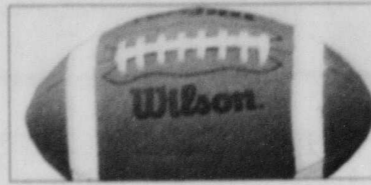


**NEWS**  
Prices of birth control pills on college campuses continue to rise.  
**TUESDAY**



**FEATURES**  
More students are getting caught downloading music illegally.  
**PAGE 6**



**SPORTS**  
Spring football practice comes to a close tonight with the Purple and White game.  
**PAGE 8**



TCU  
**DAILY SKIFF**

**THURSDAY**  
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# Financial aid office to cease revenue sharing practices

By BAILEY SHIFFLER  
Staff Reporter

Under pressure from the New York attorney general, TCU plans to end its revenue sharing partnership with Education Finance Partners, a university administrator said Wednesday.

Mike Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid, said he stands by the integrity of the revenue shar-

ing program but understands the potential for abuse, and therefore, is willing to end the program at Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's request.

In late March, Cuomo sent schools across the nation a code of conduct that outlines regulations for financial aid departments and their lending practices.

Scott said he has not yet

signed the code of conduct but intends to in the near future.

The code of conduct prohibits revenue sharing, a system in which lending companies pay schools a percentage of the profit they receive when a student begins to pay back a loan.

An April 2 press release from the attorney general's office referred to revenue

sharing as a potential conflict of interest.

Scott said this is one of the only areas in which TCU will be affected by signing the code of conduct because the university is already in compliance with most of the other regulations proposed.

The code of conduct also requires schools to include strict disclosure standards

for how lenders are chosen to be on preferred lender lists.

Scott said the financial aid department is working on a statement to include on their list of preferred lenders.

He said they have a rigorous selection process for preferred lenders including investigation into customer service practices, interest rates, buyer benefits and

student approval rates.

Despite the recent publicity surrounding financial aid practices, Scott said he has not received any calls from concerned students or parents.

Lauren Jones, a junior supply chain management and marketing major, said the financial aid office was helpful when she was looking

See **LOANS**, page 2

## New language to be offered next semester

By JILLIAN HUTCHISON  
Staff Reporter

When students register for classes this spring, they will be able to sign up for a new language course.

Next fall, TCU is offering the beginning Chinese language course in addition to the Chinese civilization and culture class that is currently offered.

Ziwo Lama, the instructor for the civilization and culture class, has been hired to teach the beginning language course as well. This is Lama's first semester teaching at TCU. He previously taught at Brookhaven College in Dallas and is working on his doctorate in linguistics at the University of Texas at Arlington.

He said learning Chinese is the foundation for understanding Chinese culture and civilization.

"Chinese people have had a very rich cultural civilization and heritage," Lama said. "If someone tries to pursue Chinese civilization, it's going to start with learning the language."

Lama said one in four people in the world speak Chinese. That fact alone, he said, illustrates the importance of learning Chinese. Lama also said many students want to learn the language to have the ability to do business with China.

Junior history major Joey Kramer said he thinks offering Chinese is a smart decision.

"With China as a rising superpower, it is almost necessary to know a language other than English to be competitive in today's world market," Kramer said.

Lama said the course will focus on the listening, speaking, reading and writing aspects of the language, though the emphasis will be on speaking.

See **LANGUAGE**, page 2

## BRIGHT LIGHTS TO BOOKS



Arthur (J. Mack Slaughter Jr. right) confronts Fat Albert (Kenan Thompson) on the track. Observing in the background are (from left) Mushmouth (Jermaine Williams), Dumb Donald (Marques B. Houston), Rudy (Shedrack Anderson III), Lauri (Dania Ramirez), Old Weird Harold (Aaron A. Frazier), Doris (Kyla Pratt) and Bucky (Alphonso McAuley). Slaughter moved to Los Angeles on his own when he was 17 years old after a two-year stint with a boy band named "Sons of Harmony."

## After years in the spotlight, student pursues dream

By JENIGHI POWELL  
Staff Reporter

He slaves over periodic tables and biology notes. He doesn't sleep the night before an organic chemistry exam. In the little spare time he does have, he gives guitar lessons.

Oh yeah, and he's wooed actress Amanda Bynes' character on the CW sitcom "What I Like About You."

J. Mack Slaughter Jr. is a 23-year-old sophomore neuroscience major whose journey to TCU has involved traveling across Texas in a family singing group, singing in a boy band and acting on television and movie sets in Los Angeles.

A Fort Worth native, Slaughter moved to Los Angeles on his own when he was 17 years old after a two-year stint in a local boy band, Sons of Harmony. The five-member group, which included "American Idol" contestant Brandon Rogers, toured across Texas and opened concerts with musicians such as Destiny's Child, Jessica Simpson and Bon Jovi.

Slaughter intended to stay in Los Angeles for only two months and then return to Fort Worth to finish his senior year of high school at Fort Worth Country Day School. But he ended up stay-

ing because a reality television show offer fell through. He spent his senior year in Los Angeles faxing homework back to his teachers in Fort Worth. His two older sisters, both aspiring actresses, went to live with Slaughter after they were offered roles on a pilot television show.

"Most kids have college as a transition after high school," Slaughter said. "I had five months with my sisters."

Slaughter decided to stay in Los Angeles and continue pursuing a music career when he was offered another fairy-tale opportunity.

"I was actually playing a

showcase for my music I had been writing and performing for a while, and this agent came up to me and told me I was going to be an actor," Slaughter said. "I told her she could count me in."

Slaughter appeared as "Keith" on television in the 2003 controversial sitcom "Like Family" about two families, one white and one black, sharing a house. He had cameo appearances on "What I Like About You" in 2002 and "Family Affair" in 2003. He also played the villainous Arthur in the film adaptation of "Fat Albert."

"Working on a movie set See **JMACK**, page 2

## Safe-rides program faces trials, lacks funds

By JOANNA DEERING  
Staff Reporter

Student Government Association members trying to create a safe-rides program, which would provide transportation for students under the influence of substances, could face funding and liability issues.

Approximately 30 percent of undergraduates report having driven under the influence, said Angela Taylor, director of the Alcohol & Drug Education Center.

"The important thing is that we have a program that reduces potential harm and does not enable other high-risk behaviors," Taylor said.

The program they hope to create will offer a free, safe and non-judgmental service to impaired students and students who don't want to ride with an impaired driver, said Mark Tschirhart, a junior math major.

Well-established safe-ride programs include Texas A&M University's Caring Aggies R Protecting Over Our Lives (CARPOOL) and programs from universities involved in Safe Rides Programs United, Tschirhart said.

Money is the most important factor in starting and maintaining the safe-rides program, said Brian Andrew, a senior international economics, history and finance major.

"All of the viable options (we've) looked at so far cost thousands of dollars, and the money needs to come from somewhere," Andrew said.

Scholarships, grants and alumni donations are possible sources for funding, but nothing has been finalized, Taylor said.

"Over the past 10 years, we have explored many options, but it seems that funding, liability and logistical issues have blocked the progress of any initiative that has been put forth," Taylor said.

In a February 2006 Skiff article, Student Development Services and Campus Life said a safe-rides program, implemented through SGA, was not feasible because students could not be responsible for driving other students.

Michael Russel, associate dean of campus life, said safe-ride programs provide a risk that is not necessary for the university to assume, according to the article.

See **SAFE-RIDES**, page 2

## Students nationwide sacrifice Facebook for Lent

By KAILEY DELINGER  
Staff Reporter

Facebook addicts, rejoice! There may be a new way to get you to peel your eyes from that hypnotizing blue and white screen: God.

College students nationwide are sacrificing their participation on one of the Internet's most popular social networking sites in the name of Lent, and TCU students haven't been left out of the trend.

Lent, a Christian holiday that lasts from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, to Easter Sun-

day, is a 40-day period that mimics the time Jesus spent in the wilderness resisting temptation.

The Rev. Charlie Calabrese, a Roman Catholic minister and leader of the TCU Catholic Community, said Lent is a time to devote oneself to God.

"God calls us to a transformation that goes to the core of who we are," Calabrese said. "During Lent we pray and reflect on what we need to give up — or what we need to do — that will enable us to give God our hearts."

For freshman pre-major Whitley Leiss, giving God her heart meant giving up what gets in the way of spending time with him: Facebook.

"For Lent you're supposed to give something up that distracts you from God and that takes up a lot of time," Leiss said. "Facebook was something that I was always on and that I spent more time doing than I did in the word or praying or even studying."

Other students empathized with Leiss' Facebook habit

and noticed how giving the Web site up has changed their social lives.

"It's funny because I feel like I am more out of the loop now," said Stefanie Grows, a freshman nutrition major who gave Facebook up for Lent. "It has kind of put a damper on my social life because I've noticed that a lot of the conversations I have with people are about Facebook, which is really pathetic if you think about it."

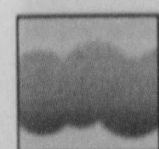
Laura Bliss, a junior real

estate finance and accounting major, said sacrificing Facebook didn't put a damper on her social life as much as it changed its dynamic.

"I replaced my time on Facebook by having actual conversations with people," Bliss said. "I have spent a lot more time on the phone and just hanging out in person."

But the crux of students' problems with Facebook infatuation may be more than just that — an infatuation. As

See **FACEBOOK**, page 2



**WEATHER**  
TODAY: Cloudy, 61/48  
FRIDAY: AM Showers, 61/46  
SATURDAY: Few Showers, 47/39

**PECULIAR FACT**

CHICAGO — A woman is suing a man she claims flipped her into the air and dropped her on her head in a jitterbug-style dance move at a company event.  
— Associated Press

**TODAY'S HEADLINES**

NEWS: Congressman to speak Monday, page 5  
OPINION: Personal letters more meaningful, page 3  
SPORTS: Baseball to face Falcons on road, page 8

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

### LOANS

From page 1

into applying for grants and loans.

Jones said the office let her choose what bank she wanted to use for her private loans, but when applying for federal loans, she only knew about the loans on TCU's preferred list.

She said she didn't ask how the banks were chosen to be on the preferred list but just assumed they had good relationships with TCU and its students. She said this seemed to be a common practice and it did not bother her.

Also under investigation by Cuomo's office is EFP, one of TCU's preferred lenders. In a March 22 press release from the attorney general's office, Cuomo announced

his intent to file suit against EFP for deceptive business practices.

A woman who answered the phone at the attorney general's press office Wednesday said Cuomo plans to continue with the suit. The woman declined to give her name for attribution.

Scott said though TCU will no longer participate in revenue sharing with EFP, they are still on the preferred list of lenders and he considers them "if not the best, then at least one of the best loans out there."

Overall, Scott said the investigation has given him a better understanding of the influence his decisions have on students. He said in the future, he intends to look for more student input to find out what they think is most important in financial aid decisions.

### LANGUAGE

From page 1

He said Chinese is very different from Western languages because of the language structure and because it uses characters instead of the alphabet.

"At the beginning, it's very difficult," Lama said. "After you get in the door, it should be easier."

Kramer said he thinks Chinese will help broaden students' perspectives.

"I think it will help open up the student body to a section of the world that many people know nothing about," Kramer said.

Senior biology major Julia Limes said she thinks the opportunity to take Chinese will benefit students.

"I think the interest is there among the students," Limes said. "It is such a valuable and increasingly practical language to learn."

### JMACK

From page 1

and working on a television set are completely opposite experiences," Slaughter said. "On a movie set, it's all 'hurry up and wait,' and I didn't really like that dynamic as much as television's."

With such an eclectic career start, Slaughter met famous musicians and actors such as musician Omarion, Tim Curry of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," the musical group Hanson and Bill Cosby. But after four years in show business, he said the fairy tale began to fade.

"I moved out to Los Angeles when I was 17 and suddenly found myself physically and financially independent from my parents in Texas," Slaughter said. "After four years of coming home but twice a year if I was lucky, I missed my family."

Dreams of becoming a doctor had always lingered in the back of Slaughter's mind because of his love of people, so he bought himself a house to

renovate and decided to attend TCU.

"I had a little bit of a culture shock being back in school," Slaughter said. "But, I love having to adapt to new places, learn new things and change the course of my life."

Phil Hartman, biology professor and Slaughter's adviser, said he was worried about how Slaughter would adjust being back in a classroom.

"I knew immediately that he would be a fun student to have in class, but I didn't know if he would be a good student," Hartman said. "In fact, that has turned out not to be the case. J. Mack has done exceptionally well."

While Slaughter may not

be acting on a movie set, he still maintains a busy schedule teaching guitar, playing bass guitar and drums with his band, skateboarding, studying and writing and performing music. But Slaughter just smiles at the thrill of the pressure.

"Many students complain about organic chemistry being the hardest class pre-health majors have to take," said Jean-Luc Montchamp, his organic chemistry professor. "For him, it seemed to be pretty easy."

Slaughter said music will always stay a part of his life, but his superstar days are over. His goals now include graduating in 2009 and becoming a modest practitioner and having a family of his own.



Reggie (Omari Grandberry Jr., left) and Arthur (J. Mack Slaughter Jr.) plot against their rivals, Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids. Aside from being an actor and a musician, Slaughter is a sophomore neuroscience major at TCU.

### FACEBOOK

From page 1

Grows put it, the issue goes much deeper.

"I think we all need a Facebook patch," she said. "They're probably going to start offering support classes for people who are trying to give it up. It is definitely an addiction."

Dianne Lynch, an expert on media technology and dean of Ithaca College's Park School of Communications, said while it may not be addiction, there is something to American college students' obsession with the online social network.

"American adolescents and young adults have grown up

in a wired, connected world," Lynch said. "They are to a certain extent uncomfortable with solitude ... But that's not addiction. That's a compulsion to participate, to stay connected, to be in the virtual loop."

Addiction or not, all three of these Facebookers said, though they may not return to the frequency of their old habits on the Web site, they will definitely be back on it come Easter Sunday.

"I'm not going to lie," Grows said, "I'm excited for Sunday. I know I need to tone it down and maybe limit my Facebook checking to once a day, but I am excited for Sunday. I know that I have a ton of stuff to look at."

### SAFE-RIDES

From page 1

According to the article, SGA planned to run its safe-ride program through Five Star Coach, the same company that now provides shuttles from commuter lots on campus. SGA planned to offer free transportation to anyone with a TCU ID from Sundance Square and other areas back to campus Thursday through Saturday nights.

Possible funding options for this program were Mothers Against Drunk Driving or a university parent's club, according to the article.

It is unclear when any safe-rides plans will become a reality, Andrew said.

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#### COMMENTARY



Billy Wessels

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#### Editorial B

JOHN-LAURE

MARCUS MUF



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."  
— Michelangelo

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

**Increased funding good for future**

Following last week's board of trustees meeting, an increase of \$9.4 million will be allotted for TCU employee compensation during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The \$9.4 million is part of the \$315 million budget approval that was passed during the meeting. The money came from tuition and fees, \$1.1 billion endowment and various auxiliary donations.

Moreover, a portion of that money would go toward the addition of 16 new faculty members on campus. This addition of faculty will continue keeping the student-faculty ratio down so as to maintain having decent student-faculty relations.

With an increase in money and faculty members, this will put faculty in a position to live up to their earnings.

If they take this raise and new compensation, it will be up to the faculty

and professors to reflect this money through their work in the classroom.

The smaller class sizes give the ability to have a give-and-take discussion and forum-style lecture with professors. With the exception of a few introductory courses where lecture halls are filled, the faculty are aware of who the students are and what they are doing.

This gives a family appeal to the campus that prides itself on being "not too big and not too small."

Additionally, a \$6.4 million increase to financial aid came through during the meeting.

Benefits such as these could be used to improve the TCU community at large, but time will be the judge of whether these financial decisions will be worthwhile in the coming months and years for students and alumni.

*Sports editor Marcus Murphree for the editorial board.*

BY BRENDAN KIEFER



America's Top Dancing with the Idols

**Show care in correspondence; write, send personal letters**

Hey Friend,  
I am writing this letter to you to tell you that I fear we are losing touch.

It is rare these days to give and/or receive a hand-written letter, such as this one, partially due to the current wave of technology and our nation's recent laissez-faire attitude the public has adopted toward most forms of interpersonal communication.

Nowadays, it is just easier to send a quick e-mail or instant message rather than taking the time and energy to either hand-write a letter or pick up a phone. But an e-mail can't match the care and effort it takes to share a letter.

With a letter someone can't just "carbon copy" the same message to another person. So, each letter tells a whole new story and could have a whole new meaning for each person.

I am not saying to boycott e-mail. It is very useful when getting something resolved within a short period of time. But, for those sending a note to someone telling them how great their spring break or summer vacation was, why shouldn't they send a letter or even a postcard from where they visited? Those who don't like the postcards from the hotel gift shop could even make their own with a picture they took at the beach or a cool landmark.

It's not even common place to pass notes in class anymore. I know we are in class to become educated, but, if a fellow student has a witty retort to add to the lecture, I want to hear it. I

was in class Tuesday night when I received a text message from a girl maybe eight feet from me. I looked down at my phone then took a gander to my left with a puzzled look on my face. In a situation like this, it is easier and, for slow typists like myself, faster to just write the three-word message on a piece of scratch paper and hand it to the recipient.

Notes in class are nice, but it is hard to beat getting a letter in the mail. The feeling gets even better when it's not from your mother, but instead from a friend you haven't talked to in a long time.

It is sad that I look forward to my birthday every year just so I can receive a card. In fact, I am pretty sure that if my grandparents could figure out a way to attach a \$50 check to a happy birthday e-card with a little baseball player on it, I would never see another card in the mail.

E-cards are things that tend to get on my nerves a little bit. It is basically a way of saying that you don't care enough about someone to pick up a \$2 card at any gas station and add your own personal message, but instead you care enough about someone to sort through free cards online and type in his e-mail address. Plus, you get to help put Hallmark out of business. At least e-cards allow people to add a personal message to go with the dancing monkeys that brighten peoples' days.

Well friend, I just wanted to catch up and tell you what was on my mind. I hope to receive a letter from you soon telling me how you are doing and maybe give you a chance to rant.

Your pal,  
Billy

*Photo editor Billy Wessels is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Wazahaehie.*

**Fast-paced life necessity in business; people should slow down to enjoy life**

The French broke the record for the world's fastest TGV train Tuesday.

According to a Times Online article, the TGV train had been allotted 5 billion euros, in spite of predictions that it would never be profitable.

The train, which got up to 357 mph, did not beat the record 361 mph held by a different type of train from Japan that levitates on magnets but did beat France's own 1990 TGV train world record of 320 mph.

Having faster transportation available has awesome implications for the travel industry, as travelers are able to go to destinations and back faster than ever, saving them time and money.

On the business side of things, the faster the transportation, the more customers and potential customers can be reached in a shorter amount of time which can potentially increase profits.

This got me thinking about the need for speed.

Ever since I was a little kid, the global need for fast cars, fast planes, fast internet service and even fast food has exponentially increased.

The other day, I bought an automatic shower cleaner, guaranteed to clean my whole shower in less than a minute with the push of a button.

So, I probably could clean the shower in 10

minutes on my own, but now I have that extra time to do something more useful.

Like cooking. Except that really cooking a good meal takes about 30 minutes to an hour, so I opt for the microwaveable meals ready in three minutes or less.

And with the time I save by not cooking, I have time to finish my homework or go online, where my high-speed internet connection allows me access to news stories from around the world.

For me, every second of time I save is replaced by something else that I need to do as quickly as possible so that I will be able to move on to one more thing.

The problem is that when I finally have free time after days of living like this, I become so exhausted that I pretty much crash.

But I know I'm not the only one. Americans are notorious workaholics, and technological improvements have only made us worse.

The average American only takes 16 vacation days off from work per year, including public holidays, which is less than half the days an average French person takes off, according to a 2006 Telegraph.co.uk article.

This isn't to say that Americans should completely forgo our busy lifestyles.

I don't love to clean my shower, cook or (sorry to my professors) do homework, so the advances in technology that help me accomplish these tasks as quickly as possible are welcome.

But I try to allow myself at least an hour every day to do something slowly that I love, like reading a book, watching a movie or spending time with friends. Ironically, by taking time to slow down everyday, I actually find I become more productive than when I spend days on end working at a fast pace to get as many things done as possible.

With their truly remarkable breakthrough in high-speed technology, the French obviously know how to keep things moving at a fast pace, but they also know when to slow down. Americans, on the other hand, need to work on learning when to hit the brakes.

*Talia Sampson is a junior news-editorial journalism and international relations major from Moorpark, Calif. Her column appears Thursdays.*



**Don't let preconceived judgments ruin happiness, friendships**

In the past three years, I have seen five people under the age of 20 get married. As you might expect, they have experienced hard times, but, from what they tell me, those hard times are not a result of anything coming from the marriage but from people's comments about the marriage.

Standing up for the marriage might just be the most difficult part of the first few years of a young adult's marriage. The summer after her senior year, my friend, who had been married for a year, was very upset about criticism from a high school graduate she had just met.

The high school graduate told my friend she had ruined her own life.

When my best friend in high school got engaged, many of our friends disagreed with the decision. One of our friends was particularly upset, feeling that our friend's decision to get engaged was only to have sex. She was supportive about wedding plans and was a bridesmaid, but she expressed no happiness for the bride. The disagreement made them grow apart, and they completely stopped talking about a month after the wedding.

I'm sure this is not the

only case where people grew apart because of disapproval of a marriage.

In today's society where divorce rates are so high — particularly among people who get married at a younger age — there are valid reasons to believe getting married early is not a good idea. For example, an article in the Feb. 24, 2005, Wall Street Journal said half of all couples have separate checking accounts. It is reasonable to assume a good number of people who get married do not even trust each other enough to share money. It seems like the average person no longer

believes in marriage.

However, there is also reason to believe otherwise. Go to Bob Evans on Sunday mornings and see retired couples eating brunch together and find that they have been married ever since they were in their teens. Such marriages do succeed.

Age alone does not predict a marriage's success. It is more important to focus on the fact that where there is true love — a condition that can't be determined based on just observing a relationship — a couple should be granted the right to marry. Two people who

want to be together forever deserve the respect and support of their friends.

Look at it this way: Marriage is not more or less sacred when you are older or younger. Just because a good friend might be doing something you wouldn't do, it does not mean you can't support and share the joy of such a meaningful and significant event.

Back in the 1930s, people got married before they were 20 years old, and divorce rates were low; maybe young people getting married today deserve the same respect.

The fact is that marriage

is an act you can't really persuade someone to do or to not do. Sometimes you support a loved one not because you agree with his or her decision but because you respect the choice.

Engagements and weddings could be the happiest times of a person's life; disapproval of the acts can spoil those times and also ruin friendships. After all, seeing your friend through his or her happiness should be about what you ought to do as a good friend.

*Rainy Phrompechrat is a columnist at The Post at Ohio University from Athens, Ohio. This column was distributed by Copybox.*

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## TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

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By MICHAEL BE  
Staff Reporter

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## Congressman to discuss future for state energy

By MICHAEL BEST  
Staff Reporter

The TCU community will receive a rare opportunity to hear an elected official speak about the future of Texas energy policy.

Congressman Joe Barton will present a lecture about the future of energy at 6 p.m. Monday. His lecture "Politics of Energy in U.S. Congress," hosted by TCU's engineering department, will take place in the Kelly Alumni Center.

As one of the leading political experts on energy policy, Barton will be discussing political issues, such as digital TV legislation and new methods of energy production, and will lecture on topics pertaining directly to Texans, including the current drilling of the Barnett Shale, said Tristan Tayag, an engineering professor who helped organize the event.

The lecture will be part of a series presented by the engineering department. The series, once narrowly tailored to appeal to students, has now become more general in order to appeal to a wider audience, Tayag said.

"Our focus this year is the engineering community," Tayag said. "That's who we're tar-

geting and that is primarily who has registered."

Although the talk may not be geared directly toward students, anyone interested is strongly encouraged to attend, Tayag said.

As the representative of the 6th district of Texas, Barton is one of the primary decision makers on Texas energy policies, said Karen Modlin, Barton's press secretary.

Barton graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor of science in industrial engineering and earned a master of science degree from Purdue, according to his biography.

TCU is the only school that Barton will present this particular lecture to, Modlin said.

Tayag said Bob Bolen, former mayor, was instrumental in bringing Barton to TCU. Guests are asked to register according to the instructions on the TCU engineering department Web site, however the official registration ended April 4, Tayag said. He said anyone interested should hurry as there are few spots still remaining.

"If people show up, we'll see about what we can do to accommodate them," Tayag said.

The cost, which is \$5 for members of the engineering department and \$10 for all others, includes the price of the dinner served prior to the lecture.

## Coach: NCAA rules delay important decisions

By AMBER PARCHER  
Features Editor

The TCU tennis teams have run into a lot of problems with the National Collegiate Athletic Association recently, but coaches and players are wondering if it could be the association's fault.

An international student, who spoke only under the condition that he would remain nameless, played tennis in his home country while enrolled in a university and accepted prize money for his sport as a student-athlete. In his country, it was legal to do so.

Upon coming to TCU to play tennis, he filed the necessary forms to explain to the NCAA he had accepted money while abroad because in America, it is an illegal action to do so. NCAA compliance rules state a student playing collegiate athletics in the United States cannot earn money from his or her ability as an athlete.

Even though international students are not under NCAA jurisdiction while attending college out of the United States, the normal procedure for an international student who wants to play in America is to pay back the money he or she earned abroad before they can be eligible to play. The money is supposed to go to a charity of the athlete's choice.

However, it appeared the NCAA let his earnings slide because the player was cleared to play without paying the money. But suddenly, during his senior year, NCAA declared him ineligible for the money he won several years ago unless he paid \$2,500, a rough estimate of his earnings.

Now many in the athletics department are asking why this circumstance wasn't caught much earlier.

Andrea Nordmann, TCU associate director of athletic compliance, said the NCAA can inquire about any NCAA student-athlete at any time of the athlete's collegiate career, but that there are a daunting number of rules to keep track of.

"It's tough," Nordmann said. "There are some guidelines out there, but there are so many circumstances."

Nordmann said this could create an unfair advantage to foreign students who get "caught" and others who get away with keeping the money they earned abroad.

"Some coaches question the fairness of the rules," Nordmann said, "especially that they might be playing against an international student they think is ineligible."

The men's tennis head coach, Dave Borelli, said the NCAA rule to pay back prize money isn't always followed through with.

"There are a lot of kids in this country based on this (rule) that are not eligible right now, but they're playing and not giving money back," Borelli said. "There are some that made \$20, \$30 or \$40,000 in tournaments and aren't paying that back."

In this case, the TCU athlete paid his \$2,500 and is allowed to finish playing his senior year.

Nordmann said it is easier for international students to get trapped by this regulation because rules for student-athletes typically change with borders.

"International students don't know about the NCAA. That's why they're allowed to repay and be reinstated. But if you're enrolled in a college under the NCAA, there's the thought of 'you should have known better,'" she said.

But even for national students, the 476-page NCAA manual can be intimidating. Another men's tennis play-

er, freshman Jack Seider, from Austin, has had to sit out this year as well in his first season at TCU because of a nuance about home schooling.

NCAA states a student must finish his or her high school education in eight semesters, with the exception of extenuating circumstances such as home schooling or finishing high school in good standing.

In Seider's case, he transferred from a public school to home school for academic reasons and finished in good standing, Borelli said.

Borelli said Seider's situation is an exception to the rule but appealing hasn't been easy.

"One person made the decision he was ineligible, then we went to a NCAA committee and waited three weeks for them to reinforce that person's decision — that was a waste of time," Borelli said.

Now, Borelli and Seider, who started this process in January, have appealed to another committee composed of actual professors and administrators.

The committee cleared Seider to play March 27, but Borelli said he decided to red shirt Seider for the last few matches.

Borelli said he faults the NCAA for letting people who are so far removed from the athletes make the decisions.

"The people deciding on the eligibility are not the coaches or

the athletic directors, but people hired by the NCAA as an outer body not affiliated with athletics or the universities," he said.

Borelli, who calls the NCAA a "stumble-and-fall" organization, said he thinks the NCAA would be fairer if it allowed college coaches to rule on a player's eligibility.

"(The NCAA is) not looking at their mission statement, which is the well-being of the student-athlete," Borelli said. "I wish I could make these decisions because I could do a better job."

Junior Macall Harkins, a female tennis player who is a transfer student from Illinois, said the NCAA needs to give more jurisdiction to its players.

Harkins transferred to TCU after her sophomore year but is sitting out her junior year because Illinois refused to release her.

"(The NCAA) gives all the power to the school, and they have nothing for the players who are playing for them," Harkins said. "There was no reason not to release me."

Borelli said a lot of problems with the institution have yet to be resolved but, in the meantime, are affecting players' lives.

"It's part of a process; a long process," he said. "If I wasn't patient, I'd probably jump off a cliff."

"Eventually one day, probably when I'm retired, it'll all work out," he said.

### NCAA ELIGIBILITY

#### Process for NCAA for Reinstatement of Eligibility:

1. The university determines that a prospective or enrolled student-athlete was involved in a violation that affects eligibility and renders the student ineligible to play.
  2. The university then submits an eligibility-reinstatement request to student-athlete reinstatement staff (a part of the NCAA).
  3. Staff reviews request.
  4. Staff can: Reinstatement eligibility without conditions, reinstate eligibility with conditions (withholding/repayment) or not reinstate eligibility at that institution or at any institution.
- \*This information was taken from [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).

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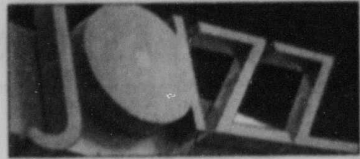
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# DANGEROUS DOWNLOADING

## Recording industry cracks down on students, universities

By ERICK MOEN  
Staff Reporter

On March 21, 405 students woke up ready to face the day only to find out they would also have to face a lawsuit from the Recording Industry Association of America.

The recording industry sent 400 prelitigation settlement letters to 13 different universities as part of its latest salvo in its war on illegal file-sharing on college campuses, according to a press release from the RIAA.

Each notice informed the university that a lawsuit will be filed against someone using its network and gave the person an opportunity to settle out of court for less money, according to the press release. The letter requested that the university pass on the notice to the owner of the IP address.

The prelawsuit letters are part of the new initiatives being launched to discourage and stop music theft on college campuses, according to the press release.

"Frankly, we've found that students know that downloading from unauthorized P2P systems is illegal, but the chance of getting caught isn't great enough to discourage them from doing it. By increasing the number of lawsuits, we're letting them know that the risk of getting caught is greater. That's also why we're bringing more

lawsuits on a single college campus," said Cary Sherman, president of the RIAA.

### Bigger Problems, More Attention

The release has received a great deal of media attention from news agencies worldwide and is the latest update to issues raised by Sherman in his meeting with the U.S. House of Representatives on Sept. 26, 2006.

Sherman and Steven Marks, RIAA general counsel and executive vice president, conducted an online chat interview March 1 with college reporters across America discussing the release and the industry's new measures.

Marks said the major difference between its previous measures and this new initiative was a sharp increase in the amount of notices being sent and lawsuits being filed, as well as the addition of the prelitigation letters.

"In the three years since we first filed suit against a university network user, we have sued about 1,000 students," Marks said. "Under this new program, we will initiate legal action against a similar number of students in just three months."

### The Prosecution Continues

Sherman said the RIAA is planning to continue sending out about 400 prelawsuit letters every month.

Marks said the RIAA has two different ways of enforcing copyright laws.

Marks said the first consists of sending out Digital Millennium Copyright Act notices to schools. The school is then at liberty to act in accordance with its own policy. The second route is to file a lawsuit against a specific individual. A student has 20 days from the date the university receives the letter to settle out of court. If the university decides not to forward the letter, Marks said, the court will subpoena the university to provide the identity of the student.

TCU was not one of the 13 universities to receive the letters, but Marks said anyone who illegally downloads files can be sued.

"While we targeted more egregious users when we first filed lawsuits three years ago, since then everyone should be aware of what is legal and not legal," Marks said.

The RIAA said they have tried educating college students and that these measures are a last resort.

But some students do understand that piracy is illegal and why.

"You're taking away profit from people who worked hard to make it," said Lauren John, a sophomore math major.

John said she thought the new initiatives may be effective because the lawsuits make it seem more serious.

Jim Mayne, director of information security services, said he wasn't sure how the new initiatives would affect TCU's current policy because of how recently they have been announced.

But Mayne said he was sure TCU would continue using the measures in place as well as passing on any prelitigation letters it receives to the students involved.

"We're not trying to hide students," Mayne said.

Scogin said upon a user's second offense he or she is subject to the judicial process of the university.

She said this usually results in the student's Internet access being cut off for the rest of the semester.

TCU's policy appears to be working because Scogin said she hasn't seen anyone receive a third offense.

Mayne said about 25 students have been disabled so far this semester because of copyright violations but only three or four of the 25 are repeat offenders.

Scogin said TCU's policy gives students a chance to realize their mistakes and not have huge fines or other ramifications.

"Some students genuinely don't know it's wrong, and this gives them an opportunity to learn," Scogin said.

Each school has to find what works for it and this works for TCU, Scogin said.

Mayne said the university currently takes a middle-of-the-road stance on illegal file-sharing.

"We don't actively try to determine student activity, but we do respond to complaints," Mayne said. "We feel obligated to respond to illegal activity."

### THE OTHER SIDE

But is file sharing really hurting the industry?

• Researchers found no significant effect on album sales from file sharing, according to a new study published in Journal of Political Economy.

### What Happens to Students Who Get Caught

Brooke Scogin, assistant dean of campus life, said TCU's current policy toward piracy is based on the number of offenses the user has.

The first time a person is caught illegally sharing files, his or her Internet is shut off, and he or she must remove any copyrighted material from his or her computer, Scogin said. Then, he or she must send out a scripted e-mail to 20 peers discouraging piracy, Scogin said.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor  
Sophomore criminal justice major Brian Coleman views his iTunes music library. Coleman was one of many students disciplined for illegally downloading music and movies.

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

**Wednesday's Solutions**

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

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

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9 Boston team, briefly  
14 Merit  
15 On the apex of  
16 Hunter of stars  
17 Emulate a rodent  
18 Lacking firmness  
19 Explosive word  
20 Start of Evan Esar quote  
23 Consumes with relish  
26 What you looking at?  
27 6th sense  
28 Part 2 of quote  
32 Morning hrs.  
33 Masseuse's milieu  
34 Doesn't tip  
38 Submarine areas  
41 Make an effort  
43 Condescend  
44 Small sofa  
46 Some French?  
48 Natl. interest watchdog  
49 Part 3 of quote  
53 Narc's org.  
56 Some sloths  
57 Cooks with dry heat  
58 End of quote  
62 Bulk of the body  
63 Middle Eastern gulf  
64 Blithering  
68 Join in  
69 Wedding token  
70 Larger-than-life  
71 Pairs  
72 Rose of baseball  
73 Remainder  
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2 Writer Fleming  
3 Period  
4 Imprudent  
5 Islamic leaders  
6 Elevator maker  
7 Rooster's crest  
8 Take the case to the next level  
9 Ingredients  
10 HOMES part  
11 French measure  
12 Legal wrongs  
13 Pity  
21 Word of reproof  
22 Very art  
23 Yikes!  
24 Evangelist  
25 Boob tube  
29 Suitable  
30 Henner on "Taxi"  
31 Morse unit  
35 Lens adjustment  
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37 Squabbles  
39 Education-minded grp.  
40 Former  
41 Washing nine  
42 Affirmative  
45 Fix a draft  
47 Peculiar  
50 D-flat, in other words  
51 E. Afr. nation  
52 Skua  
53 West steady  
54 Jet black  
55 Blood line  
59 Manipulated  
60 Adams or Brickell  
61 Transmitted  
65 Jungle denizen  
66 Joe and his comrades?  
67 Do something

By Alan P. Olschwang  
Huntington Beach, CA  
4/5/07  
Wednesday's Puzzle Solved  
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## SPRING TRAINING



The offensive line works on a drill to improve strength during the first week of spring practice this semester. Thursday night, the Frogs will compete in their annual Purple and White game, a scrimmage that is treated more like a regular-season game.

### Frogs start spring training for upcoming season

By MICHAEL BEST  
Staff Reporter

Do you find yourself wishing football season never had to end? While all good things must come to an end, people still struggling to shrug off football fever

can get their gridiron fixes tonight.

TCU football fans have their first opportunity to check out the 2007 team in the Purple and White game at 6 p.m.

"Even though we call it Purple and White for everybody outside, really, for us, it's like a scrimmage," head coach Gary Patterson said.

Patterson said the team will have a total of 44 practices: 15 in the spring and 29 in the fall before the season-opener versus the Baylor Bears on Sept. 1.

"What we're going to try to accomplish is to find out who our top 65 players are," Patterson said, "and (the scrimmage) helps us because there are more people in the stands. Some people play better in front of the lights, and you see some players that don't play as well when people are around."

Patterson said he is concentrating on forming a balanced team.

"Everybody has good first guys," Patterson said. "When people get hurt, it's how the second and third (string) guys play that makes a difference."

Coming off another successful season, the team is focused on the future, and Patterson said he will only be satisfied with improvement.

"Right now, we have to

go back and win the conference," Patterson said. "We didn't win the conference last year even though we ended up 11-2, and so that is our first goal."

The Frogs will follow up the opening game against Baylor with the daunting task of playing the Texas Longhorns in Austin, but Patterson showed no sign of concern.

"We have the kind of schedule we have this year because people want to see us in the matches on TV," Patterson said, "so it's time to go play."

With the graduation of star athletes including quarterback Jeff Ballard, some nervousness could be expected, yet Patterson remains calm and unflinching, even optimistic.

"I'm excited because I started to see the intensity that I remember in last year's football team today in the short bit when we scrimmaged," Patterson said.

After the Purple and White game, Patterson said the team's focus will be on finishing the semester strong in the classroom.

"Spring ball is a time of development," Patterson said.

He said the team has worked on strength-building and learning plays but many of the qualities cannot be coached and, instead, must come from the team

working together.

"We try to build chemistry, find out who our leaders are, who our go-to guys are, and then those guys will step up for us when it counts," he said.

Others seem to share Patterson's enthusiasm about this year's team.

Frank Gardener, 81, who played tight end for TCU in the late 1940s to 1950, has watched nearly every Frog football game in the past 60 years.

From the practices he has watched this year, he has confidence this year's team will be full of talent.

"I tell you what, I've never seen so much speed on a team," Gardener said. "We recruited about 20 guys last year, and with the exception of one, all of them can run a 40 (yard dash) in 4.4, 4.5 or 4.6. A lineman was the only one who ran a 5.2 and he weighs about 300 pounds."

Mark Cohen, athletic media relations director, said he thinks this team will have a great opportunity for success. He said TCU should do well as long as they live up to the hype developed by the media.

"There's always a buzz on campus, but it has extended to the community," Cohen said, "There are a lot of people talking about TCU football, and that's exactly what we want."

## Beginning of season excites sport's fans

By MARCUS MURPHREE  
Sports Editor

To be entirely honest, I am not that much of a basketball fan.

So, when the NCAA Championship game between the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Florida Gators took place Monday, I was far from being up in arms over the fuss.

Instead, I was happy to know that baseball season was officially underway.

It is understood that college ball has been going on for the past two months, but the atmosphere presented by the smell of dirt, a vendor hawking hotdogs and the unmistakable sound of ash meeting cowhide is something that brings a warm feeling to me amid the April showers.

Monday night's ESPN coverage was dominated by baseball montage shows while only brief clips of Florida's second consecutive national championship popped up in headlines.

Admittedly, it is unfair to

the basketball teams for having minimal coverage over a historic night. For the first time in 15 years, a team won back-to-back NCAA titles, but the ticker on the bottom of the screen was flooded with scores from around the American and National Leagues, and it was a beautiful sight to see.

The return of baseball season means the national pastime is back for fans to complain about steroids scandals and to live and bleed stat lines for six solid months. The purists will be there talking about the days of old mentioning names like Mantle, Banks and Ryan, while the fantasy hungry stat junkies will foam at the mouth for Ryan Howard, Johan Santana and to a lesser extent, Chone Figgins.

For six months baseball will be king. How many other sports have the honor of being called the national pastime? How many sports can still bring a nation together in a time of war?

There is but one sport, one game, and for the next six months, 30 teams will wear the dirt of the ballpark home with hopes to become World Series Champions.



Marcus Murphree

## Baseball team to face Falcons in road series

By BILLY WESSELS  
Photo Editor

The baseball team will try to bounce back after its third loss this season against a Big XII opponent with a three-game road series against conference foes, the Air Force Academy Falcons.

Sophomore outfielder Matt McGuirk's fourth home run of the season was not enough for the Frogs (21-9, 5-1 in conference) as they lost 13-5 to the No. 19 Oklahoma Sooners (22-9, 3-3 in conference) in Norman, Okla. The Sooners pounced on Frogs pitching early scoring seven runs in the first inning.

Now, the No. 28 Horned Frogs will visit an Air Force team (6-21, 0-5 in conference) that is currently in last place in the Mountain West.

The Horned Frogs have won all seven meetings between the two schools since joining the Mountain West Conference last season.

This will be the second series for the Frogs against

the Falcons this season. The Air Force Academy visited Fort Worth March 16-18 for a three-game series, which saw TCU pull out a three-game sweep. During the three-game sweep, the Frogs outscored the Falcons 23-4 in the series.

Junior catcher Andrew Walker led the Frogs with five RBIs in the series.

The starting pitchers, juniors Jake Arrieta, Chris Johnson and Chance Corgan, struck out 25 Falcons hitters in 19 2/3 innings during the sweep.

TCU's bats have been coming to life of late, having 10 or more hits in 12 of their last 13 games. Three hitters in particular, seniors Steven Trout and Keith Conlon and sophomore Ben Carruthers, come into the series with hitting streaks of four games.

The Horned Frogs will look to complete their season sweep of the Falcons beginning Thursday at 3 p.m. in Colorado Springs, Colo.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor  
Freshman quarterback Marcus Jackson throws a pass during the second football practice this semester.

**GET REAL...**

72% of TCU Students reported that they had not driven a car while under the influence of alcohol within the past year.

Most TCU Students have not driven a car under the influence of alcohol.

For More Information Contact TCU Alcohol & Drug Education Center  
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<p><b>Friday, April 6</b></p> <p>Grindhouse R- 11:00, 2:55, 7:00, 10:55</p> <p>Are We Done Yet PG- 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45</p> <p>Midnight</p> <p>Shooter R- 12:10, 3:20</p> <p>Blades of Glory PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00</p> <p>Midnight</p> <p>Meet the Robinsons G- 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25</p> <p>300 R- 12:30, 3:35, 6:50, 9:30</p>	<p><b>Saturday, April 7</b></p> <p>Grindhouse R- 11:00, 2:55, 7:00, 10:55</p> <p>Are We Done Yet PG- 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45</p> <p>Midnight</p> <p>Shooter R- 12:10, 3:20</p> <p>Blades of Glory PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00</p> <p>Midnight</p> <p>Meet the Robinsons G- 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25</p> <p>300 R- 12:30, 3:35, 6:50, 9:30</p> <p>Rocky Horror R- Midnight</p>
<p><b>Sunday, April 8 - Thursday, April 12</b></p> <p>Grindhouse R- 12:00, 3:45, 7:40</p> <p>Are We Done Yet PG- 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45</p> <p>Shooter R- 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:20</p> <p>Blades of Glory PG13- 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00</p> <p>Meet the Robinsons G- 12:00, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25</p> <p>300 R- 12:30, 3:35, 6:50, 9:30</p>	

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