is flying us 1,500 miles so that we can perform in front of college band directors from all over the country," Quinn said.

"Music is something that I have enjoyed for the last 13 years of my life, and I

See SYMPHONY, page 2

**WEATHER**  
TODAY: Cloudy, 78/61  
SATURDAY: AM Clouds, 78/63  
SUNDAY: Scattered T-Storms, 74/63

**PECULIAR FACT**  
An eighth-grader faces expulsion after admitting he put urine in a teacher's coffee pot, officials said. — Associated Press

**TODAY'S HEADLINES**  
NEWS: Panther dead on Florida interstate, page 4  
OPINION: Find real life outside home, page 3  
SPORTS: Track team hosts first home meet, page 12

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

**SYMPHONY**

From page 1

know it has been one of the greatest things I have ever done," said Quinn, a saxophonist.

He said many doors have been opened for him because of music, and he enjoys the fact that 50 or 60 different people from different ages, backgrounds and majors can come together to work toward a common purpose like this performance.

Quinn said in the time he has been at the university, the wind symphony has never performed at a convention on a national level.

Rachael Chilton, junior music education major, said this is one of the highest honors the wind symphony can receive among college bands.

Chilton said a composer, Michael Colgrass, is visiting the university before the convention to work with the musicians.

Colgrass is a musician, composer, educator and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Chilton said her favorite part about playing in the wind symphony is playing with musicians that are enthusiastic and want to be there. She also said Francis' enthusiasm to take the time to submit their music means he truly cares for the symphony.

**CHALLENGE**

From page 1

is cool," Hancock said, "but his history leading up to it makes it even more interesting."

Blake will present his business plans for a new company, Brighter Energy, a solar hot water heater company.

Brighter Energy is a spin-off of a company he started with a Cornell University student during his junior year called Silicon Solar Housing Solutions.

"We made a solar light that illuminates real estate signs at night," he said. "We were selling our product and we

were researching solar hot water heaters and other products for basically thermal applications."

"The new company is going to sell solar hot water heaters and the different parts for it," he said.

In addition to Brighter Energy, he runs Blake Venture Corp., a real estate property management company with \$1 million in revenues. He started his company during his freshman year at TCU.

"I got my real estate license and started buying rental properties," he said. "I bought four or five houses freshman year."

Blake said he received his brokers license his junior year when he became more interested in commercial development. "I (oversee) three people, office space, two commercial centers and I flip a lot of houses too," he said.

Blake won the Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2005 for his real estate company. He is currently the only student from TCU to receive this international award.

"He is the kind of guy you give a deadline and tell him what to do and he just does it," Hancock said. "He doesn't need prodding. He just does it."

**GAS**

From page 1

were concerned with increased traffic from trucks that would be needed to haul water to the drill site, a necessity in the hydraulic-fracturing process.

McCook also worried the trucks might damage surrounding streets, some of which are undergoing reconstruction.

A potential drill location hasn't been determined, but Gutierrez said the most likely location for a drill site would be west of Main Campus, and that any proceeds from the potential drilling would be put into the university's endowment.

**JAZZ**

From page 1

coming from a little bit of a distance, so that will be nice."

Justin Brown, a sophomore music and political science major and member of the TCU Jazz Ensemble, said he enjoys playing at the festival because jazz is an experience and a conversation with your instrument.

"With classical music, you play notes on a page," Brown said. "But, with jazz, you create as you go. It becomes your song as you play it."

Sophomore social work major Patrice French is also a member of the ensemble and said

she has played the trombone for eight years.

French is looking forward to the festival because of fellow trombone player Martin, she said. French said she knows of Martin as a prominent musician and was overwhelmed when she found out he would be at the festival.

"It's more special with someone playing your instrument," French said. "It makes you realize how good some people are."

Wilson said he encourages all students to attend the festival to experience "the greatest jazz you could possibly imagine."

**ADMISSIONS**

From page 1

panic Institute in which high school students are brought to a host university for a college experience. Events like this, Herrera said, help spread the word about TCU.

"We've had, in the past, some students who have decided to come to TCU because they came to one of these programs," Herrera said.

Brown also said he thinks the campus is more welcoming to minority students, something besides recruiting efforts that has contributed

to the growing diversity.

Herrera said she sees the awareness of bringing minority students to TCU growing on campus, which in turn contributes to a more welcoming atmosphere.

"If the awareness is growing, it kind of filters down for the welcoming to become stronger," Herrera said.

Two years ago, TCU had a day for admitted minority students to tour campus. Brown said that is something they are planning on having again in the next year or two.

Herrera said the purpose of the day was to show minority students that TCU is interested in them. Though she said the

day was successful, Herrera said they don't want to always do the same thing, and they also encourage minority students to attend already established events for prospective students, such as Monday at TCU.

Admissions also sponsors a calling campaign, Herrera said. Current minority students volunteer to call prospective minority students to talk to them about TCU. Programs like this, she said, offset the need to have a regular admitted students day just for them.

Another program, Community Scholars, continues to generate growing interest, Herrera

said. This is a yearlong, competitive process that minority students from nine area high schools go through to be awarded scholarship money.

"It's a very rewarding and moving process for these kids," Herrera said.

Brown said he believes TCU's diversity will continue to increase, though he said it currently has not set a goal for the amount of minorities it would like to see on campus.

Herrera said that she thinks there is still work to do, but she knows TCU is headed in the right direction.


"There's no going back," she said.

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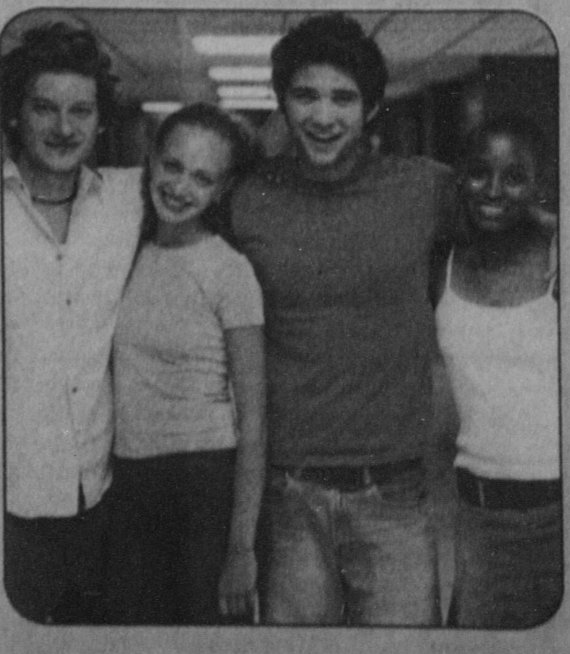
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Marissa Warren

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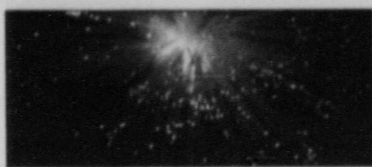
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**Editoria**

JOHN-LAU...  
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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The future comes one day at a time."  
— Dean Gooderham Acheson

### THE SKIFF VIEW

## Campus should prosecute thief

People are usually locked up in jail for theft, and the unnamed TCU student who admitted to stealing 14 items from the University Recreation Center over the past six months should be no exception.

Instead, because, TCU Police say, students who reported missing items declined to press charges on the thief, he or she will be dumped onto Campus Life's doorstep and out of TCU Police's hands.

But if the victims of the Rec Center thief's crimes do not want to press charges, the university should. A university campus is still a part of society, and in society, there are punishments for crimes.

Campus Life, the same institution that brought us International Week, is hardly capable of punishing a thief. It deals mostly with campus activities, not people who broke the law.

Sure, Campus Life is equipped to deal

with some serious issues, such as the Victims Advocate Program, but someone who stole \$2,020 worth of items is hardly a victim.

According to a story printed in the Skiff yesterday, the student's punishment will be mandated by the Official Student Handbook, which does not even have a course of action for thievery.

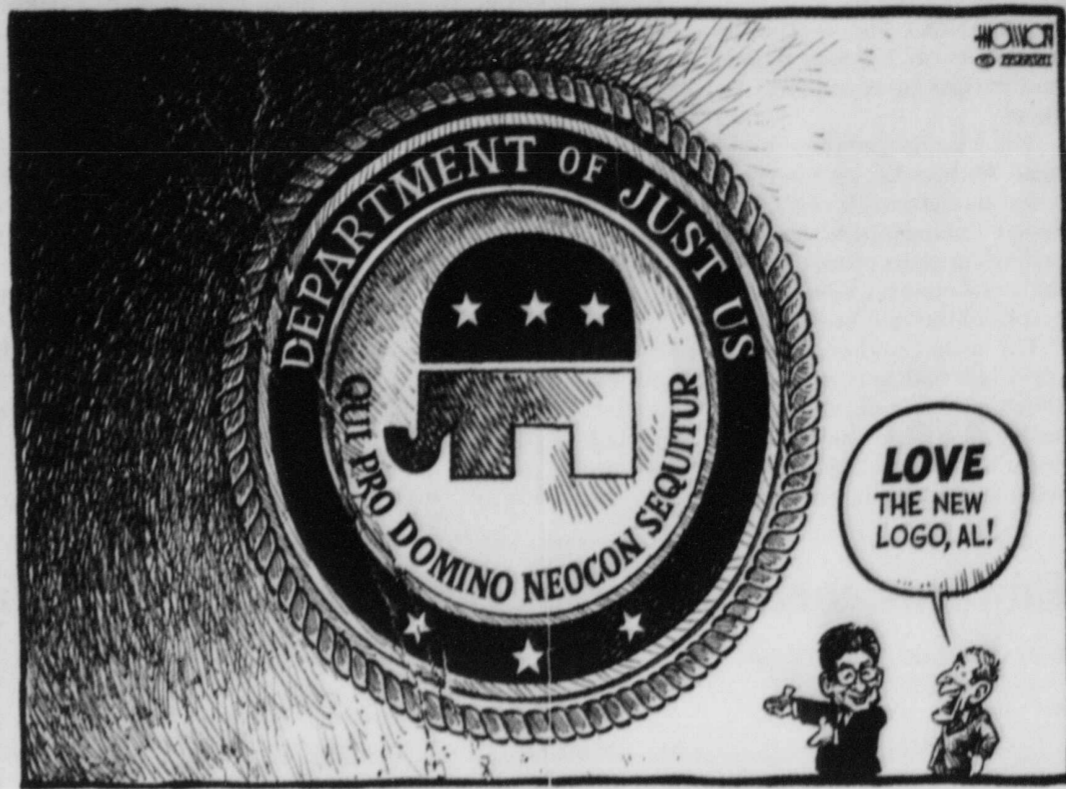
And because the name of the student, according to the police, cannot be released under federal and university privacy laws, this student could essentially walk out of the Campus Life doors scotch-free.

If this situation

So why is TCU needlessly protecting this student? This student broke the law. He or she should be punished for it like any other member of society.

Press charges on the Rec Center thief so proper jurisdiction can happen.

Features editor Amber Parcher for the editorial board.



## Rejuvenate with changed routine

During many holiday breaks, a lot of students go on vacation with their families and friends or stay at home to work on homework or hang out with old friends.



Marissa Warmis

What a lot of them don't do is relax. They don't take time for themselves.

There needs to be time to rejuvenate and enjoy life without letting it pass by so quickly that it can't be experienced. Routines need to be broken.

Long breaks when students don't have class for entire days at a time can be exciting, but they can also be a great time to do something different. Make a change in the routine that college life often leads to.

When the holiday breaks are over, most students feel as though the time passed too quickly, and they wish to have it all again. The change in routine may be what students enjoy the

most, seeing different people at home and being somewhere different, not on campus.

Changing gears is an important aspect of productivity. We cannot do the same things over and over, having the same routines and the same thoughts. We need to expand our minds.

Everything we do on campus is routine. Most students take the same routes to class, see the same people and even sit in the same seats in every classroom.

Sometimes it is a comfort. They don't have to think as much. They put themselves on auto-pilot, listening to their MP3 players, ignoring everything around them.

What if, for one day, we all did things differently? What if we all took different routes to class and didn't listen to music along the way? What if we sat next to people we didn't know and actually had conversations with them?

Our horizons would broaden with every new step. We would learn or see or do something different that would trigger our minds

to react differently than it did the day before. Intelligence grows from stimulating our brains. Some of us are shy, and we like the comfort zones we have created for ourselves. To be frank, we just don't want to take different routes to class because it might be longer, which means we have to wake up earlier.

Reading is a great solution. Not textbook reading or assigned readings for class, though. It needs to be reading for pleasure — that book we have all set on the bookshelf and forgotten about. It is not a waste of time; it is not something to put on the back burner of your mind.

Changing gears. That is what we really need. We need change. We need to allow our eyes, ears and every other sense to experience something different. We will undoubtedly be surprised at the decrease in stress and tension if we just allow some change.

Marissa Warmis is a junior advertising/public relations major from Irving. Her column appears Fridays.

## Find real life outside home

In today's society, it is possible to live a life of luxury and never leave home. People are able to work from home, shop from home, talk to anyone from home face-to-face using



Michelle Anderson

Webcams and enjoy all of the latest music by going online and downloading it. With constant news coverage online and on television, people staying at home won't miss what is going on in the world. In fact, they will probably know more of what is happening than those who are out and about.

It seems like everyone has his or her own entertainment center right in the comfort of their own homes. Therefore, people no longer need to go out for a movie or a play. Instead, they can watch from home. And thanks to the convenience of Internet shopping, anything that one could ever need can be ordered online and mailed right to his or her front door. This cuts down on time people spend with each other. Shopping from home eliminates the possibility of running into a friend at the grocery store or mall. There is no need to go visit friends because text messaging and calling is so much more convenient. People are not as social as they used to be.

Junior education major Pauline Cooper said, "I think it is unnatural for people to never leave their house. People are not as social anymore."

The problem society is facing by choosing to stay home instead of going out is that they are missing out on human contact. According to a Los Angeles Times article, playwright Lisa Loomer is in favor of the live theater experience. She describes the importance of being around other people. A live performance can offer an audience a much more fulfilling experience that could never be recorded on TiVo.

"Theater has the power to remind us of our shared humanity," Loomer said. "In this political climate, that matters."

People are getting lazy and depriving themselves of quality time with others in their communities by allowing themselves to do everything from home. People can almost always see someone who they know when they go out of the house. Human contact is healthy and keeps life interesting. Without everyday human contact, all people are

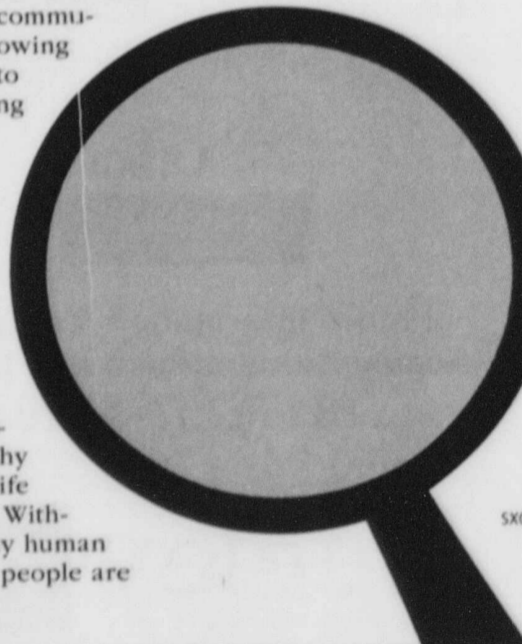
exposed to are things on television, which is not a very accurate view of the world.

Instead of staying in and watching a sporting event on television or listening to an iPod instead of going to a live concert, go out and experience the real thing. It may be a little bit more expensive but it will be worth it. People deserve to treat themselves to small pleasures, such as going to the theater or out shopping. Life is too stressful not to escape everyday surroundings and get out into the world. Real life experiences are much more memorable than any night spent in front of the television.

Michelle Anderson is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Tyler. Her column appears Fridays.



SXC.HU



SXC.HU

## Students should stop SGA complaints to notice positives

"I don't see the purpose of SGA." "SGA is just wasting my money." "I didn't even know we had a student government." These are just a few of the reactions we hear mentioned about the Student Government Association.



Christina Durano

When I first heard these responses, I was shocked. Most students seem either apathetic about SGA or hold a negative opinion of it.

Chelsea Smith, a freshman English major, said that she really doesn't know much about SGA.

"Basically, my only involvement with Student Government is when it says 'SGA Presents...' on the menu in The Main," she says.

Smith's opinion is not unusual. Allison McNaughton, a freshman early childhood education major agrees.

"Pretty much everything I hear about Student Government, I hear from my friends in it," McNaughton said.

But Jace Thompson, SGA president, said SGA has worked hard for students in the past and is working even harder now. If that's the case, why do most students fail to notice the things that SGA does? Ido Farhi, the commu-

nications director for the House of Student Representatives, said people don't hear about all the things Student Government does because they don't really care about it.

Some students even hold a negative opinion of SGA.

"I haven't really heard of any of the good things SGA has been doing," said Sylvia Garcia, a freshman English major, "but I have heard of some of the bad things that it has done."

Brian Andrew, recruitment and retention director for the House of Student Representatives, said students notice the bad things SGA does more than the good things because unless people

complain, things will not get better.

"Once a problem is fixed, people do not need to talk about it anymore," Andrew said.

SGA maintains that it has done a myriad of things for the student body. This academic year, SGA has found a successful solution to the plus-minus system, secured a pathway for a wireless community, provided a free lawyer to all students and doubled the pass/no credit deadline. Additionally, SGA funded the library's Frog Pods, the Worth Hills mile markers, a Frisbee golf course as well as numerous Programming Council events.

These are just a few of the things that students wanted, and SGA did them. SGA listens to the voices of students, yet students seem unappreciative.

David Young, a senior entrepreneurial management major, said although students may see the positive things SGA is doing, they don't focus on them or even realize SGA made them a reality.

SGA treasurer Nate Arnold agrees.

"We just need to be more vocal about the things we are doing, the events we put on, the policies we change and anything else that affects campus," Arnold said.

SGA works to represent all students' interests and respond to their requests. It welcomes students' comments — both positive and negative — at sga.tcu.edu, and encourages students who are interested in learning more about SGA to attend the SGA Grill Fest on April 2.

If students were more aware of SGA and the relentless desire of its members to make TCU a better place, they would realize the effectiveness of SGA and maybe even show some appreciation to those who have helped make TCU what it is today.

Christina Durano is a freshman broadcast journalism major from Albuquerque, N.M.

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# Tagged, wild panther found dead on Florida interstate

By KEVIN SPEAR  
*The Orlando Sentinel*

ORLANDO, Fla. — The big cat killed on I-4 was tagged and tracked by researchers for years. The Florida panther found dead Wednesday on Interstate 4 was thought to be one of the famed "leaping kittens" captured on film during its youth in one of the most beloved wildlife photographs of the rare breed. The male panther, nearly 4 years old, had long drawn the attention of researchers by preferring to prowling in wilderness far north of South Florida swamps and forests that are home to nearly

all of the endangered cats. Known as FP130, the panther captured hearts when photographed with its mother and a sibling when it was just about 2 months old. The photograph mostly circulated in research circles. Scientists aren't sure which of the two kittens in the photo has died because they weren't identified and tagged until after the picture was taken. Scientists think FP130 was one of three kittens born to another often-observed cat, FP110, in late May 2003 in the soggy Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest near the Everglades. Less than two months later, mom and two

kittens were romping through grass at the edge of a palmetto patch in the forest when they passed through an infrared beam, triggering the shutter of a remote camera. Scientists eventually captured FP130 and fitted him with a radio-transmitter collar. Not long after the photo was taken, he set out on his own. "It's like somebody lit his afterburners," said Layne Hamilton, manager of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. "One day he was south of the Caloosahatchee River, and the next day he was north of the river." Problem was, none of his spe-

cies followed FP130 into Hardee County. Most panthers in Florida are south of Lake Okeechobee. Researchers studied FP130 for years. But batteries that powered his collar died last year, and researchers lost track of him — until Wednesday. "I'll bet it's FP130," said Hamilton, when first told that a panther was hit and killed near the Orange-Osceola county line. State authorities were able to confirm the cat's identity by its collar. Few details about the accident were available. A year ago, researchers found FP130 settled in an area near Highlands Hammock State Park

west of Sebring. The cat then was healthy and weighed 137 pounds. Roughly a third of the 80 to 100 Florida panthers are wearing radio collars, which are attached to the cats when they are captured for health examinations. Between 10 and 20 Florida panthers are killed every year by disease, in fights and by cars. Why FP130 traveled into the Orlando area, a rare long-distance jaunt for panthers, wasn't a mystery to wildlife experts. "Understandably he was looking for females," Hamilton said, "which are not there." Males searching for a mate

sometimes roam far from the South Florida wilds, said Mark Cunningham, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission veterinarian. Last year, a panther was hit by a car on I-4 not far from where FP130 died. In previous years, male panthers have been killed on roads near Tampa and St. Augustine. The biggest challenge for Florida panthers, and one that eventually may doom the species, is finding enough room to roam. "Young males look for new territory, and north is the only direction they can go," Cunningham said. "Their habitat is close to filled up down there."

## Edwards continues campaign despite wife's recurring cancer

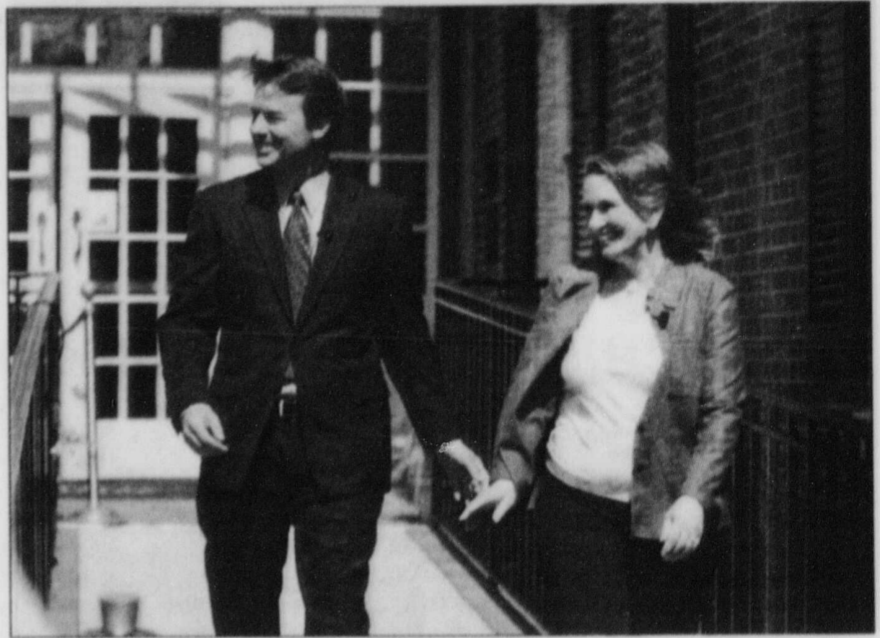
By RYAN TEAGUE BECKWITH AND J. ANDREW CURLISS  
*McClatchy Newspapers*

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, said Thursday that she has suffered a recurrence of cancer but that the two will continue his campaign. The cancer was discovered this week in a right rib bone after Elizabeth Edwards received an X-ray for an injury that occurred after she was moving a chest in her house. John Edwards said the cancer is "no longer curable." But he added, "It is completely treatable." He described it as a chronic condition like diabetes. The couple said they will continue campaigning, though she said she will be undergoing chemotherapy and will face treatment for the rest of her life. "I expect to do next week all the things I did last week," said Elizabeth Edwards, 57. "I do not expect my life to be significantly different."

Elizabeth Edwards was treated for breast cancer diagnosed in 2004. Thursday's news indicates that cancer cells have lodged in the rib bone. But she said she was asymptomatic and felt well. She said she hadn't considered asking her husband to withdraw from the campaign. "It's unbelievably impor-

tant that we get this election right," she said. John Edwards said, "The campaign goes on strongly." "Basically we've been confronted with these kinds of traumas and struggles already in our life, and we know from our previous experience we have a choice," he said. "You can cower in the corner and hide or you can go out there and be tough and stand up for what you believe in. ... We have no intention of cowering in the corner, none whatever." The two appeared together at a crowded news conference at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill, where they had their wedding reception 30 years ago. Elizabeth Edwards said that about a week ago she was moving the chest and felt pain. Later, when John Edwards gave her a hug, they heard a pop. Elizabeth Edwards went to see a doctor Monday about the fracture. X-rays indicated a suspicious shadow, and on Wednesday she went in for a follow-up. That's when doctors revealed that there had been a recurrence of cancer. The couple said they had waited a day to announce the development so they could talk to their family, including

their parents and their three children. As a couple, the Edwards' have been in the national spotlight since the 2004 presidential campaign, when Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry and Edwards, his running mate, lost their bid for the White House to the Bush-Cheney ticket. Days after the '04 election, the Edwards' disclosed that Elizabeth had breast cancer. She had learned about it in the final days of the campaign. Later, Elizabeth Edwards wrote a book, "Saving Graces," about losing their 16-year-old son, Wade, in a 1996 car accident, and her treatment for the advanced breast cancer. She toured the nation, including an appearance on Oprah Winfrey's popular daytime show. As John Edwards considered a bid for the presidency in 2008, he had said he would not run if something happened to Elizabeth. In August, John Edwards told McClatchy Newspapers that "something happening to Elizabeth" would stop him from running. In October, Elizabeth Edwards told Time magazine that a factor in her husband's candidacy was her health. "He said that if the cancer recurred — we actually had a scare this fall that turned out not to be anything



Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, announced Thursday in Chapel Hill, N.C., that Elizabeth has been diagnosed with cancer in one of her ribs. John Edwards said he will continue his campaign.

— he would do what he did before, and draw himself into making me better." John Edwards rose to political prominence after years as a successful trial lawyer in Raleigh. He left his practice to become a U.S. senator and, later, his party's nominee for vice president. After the 2004 defeat, John Edwards headed a center-on poverty at the

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The couple built a home on 100 acres in Chapel Hill and sold homes in Washington and Raleigh. All along, Edwards has crisscrossed the country and globe, readying for the next election. He has been widely seen as a top-tier candidate for the Democratic nomination, along with Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois.

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- Hunger Week Movie Night: HBO Film's "Yesterday"**  
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- 3rd Annual Heel Hunger 5K Run/Walk**  
\* Wednesday, March 28th @ 5:30 pm, starting outside the Rec Center  
\* Food and festivities follow the run/walk and pets are welcome; register online!
- The Annual Hunger Banquet**  
\* Thursday, March 29 @ 6 pm in the SC Ballroom  
\* Tickets are \$10 each / \$80 for a table of 10
- TCU CanStruction Competition**  
\* Friday, March 30 from 8 am - 5 pm in the Student Center  
\* Teams compete for prizes by designing sculptures made entirely out of canned foods!
- "With My Own Two Hands": A Benefit Concert Featuring the Vagabond Kings**  
\* Friday, March 30 @ 9 pm at Embargo, 210 E. 8th Street; \$5 at the door (18 and up)

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# Caffeine High



## Fair trade not just for coffee; group seeks to better sweatshop conditions

By SAEROM YOO  
Staff Reporter

Americans drink a lot of coffee.

More than 150 million Americans drink coffee, and the United States is the largest importer of coffee. Many coffee producing countries are some of the poorest in the world, and they depend heavily on the coffee trade for revenue. The market price for coffee today is 45 cents per pound, which is below the cost of production, according to the United Students for Fair Trade Web site. According to the Starbucks Web site, the coffee company sells imported coffee starting from at least \$9 per pound. These small-scale coffee farmers sell their products to local middlemen and receive 2 percent to 4 percent of the retail price of their products, according to the USFT site. The results are increased unemployment, poverty and hunger among farmers, the site contends.

Fair trade certification sets coffee prices at a \$1.41 per pound minimum as well as riding middlemen and brokers from the trade process leaving farmers with a larger share of the profits.

Although coffee is in the forefront of the fair trade picture because it is the second most traded commodity after petroleum, according to the Transfair USA Web site, it doesn't stop there. Fair trade arches over an array of agricultural goods as well as sweatshop policies. A 2004 article in The New York Times shed light on the issue through a story about Costa Rican workers making baseballs for Rawlings Sporting Goods. According to the article, the laborers work 11 hours

a day making four balls an hour, hand-sewing 108 stitches along the seams of each ball. They are paid on average about 30 cents a ball — Rawlings sells them for \$14.99 in the United States.

Anti-sweatshop activists have been demanding higher wages, safer working conditions and basic rights for manual laborers.

However, not everyone agrees that fair trade and anti-sweatshop principles are solutions to the discrepancies unskilled workers face. Here, members of the university in different areas of study examine the issue: an economics professor, an assistant political science professor, a Frogs for Fair Trade member and a history and political science major.

### Fair trade as a charity

**Tyler Fultz**, senior history and political science major, said if people are paying these producers more than what the market is paying them, then it is a charity. "Because that's more than what is required of us as consumers."

**Douglas Butler**, economics professor, said people are concerned there are others whose incomes aren't as high as they should be, so they want to supplement those low incomes. "And this is charity. What's wrong with saying it's charity? It's a good thing to be charitable."

**Carric Currier**, assistant political science professor, said, "I don't think it's a charity." Fair trade, she said, is about moral responsibility. It's a way of being socially responsible and thinking about what can be done to help the rest of the world also have a living, she said.

**Seth Harris**, international economics and political science

major and Frogs for Fair Trade member, said if fair trade were a charity, the analogy would be when buying a product that isn't fair trade certified, "you're giving charity for a CEO to buy a third home," because the company is getting more of the money. It's a matter of distribution.

### Sweatshops

**Fultz** said the conditions at these sweatshops are indeed harsh; however, the workers want these jobs because nothing else is available. Sweatshops, he said, are "a necessary evil on the bottom rung of the economic ladder." Governments of the developing countries need to stand up for their people.

**Butler** said the sweatshop situation will improve as the competition for labor rises in developing countries by raising wages and the quality of working conditions. Some people, he said, simply don't have much opportunity, and these sweatshops represent one more option that they didn't have.

**Currier** said, "It's about corporate responsibility." Multinational corporations, she contended, can still provide labor in developing countries without exploiting workers. If Nike pays its Indonesian worker \$4 instead of \$2 to make a pair of Nike shoes and sell those shoes for \$40, the corporation is still making a large profit. "The problem is that you have the wealthiest that are unwilling to give a little way to help the bottom," she said.

### The Answer

**Fultz** argued that the developed world, especially United States and Europe, needs to stop lavishing its own farmers with subsidies so farmers in the developing world can compete. An economic condition, he said, needs to be created that will allow the producers to earn what they deserve, "rather than counting on rich teenagers to give to them."

**Currier** believes fair trade is an important start. If, at the very least, fair trade allows these farmers to expand their production, she said, then the farming sector would require fewer individuals. These communities might be able to focus more money on education and the industrial transition that the developed countries went through.

**Harris** said fair trade is not the entire answer but a partial one. He said any one movement, one aspect, one growth model is not going to bring countries out of poverty and toward development. Fair trade is not about saving people, he said. It's more of a realization that

somebody is at the other end of the product and other people need to be able to making enough money so they can consume as well.

### Government imposition of fair trade principles

**Fultz** said if the United States cuts itself off from non-fair trade products, it would simply go elsewhere and would find other suppliers. Government imposition of fair trade values would further harm the developing world, he said.

**Butler** believes the demand for products made in sweatshops would significantly drop and "suddenly, these people who supposedly aren't getting fair wages may have to get much crappier jobs."

**Currier** said, "You have to change the attitude. You can't just force it." Not having regulations imposed, she argued, allows for different kinds of choices. If more companies and consumers embrace the fair trade practice, then it would be a choice people make because they believe in the

principles behind it.

**Harris** said, "Why not experiment?" Start with one product, like tea, and see what happens.

### Free trade and fair trade

**Fultz** said, "Free trade is a good thing as long as it's conducted on a level playing field, and the thing is right now, it's not." The International Monetary Fund and World Bank tear down a lot of trade barriers — tariffs, import quotas, subsidies — that developing countries put up, he said. But because the developed countries have more power and influence, they retain their own trade barriers, which makes free trade unequal.

**Harris** said fair trade is not against free trade. It's the realization, he said, that although there are losers and winners in capitalism, it must not be to the extent that the losers can't live. It's an acknowledgement that people are more than consumers; consumers are also workers, and they need basic necessities and rights.



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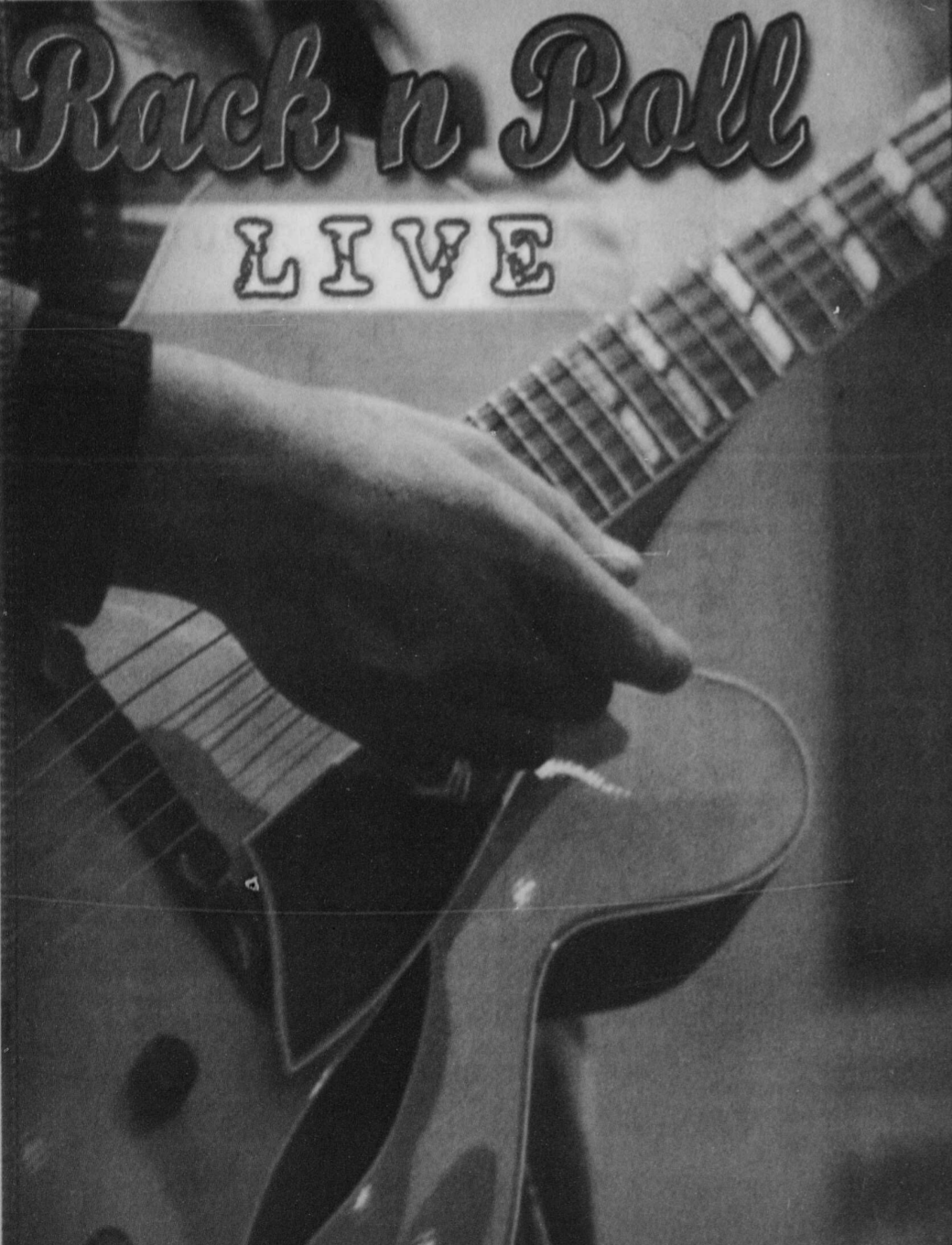
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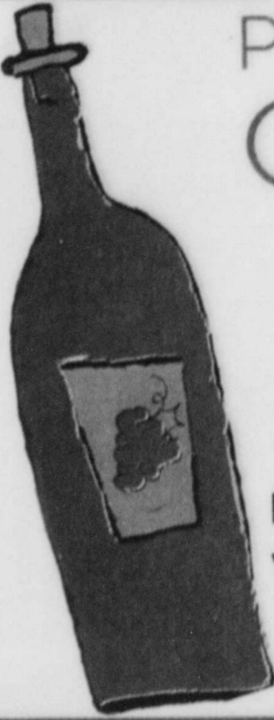
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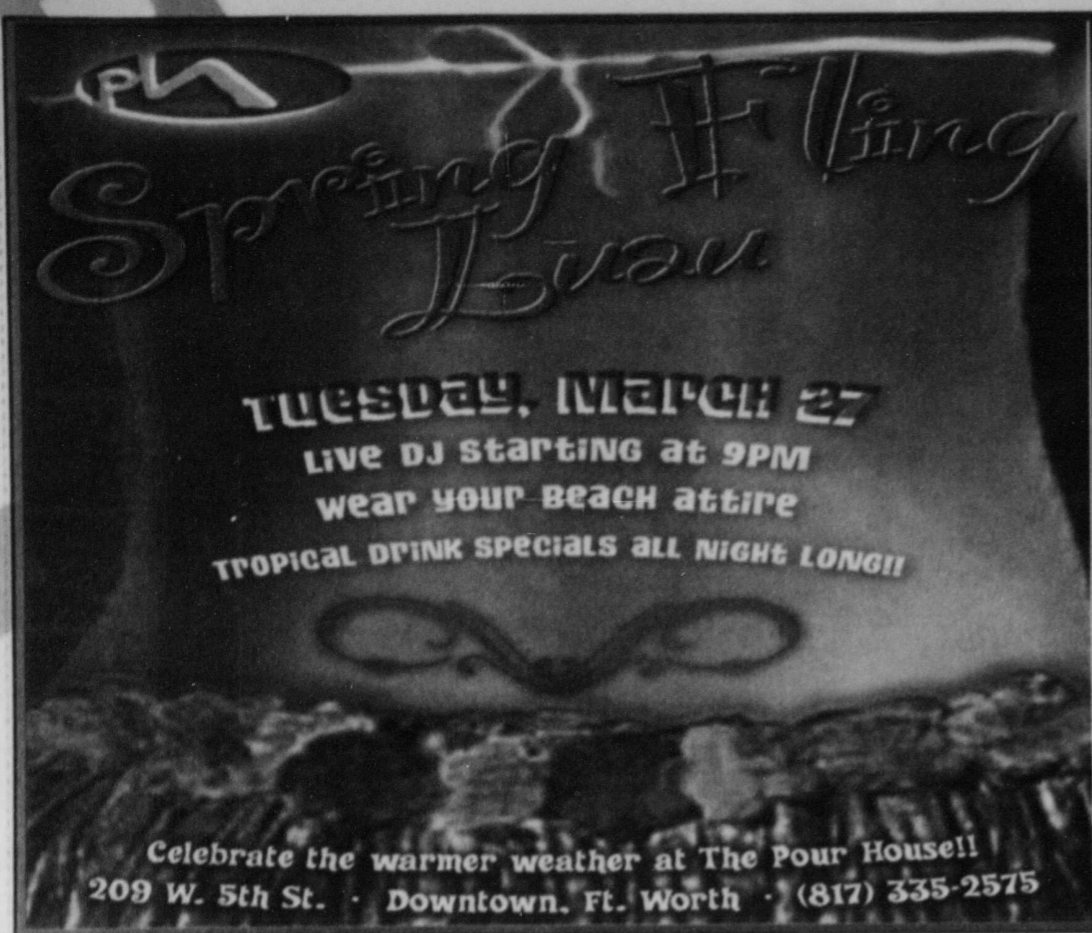
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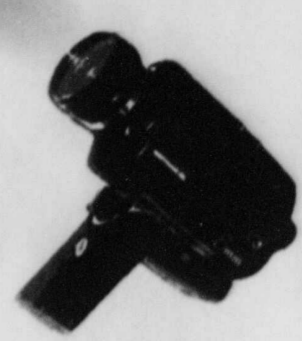
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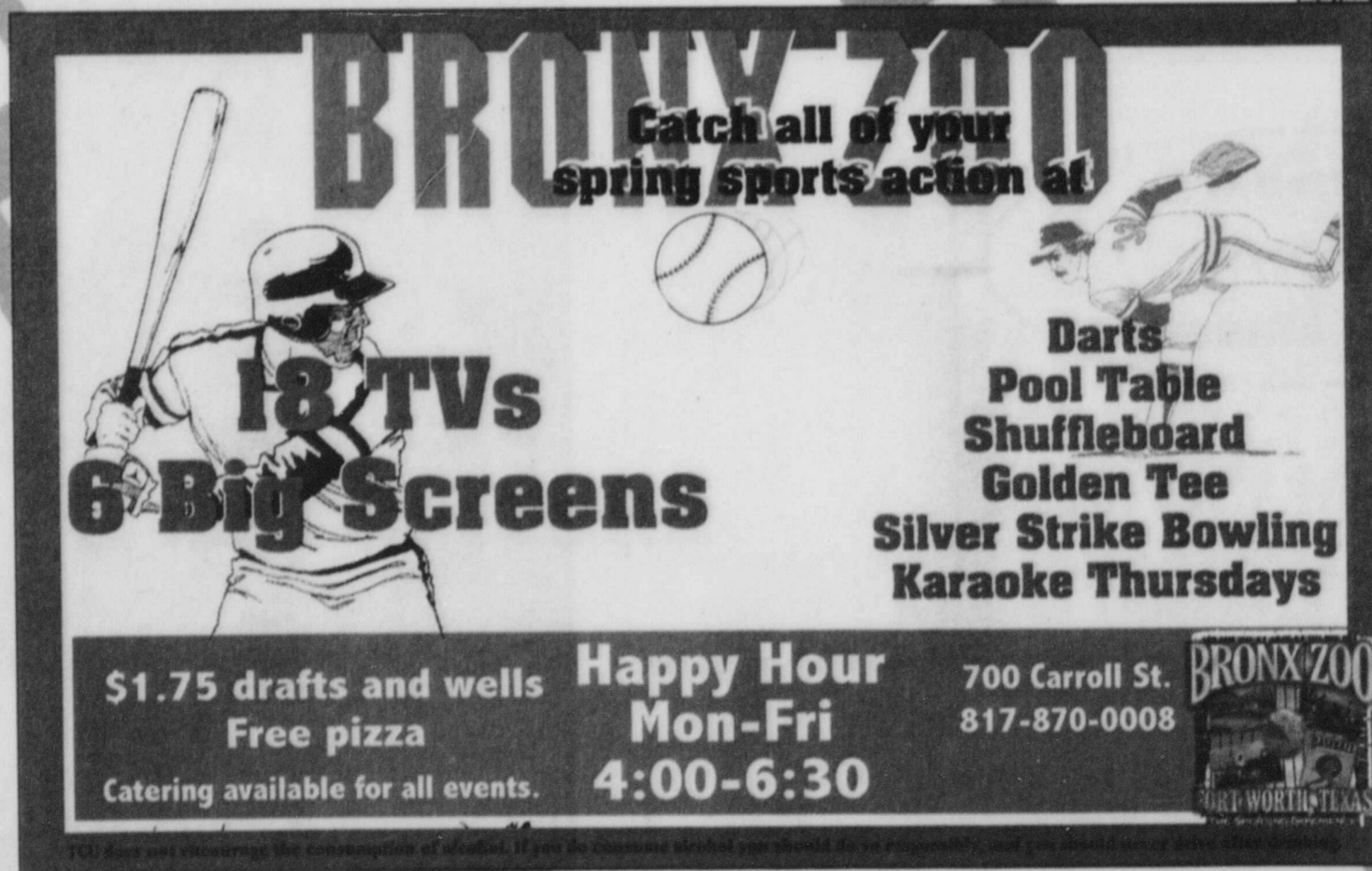
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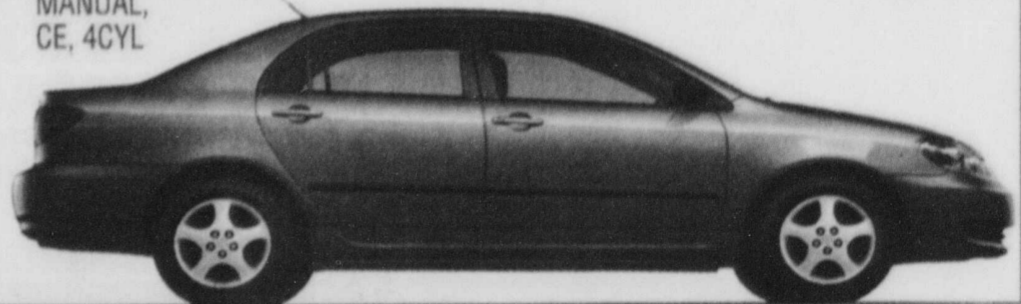
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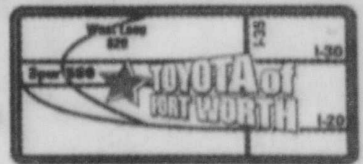
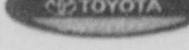
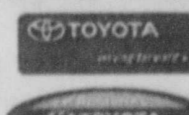
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# House resolution gives more time to override Perry

By CHRISTY HOPPE  
The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN — The House shoved back hard at Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday, overwhelmingly passing a constitutional amendment that would allow lawmakers, after they adjourn, to return for a special five-day session just to override the governor's vetoes.

The 109-29 vote in the Republican-led House underscored a simmering resentment from lawmakers against a GOP governor who has claimed power in executive orders and agency directives and through bold initiatives.

The measure also has overwhelming support in the Senate but would have to be approved by voters in a November statewide election. It aims at one of the few absolute powers the Texas governor has — to veto legislation.

The rhythm of 140-day legislative sessions has always favored the governor because so many bills are approved in the last two weeks. In 2003, 74 percent of bills enacted were passed in the last 10 days. In 2005, 43 percent of all enacted bills were passed at the end.

When a session ends, the governor still has 20 days to decide whether to sign or veto bills passed in the last 10 days of a session.

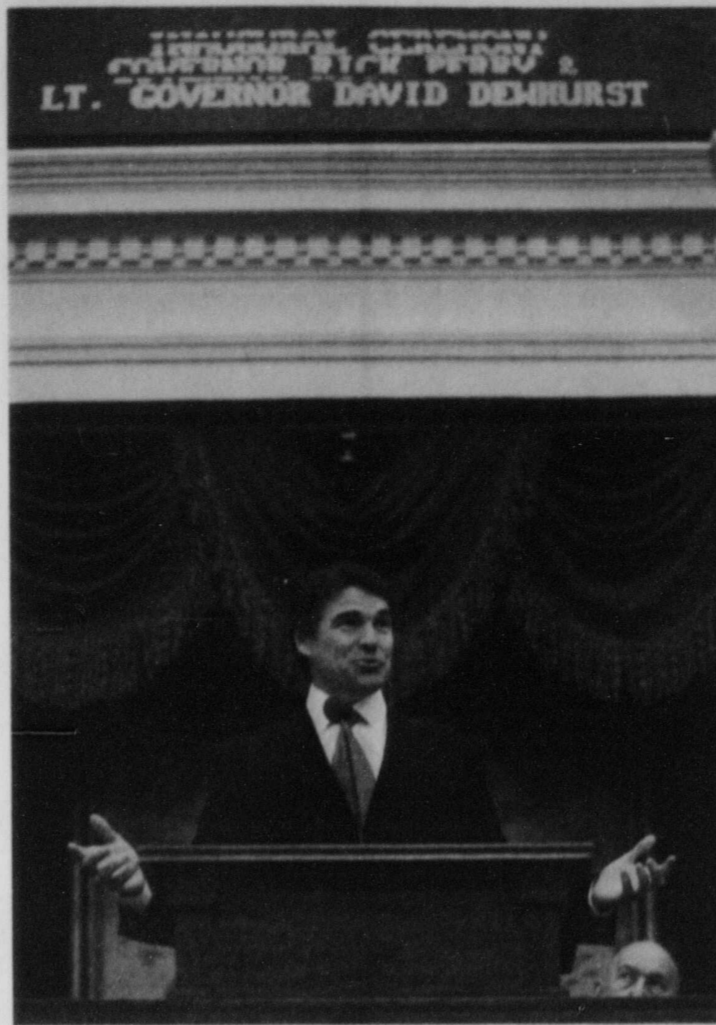
Perry surprised and angered some members in 2001, his first session as governor, when he vetoed a record 83 bills. Because the Legislature had adjourned, none of the vetoed bills could be resurrected until the next session — a year and a half later.

Lawmakers said they are merely restoring the equilibrium to the checks and balances outlined in the constitution.

"This was purely a separation of power issue," said amendment author Rep. Gary Elkins, R-Houston. "This was not directed at Governor Perry, and it never was. I had this idea before all of his missteps this year."

Perry sparked a fierce backlash by issuing an executive order in January, when the Legislature was in session, requiring the human papilloma virus vaccine for schoolgirls to prevent cervical cancer. Another executive order mandating the fast-tracking of coal plant permits was stopped by a state district judge.

Rep. David Swinford, R-Dumas, suggested that some of these issues were the driving force behind support for



RALPH LAUER / Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
Gov. Rick Perry makes his inaugural address after taking the oath of office for his second term at the Texas State Capitol in Austin on Jan. 16.

the amendment. He said changing the constitution was a lousy way to vent frustration.

"I know a lot of people would like to spit in the governor's eye. And I'm not here to defend the governor. I'm here to defend the constitution," Swinford said.

He said that the document's framers recognized that the veto was one of the few real powers they gave the governor and that to skew that balance would be a mistake.

Elkins said the governor still has the right to veto anything he or she wants. But that does not mean the Legislature should abdicate its role of attempting a two-thirds vote in each chamber to override the veto.

He pointed out that 11 other states allow their legislatures to return to consider veto overrides.

Perry press secretary Robert Black said that the governor is not overly concerned with the amendment because it does not cross his desk before it goes to the voters.

Black said if some lawmakers are taking aim at the governor, it won't discourage Perry from meeting the needs of the state as he sees them.

"Even if it is a slight in some way at Rick Perry, it's not going to change who he is," Black said. "He is aggressive by nature and he believes that he was elected to lead and he will continue to do that."

# More drugs found in systems of children

By MELISSA VARGAS  
McClatchy Newspapers

WATAUGA, Texas — Two young children who were forced to smoke marijuana while being videotaped had other illegal drugs in their system at least two weeks after the video was recorded Feb. 7, sources close to the investigation told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Child Protective Services officials are expected to reveal the drug test results at a custody hearing Monday for the 2- and 4-year-old boys and to recommend that the children stay in foster care, officials said.

The children were removed Feb. 23 from the home they shared with their mother, great-grandmother and uncle. The boys were initially expected to be placed with a suitable relative, which is CPS's standard practice. But many relatives contacted by CPS had criminal records or other drawbacks, said CPS spokeswoman Marissa Gonzales.

The children's uncle, Demetris McCoy, 17, and his friend Vanswan Polty, 18, remain in jail, accused of two counts of injury to a child and one count of burglary of a habitation.

Fort Worth police found the video on a digital camera discovered while officers searched McCoy's home on a burglary warrant. In the video, two teens who appear to be McCoy and Polty light marijuana cigarettes for the children, laugh at them as they stagger about the room and call them potheads.

McCoy was arrested Feb. 23 and Polty on March 2. Bail was set at \$226,000 for McCoy and \$160,000 for Polty. A 16-year-old believed to have taken the video is also in custody until at least March 29, when his next hearing is scheduled, Tarrant County prosecutor Mitch Poe said.

Watauga police Chief Bruce Ure said Wednesday that no other people have been arrested in connection with the case in this Fort Worth suburb.

The children's mother, Shatoria Russell, 20, was asleep in another room and had no idea that her brother and his friend were smoking marijuana, her sister Sharonda McCoy said.

Demetris McCoy and Polty have declined requests to comment. McCoy's lawyer, Ruben Gonzalez, declined to comment Wednesday.

But Omar Almesleh, a friend of McCoy's, says the incident on tape was the first time McCoy had ever given his nephews marijuana.

"When you get in that state of mind, things happen," said Almesleh, 19. "They are blaming him like this is the first time it has ever happened, but this happens every day. It happens in the hood and suburbs. It's a horrible thing but the media has taken it way too far."

A father himself, McCoy had recently moved to Watauga with his grandmother to better himself after getting into trouble in Fort Worth, Almesleh said.

"He's not a bad person, he just made a bad mistake," Almesleh said.

McCoy's criminal record began at age 11, when he and Polty were cited in August 2001 for disorderly conduct (language) at a residence in Fort Worth. McCoy's record also reflects an assault with bodily injury report taken October 2001 at William James Middle School in Fort Worth.

McCoy's family also has an extensive criminal history, officials say. A review of criminal records include the following:

—His brother, Ronnie Bernard McCoy, 18, is in the Tarrant County Jail on a 2006 charge of possession of a controlled substance. He served jail time for a River Oaks charge of failure to identify a fugitive and a Watauga charge of criminal mischief, Tarrant County court records show.

—McCoy's mother, Shondrea Denise Russell, 35, served 24 days in jail for a 1993 charge of assault with bodily injury and two years in the penitentiary on a 1996 charge of ill redemption of food stamps.

—Between 1991 and 1997, the family lived in a home in Fort Worth where, police records show, officers were called investigate attempted murder, assault, drugs, possible child endangerment and theft.

## RESISTING PERRY

Some other issues on which the Legislature has pushed back against Gov. Rick Perry's proposal:

- **HPV VACCINE:** The House has voted to overturn the governor's order to require the inoculation for schoolgirls.
- **TOLL ROADS:** A popular bill in the House and Senate would stop new toll roads for two years, a direct challenge to Perry's vision for new highway projects.
- **TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION:** Key lawmakers and the governor have clashed over whether he has the authority to appoint a special master to investigate abuse in youth prisons. The legislature has authorized a conservator, and some are insisting that he change the title.

# Texas House considers \$300 million bond to fight cancer

By CHRISTY HOPPE  
The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN — Texas could lead the nation in treating and possibly finding a cure for cancer with a hefty investment of state bond money, a dozen top doctors and foundation officials told a House committee Wednesday night.

The House Public Health Committee is considering legislation that would authorize the state to issue \$300 million

in bonds each year for three years, starting in 2010, to fund research into the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Cathy Bonner, a top lieutenant of former Gov. Ann Richards, who died of cancer last year, took the "kill cancer" idea to the governor and has won the support of top state leaders for the idea.

"Texas can do this," Bonner told the House committee.

In fact, she said, it makes sense that the state should spearhead the effort because "we have the research facilities, the treatment and hospital facilities, and the three largest survival foundations in the nation — Lance Armstrong, Susan G. Komen and the American Cancer Society."

She likened the bond money — likely the largest state commitment in the nation for

medical research — as a concentrated Manhattan Project, which led to splitting the atom and ending World War II.

While endorsing the proposal, committee chairwoman Rep. Dianne White Delisi, R-Temple, said the bill would need more work before a vote is taken.

In Texas, 34,000 people die of cancer annually, and 85,000 cases are diagnosed each year.

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Friday, March 23, 2007

TCU Daily Skiff



### TODAY IN HISTORY

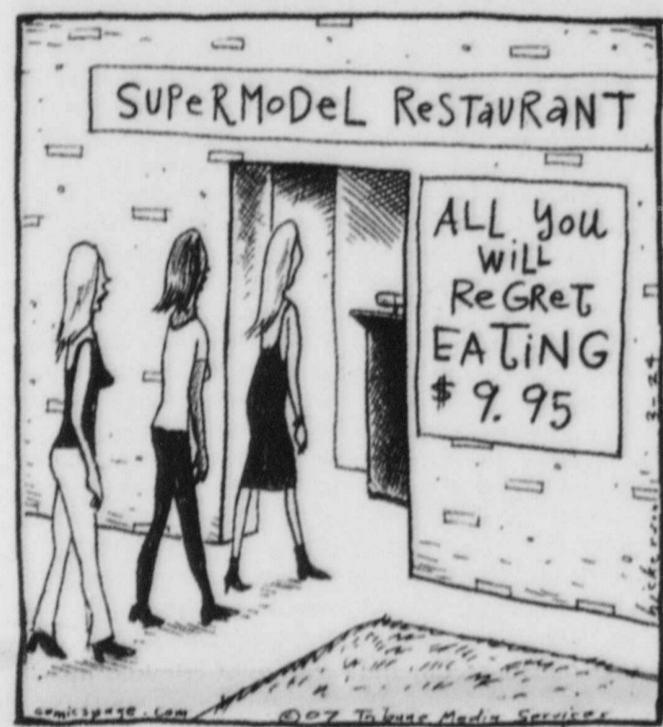
1893: The initials "O.K.," an abbreviation for "oll korrekt," are first published in the Boston Morning Post.

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A: A giraffic jam.

### The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

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

See Tuesday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

#### Thursday's Solutions

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

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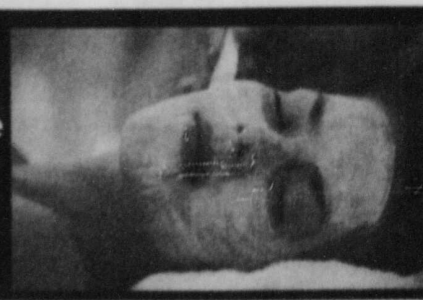
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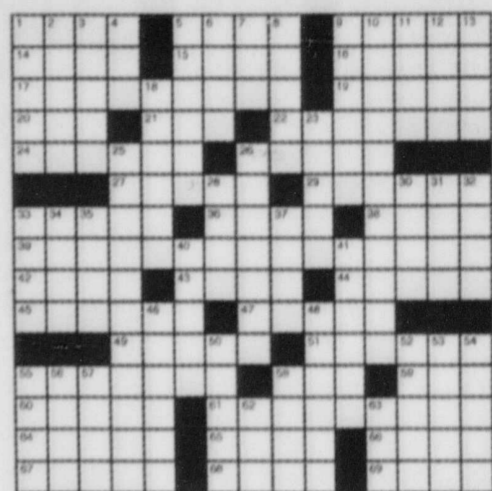
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#### ACROSS

- 1 Papa's mate
5 Laugh heartily
9 Model T's descendant
14 Visa alternative
15 Toledo's lake
16 Sound
17 Commander of Apollo 13
19 Just right
20 Lennon's love
21 Singer McGraw
22 Staiemate
24 Gangster's gat
26 Dutch genre painter
27 In what way?
29 Choice morsel
33 Hump on slopes
36 To a distance
38 Switch ending?
39 Good title for this puzzle?
42 Fringe benefit
43 Appear to be
44 Examine for value
45 Call it a go
47 Notational sign in music
49 Jump for joy
51 Ill will
55 Sea cow
58 Atmosphere
59 "Norma" brand
60 Aphorism
61 First pilot to fly solo around the world
64 Come of age
65 Lupino and Tarbell
66 Narrow margin
67 Get under way
68 Sound unit
69 Teeny



By James E. Buel

Edgewater, FL

3/23/07

#### Thursday's Puzzle Solved

Grid of words solved from the crossword puzzle.

- 10 "To Fly and Fight" author
11 Caesar's last day
12 Narrow inlets
13 Pineapple brand
18 Annette of "Smallville"
23 French measure
25 First pilot to travel faster than sound
26 Most lenient
28 Rational
30 JFK and RFK
31 Farm Belt state
32 Kingfisher relative
33 Atlas contents
34 SSS designation
35 Lake Michigan port city
37 Lamenters' words
40 Matter of contention
41 Pet songbird
46 Breadth
48 Dolphins QB, once
50 John L. or Jerry Lee
52 Zagreb native
53 Caravan stop
54 Give it another go
55 "Total Recall" planet
56 Door to get one?
57 California valley
58 Greenspan or Ladd
62 Altar vow
63 Beta Kappa

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

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**ONLINE SCOOP**

For recaps to this weekend's Horned Frog athletics, check out stories online.  
DAILYSKIFF.COM

# READY TO RAM

## Frogs to face last nonconference opponent

By ELISA GOMEZ  
Staff Reporter

The No. 46 TCU women's tennis team will take to the court in the team's final nonconference match as the Frogs battle the No. 25 Virginia Commonwealth University Rams on Friday night at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center.

The Frogs are fresh off of a home win after the team defeated Kansas State 6-1 Monday. The team is playing in an important nonconference match, head coach Jefferson Hammond said.

"We feel that it's a big match that has a lot of implications, but we play it like any other match with the same energy and focus," Hammond said.

Junior Andrea Morgado also said a win Friday will help the team gain confidence going into Mountain West Conference play.

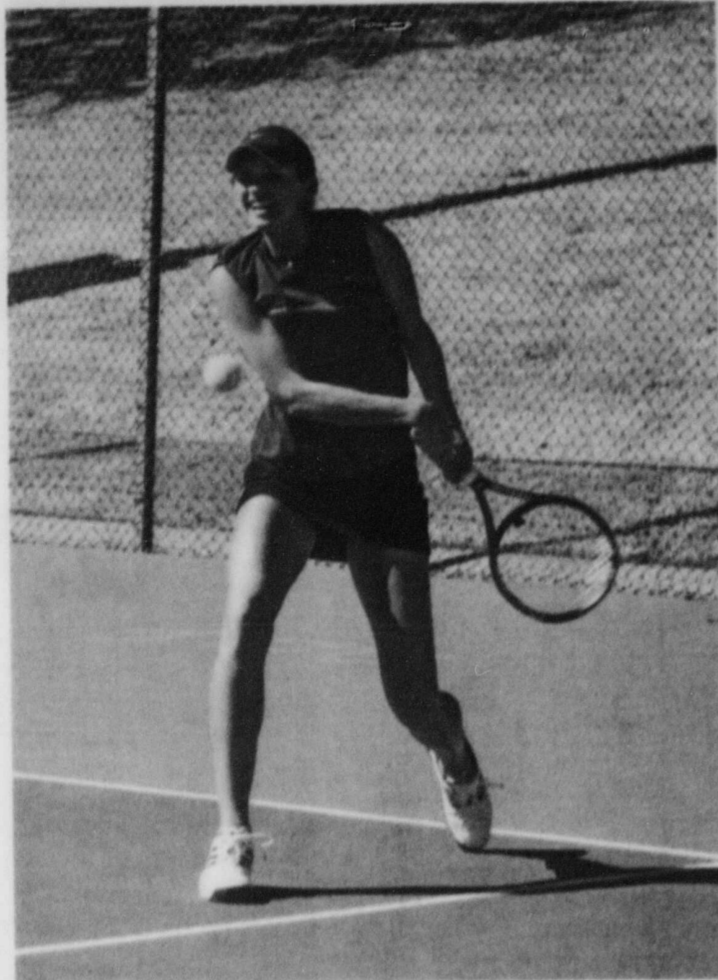
The TCU squad features three nationally ranked players this week; No. 41 senior Ana Cetnik, No. 84 freshman Nina Munch-Soegaard and No. 54 sophomore Anna Sydorska, who moved up 50 spots. The squad also includes junior Kewa Nichols and Morgado. The squad will face a VCU team that has gone 5-1 in its last six outings.

Numerous injuries have kept the Lady Frogs' shorthanded in both doubles and singles play, but the spots will be filled for Friday's match, Hammond said.

Having those spots filled will help give the team a boost, Morgado said.

"It's going to help the team having an extra person there supporting and cheering us on," she said. "It's easier to win with six."

The No. 6-ranked tandem of Cetnik and Sydorska is set to face off against VCU's No. 2-ranked doubles team of Olga Borisova and Marianna Yuferova at the



ROBYN SHEPHERD / Staff Photographer  
Junior Kewa Nichols returns a serve against Ole Miss on Feb. 25. The women's tennis team will host Virginia Commonwealth Friday at 5 p.m.

No. 1 spot. Borisova and Yuferova carry a 17-1 record on the season and recently beat the No. 19 ranked doubles team from Pepperdine.

"Cetnik and Sydorska) come in with the mindset that they expect to win," Hammond said. "It'd be an excellent win to add to their resume."

The team has played six of its last seven matches on the road, and Hammond said it will use its warrior mentality to stay in the matches and fight to the end.

Munch-Soegaard agreed.

"It's a big thing being mentally tough, saying that each player will have to put aside the fact they might be tired and remain mentally tough," she said.

The Frogs and Rams have only met one time prior to this match where VCU claimed a 5-1 victory in the first round of the 2000 NCAA Regionals.

## Track team hosts first of two home meets

By ALEX ZOBEL  
Staff Reporter

The Flying Frogs begin the outdoor season hosting the inaugural Horned Frog Invitational at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Lowden Track and Field Complex.

It's the first of two home meets TCU will have this year, the most in school history.

Competing at the meet will be the UTA Mavericks, the UNT Mean Green Eagles, the Illinois Fighting Illini and the St. Gregory's University Cavaliers.

Head coach Darryl Anderson said the team has to focus on competing with itself, not just the other schools.

"I don't get caught up in the team that poses the most problems because the biggest thing for us is not posing a problem for ourselves," Anderson said.

The last action the Frogs saw was March 10 at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Fayetteville, Ark., when the women's 4x400-relay squad broke a school record to receive All-America honors.

Players and coaches said, at this point in the season, practices don't focus as much on physical conditioning.

"Training now is just fine tuning," All-American junior sprinter Che Chavez said. "I think we're ready for Saturday."

Anderson said the team's preparation for the meet is like trying to "get into a groove."

"We've been racing indoors bottled up with the weather," Anderson said. "Now it's about adjusting to the outdoors and finding our groove."

Anderson said sprints will be

TCU's strongest events but that a goal for Saturday is to have a balanced performance.

"We need to get everybody working and meshing together," Anderson said. "I feel we can have a good all-around performance."

Anderson said season's end, the men's team should be one of the best teams in the Mountain West Conference and the women's team should be the best in the conference.

"If we can put it together and grow up with everybody taking care of business, our women have an opportunity to have an outstanding season," Anderson said.

He said the men's team is younger and will need more time to reach its potential.

The Frogs will host the second home meet April 21.

## NFL offseason sees big changes to teams

By KYLE ARNOLD  
Staff Writer

TCU is not the only one undergoing construction. From prominent player trades to big-name retirements, the NFL has been experiencing major changes this offseason.

Tuna will no longer be served in Dallas after Bill "the Big Tuna" Parcells announced he will not return to the Cowboys. Newly hired Wade Phillips will have to come up with his own nickname as well as have the joys of dealing with a certain receiver.

Lovie Smith of the Bears can finally exhale after receiving a long, well-deserved contract extension. After falling short in the Super Bowl, times were tense, and his future was not certain. Da Bears and fans can

sleep peacefully now that they have their coach locked in for a good time to come; however, the same does not hold true for fans of the Steel Curtain.

Bill Cowher, head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers for the past 14 years, has ridden off into the sunset, sort of. Two seasons ago, he and his team won the Super Bowl, but after last season's mediocre 8-8 finish, he chose to hang his whistle up and leave the game of football. Cowher was a highly admired and respected coach, not to mention the face of this organization for the last decade. Following his lead, big-time linebacker Joey Porter decided to cash out. He signed a large off-season contract with the Miami Dolphins. With so much uncertainty, one thing is for sure: This will not be the same team that won Super Bowl XL.

The Colts will have similar problems this upcoming season with the losses of linebacker Cato June, cornerback Nick Harper,

running back Dominic Rhodes and wide receiver Brandon Stokley. However, the Colts need not worry too much. They still have Manning under center.

The Texans will no longer be driving a Carr to work. They are set to part ways with the only quarterback the team and franchise has ever known, and they have moved on by signing restricted free agent Atlanta Falcons' back-up quarterback Matt Schaub. Hopefully, this will bring consistent winning to this lethargic team. The boys in the front office did not stop there. They have been among the busiest of teams this off-season, inking highly sought after free agent running back Ahman Green to a multiyear deal, as well as free agent linebacker Shawn Barber. These signings will not be an immediate fix to the Texans' many problems but should be a good start.

Good or bad, there's been much activity in the offseason market, but there's no telling which actions will end in success or failure.

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By BAILEY SHIFF  
Staff Reporter

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By LEIGH ANN  
Staff Reporter

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By JAMES B  
Staff Report

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