

NEWS
Applications for the MBA program increase in the Neeley School of Business.
FRIDAY



FEATURES
The first black Southwest Conference college athlete remembers past challenges.
FRIDAY.



SPORTS
Announcer bringing a new voice to football games.
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Track's privileges renewed as NCAA restrictions set to expire

By **BRETT LARSON**
Staff Reporter

Recruiting and competition restrictions placed on the track and field program two years ago will come to an end Saturday as the team's probation period ends.

The team was put on probation for a series of NCAA violations, which centered on monetary and academic help given to track members and recruits.

Former head coach Monte Stratton, who was head coach

during the team's violations, instructed three former assistant coaches to assist prospects with entrance essays.

Coaches also made a large number of payments to assist track members with the costs of moving into off-campus housing, and provided prospective athletes with cash, merchandise, entertainment and airline tickets, according to NCAA Division I Committee of Infractions.

Stratton was released when the violations were discov-

ered. NCAA restrictions included a 20 percent scholarship reduction, a 25 percent reduction in official visits by male prospects, a reduced number of off-campus recruiters and a budget decrease. As of Saturday, these will no longer be in effect.

Sprinter Adam Benz said he believes the probation has influenced athletes' decisions on whether or not to join the TCU track team.

"I've known some people on

the team who thought about not going to TCU because of the probation, and they chose kind of last minute."

The team as a whole will be able to compete in postseason competition again. Only individuals were allowed to compete in the past two seasons while the team was on probation.

Head coach Darryl Anderson, who has been in charge of the team since the probation began, said the lift of the probation not only benefits the team

from recruiting and postseason standpoints, but finally releases the team of the stigma that the probation has caused.

Anderson said throughout the probation the team has maintained a high level of play, which he said should improve with the loss of restrictions.

"Performances have stayed respectable, but in the long run you get the funding back and the ability to go and do everything you normally could," Anderson said.

Distance runner Steven Solazzo was a member of the team when it first was put on probation. He said when it happened there was an uncertainty with the team and how severely the penalties would put it back.

"There's going to be some catch up as far as recruiting," Anderson said.

Solazzo said the team should now have the ability to obtain more talented athletes, and he expects improvement in the

See **TRACK**, page 2

CRACK OF DAWN



The Rev. Lindsay D. Churchman, United Methodist Church campus minister, assesses the damage done early Wednesday morning by a Toyota Tundra. Between 3 a.m. and 8 a.m. Wednesday, according to the Fort Worth Police Department, a truck drove into the side of the chapel of the Wesley Foundation on West Lowden Street and the license plate of the driver was found at the scene. The Fort Worth Police Department is still attempting to contact the suspect and determine the cause of the accident.

Hurried schedules offset Frog Follies

By **CAROLINE LOCKWOOD**
Staff Reporter

This year's Homecoming week will be without the annual group talent show Frog Follies because of students' busy schedules, the homecoming director said.

Homecoming director Blake Billings said the reason Frog Follies was not scheduled during Homecoming was because of the lack of time student groups have to prepare for the event. Billings said, since Homecoming falls early in the year, it would just make things more difficult.

"Fraternity rush ended just a few weeks ago and all of the organizations are scrambling for time as it is just to finish up their floats in time for Friday," Billings said. "It's proven to be better throughout the week as everyone is having time to finish what they're working on."

Kim Appel, activities director for Student Government Association, said the decision was made by both students and faculty to benefit everyone who would be involved in the program.

"It was just a decision made to look out for student groups on campus," Appel said. "There just wouldn't be enough time for the groups to adequately

prepare a skit and float for Follies."

To make sure there is still a little competition involved during the weekend, SGA is currently holding a banner competition.

"Each residence hall and each Greek wing in Worth Hills was invited to post a banner outside their areas," Billings said. "It is similar to Frog Follies, where there is judging by outside judges, and there will be cash prizes at the end of the week."

Though Frog Follies will not be held this semester, Billings said, he hopes it will be rescheduled for sometime next semester.

"We're hoping to move it into the spring and maybe work it in with the Greek Week festivities," Billings said. "But at this point, there is no set date."

Brooke Peoples, a sophomore radio-TV-film major is the homecoming chair for Pi Beta Phi sorority. She said though she was disappointed that Frog Follies is not during Homecoming, she thinks rescheduling it in the spring would be a success.

"I'm sad because I was really looking forward to participating in the skits," Peoples said. "But I think it would go great with Greek Week, and it will give us a lot more time to be creative."

Pair of deans step down with hopes to keep teaching

By **SONA THAPA and JACKIE RODRIGUEZ**
Staff Reporters

As the deans of the business and communication schools step down, a search committee is being formed to fill their positions.

Daniel Short, dean of the M.J. Neeley School of Business, has decided to step down from his position by the end of the 2008 academic year.

Short said he believes he has done a good job as dean for four years and now he wants to give someone else an opportunity to do a better job.

"I will miss being a dean," he said. "It is the greatest job in the world to work with other deans and alumni."

However, before he retires, Short said, he wants to be in the classroom.

"I prefer working closely with students," Short said.

Lynn Cole, assistant dean

of undergraduate programs for the business school, has worked with Short and said she respects his desire to return to the classroom.

"I hated to see him step down," Cole said. "He has done a wonderful job and has made a lot of progress for the business school."

Stuart Youngblood, professor of management, said he admires the work Short has done for the business school.

Youngblood said even though he wished Short had stayed a dean longer, he understands stepping down from the position was Short's personal choice.

"He is a textbook author and an outstanding teacher," Youngblood said.

After gaining experience and expertise in various fields, Short said, he is looking forward to making a change in



SLATER



SHORT

his life.

Bill Moncrief, senior associate dean of the business school, said Short has been a pleasure to work with.

"We are sorry to see him step down," Moncrief said. "We would love for him to continue for several more years."

William Slater, professor and dean of the College of Communication, said he is stepping down at the end of this semester or when a new dean is appointed so he, too, can teach.

"I enjoy teaching and I haven't had much of an opportunity to do it," Slater said. "I

would enjoy ending my academic career in the classroom as I started."

Slater, who has been with the College of Communication since 2002, said he will be taking sabbatical for a year before he begins teaching.

Slater, who has not taught at TCU, said he has not decided what he wants to teach when he returns in fall 2009 or what he will do during the sabbatical.

Slater said he has been invited by the University of Kansas and Louisiana State University to teach a course for a semester and he might consider taking the offers.

Tommy Thomason, director of the Schieffer School of Journalism, said Slater had helped

the department in a time of shortage.

"I think we were fortunate to have Bill Slater's leadership in a very crucial time at the beginning of the college," Thomason said. "Bill has helped to articulate a vision."

He understands the unique needs of a professionally-oriented department and has helped us to get the resources we need."

Slater said the College of Communication has enjoyed an enrollment

growth from 750 students in 2002 to 1,100 students this semester.

Thomason said the search committee for the new dean of the communications school will consist of students, fac-

ulty and administrators from inside and outside the College of Communication.

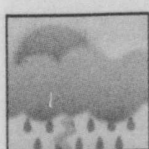
"A search firm has been retained to assist the committee with the search," he said.

There will be a national search for the new dean and advertisements will be placed in academic national publications, Thomason said.

"It's a fantastic time to be looking for a new dean because we are looking for a dean who can understand both the industry and the future of mass communication," he said.

Moncrief said the procedure for the selection of the new dean of business school will be same as the communications school. Nowell Donovan, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs, will lead the search committee for new deans.

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WEATHER
TODAY: Isolated T-Storms, 91/68
FRIDAY: Sunny, 92/67
SATURDAY: Sunny, 92/68

PECULIAR FACT



Wednesday was "International Talk Like a Pirate Day."
— Reuters

TODAY'S HEADLINES

SPORTS: Equestrian team ready to start the season, page 6
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SPORTS: Stadium gets a new announcer, page 6

CONTACT US

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

TRACK

From page 1

near future.

Anderson said the team goals have never changed due to the probation and remain the same this season.

"Typical TCU expectations," Anderson said. "We'd like to be in the top 20, and ideally, we'd like to be in the top 10 nationally."

Benz said he did not think the end of the probation would have much effect on this season.

"We'll still be working as hard as usual," Anderson said. "Overall, we're just going to keep doing what we've been doing."

In order to ensure that a repeat of the infractions does not occur, Anderson said he and his staff will hold one another accountable to stay in compliance with protocol.

DEANS

From page 1

Donovan said it is still too early to tell when the new deans will be hired because the search committee is still being formed.

Slater has been the dean for 15 years. Before joining the College of Communication at TCU, he was the dean at Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno and the Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University.

According to the business school's Web site, before coming to TCU, Short was the dean of Richard T. Farmer School of Business at Miami University and the dean and Professor at Kansas State University.

Staff reporter Caroline Lockwood contributed to this report.

Tased Fla. student sparks controversy

By PHIL LONG, JENNIFER MOONEY PIEDRA and MARTIN MERZER McClatchy Newspapers

"We hold these truths to be self-evident."

"Four score and seven years ago."

And now, add this to the lexicon of American democracy:

"Don't Tase me, bro. Don't Tase me."

Andrew Meyer, the University of Florida student from Weston who tested the limits of free speech during an address by Sen. John Kerry, walked out of jail Tuesday and into cyberspace history — an instant, if likely fleeting, celebrity.

Video clips of his fracas with university police officers flashed around the world, viewed more than 400,000 times. Tens of thousands of people debated the issue on Web sites, includ-

ing more than 700 people on MiamiHerald.com. The American Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International USA rose to his support.

The degree to which Meyer, 21, was a nuisance or an opportunistic prankster stood at the center of the worldwide web of discussion as he left jail, was hugged by his father and drove away in his lawyer's SUV.

The charges: resisting an officer with violence and disturbing the peace by disrupting a school activity. His attorney said he would plead not guilty.

The response: immediate and wide, starting on campus and racing around the world.

UF President J. Bernard Machen described the event as "regretful" and said two officers involved in the incident were placed on administrative

leave pending an investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

"We're absolutely committed to having a safe environment for our faculty and our students so that a free exchange of ideas can occur," Machen said.

About 100 UF students conducted a protest, holding signs that said: "Trust Betrayed," "Excessive Force" and, of course, "Don't Tase Me, Bro."

On the chance you haven't seen any of the videos of the event, here is what happened:

As the forum with Kerry came to a conclusion, the Massachusetts Democrat agreed to answer a question from Meyer even though the Q&A period was supposed to be over.

Meyer launched into a lengthy, somewhat meandering series of questions that included a sexu-

ally explicit term and amounted to this:

Why did Kerry concede the 2004 presidential election? Why not impeach President Bush? Was Kerry a member of the same secretive society at Yale University as Bush?

Reminded that he was to ask only one question, Meyer responded: "He's talked for two hours. I think I can have two minutes."

Meyer's microphone was cut off as six police officers attempted to remove him from the room.

During the fray, Meyer uttered the words that now serve as a clarion cry of student protest and free speech, words that will live forever in the memories of millions of ... computers:

"Don't Tase me, bro. Don't Tase me."

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Scott Hall with Joey Green opening

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DJ Perera

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COMMENTARY

Fred McKissack

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Editorial B

ANDREW CHA...
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"Defining and analyzing humor is a pastime of humorless people."
— Robert Benchley

THE SKIFF VIEW

Quality outweighs ranking

The Neeley School of Business is nowhere to be seen in the most recent rankings from the Wall Street Journal, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

A technicality — the fact the university didn't graduate 50 MBA students, a requirement for the Wall Street Journal/Harris Interactive Business School Survey — meant the school didn't qualify for the list.

The class size decreased from 55 to 40, said Bill Cron, associate dean of graduate programs at Neeley.

The criteria even the field for the schools in the survey and are obviously necessary.

At the same time, it also pokes a hole in the comprehensiveness of the rankings when a school that places highly in other rankings and was No. 11 last year suddenly disappears from the list.

Either way, Neeley still holds its position in other business school rankings,

including those in Forbes Magazine, U.S. News and World Report and Hispanic Magazine.

The business school knew ahead of time they would fall short of the study's requirements.

Rather than diluting the quality of the class, they opted to maintain student quality and fall off the list.

It's hard to deny the rankings are important and probably draw attention to the university in some circles.

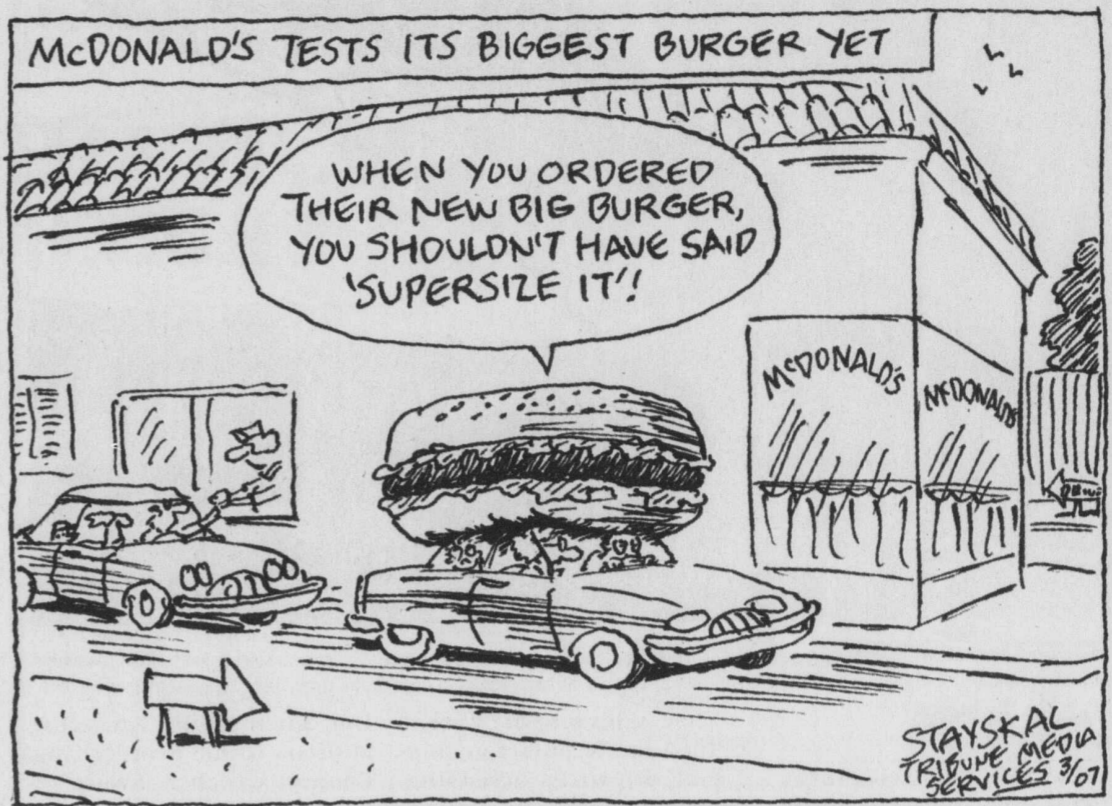
The school could have easily admitted more students and continued its position of prestige.

It's also true, though, that the rankings don't benefit students that are already here. Quality students do, and the school erred on the side of quality students.

The school is to be commended for choosing to retain quality in light of an opportunity to be ranked by the Wall Street Journal.

Editor in chief Andrew Chavez for the editorial board

BY WAYNE STAYSKAL



STAYSKAL
TRIBUTE MEDIA
SERVICES 9/07

Embracing ethnic differences key to multicultural society

In today's world of travel, cultural pluralism is everywhere. The world is truly a small place. The number of different ethnic groups present in countries and communities today is amazing compared to 50 years ago — take TCU for example.

America is the least nativistic country in the world. A poll in 2000 indicated that 10.4 percent of the U.S. population is foreign-born. So it's not a surprise TCU has more than 7,000 students enrolled and just more than a quarter are international students. Yet while our world is becoming so closely-knit culturally, we're in the face of a global epidemic that's engulfing our livelihood — hatred and bloodshed. Why is this? Is it racially motivated? Is it ignorance? Is it culture shock?

As a Sri Lankan I can testify



DJ Perera

"Be the change you want to see in the world."
Mahatma Gandhi

that the hatred and bloodshed is what's tearing my country part. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a civil war that has been raging for more than 20 years between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the government. In that period more than 64,000 lives have been lost simply because of the LTTE's need for a separate state within the country. What many people don't know is every time you switch on the TV and hear of another suicide bombing in Iraq or a convoy bombing in Sierra Leone, it spawned from the concept of suicidal bombings that were first initiated by the LTTE to gain their political objectives.

It first began in 1983 where child soldiers and women were recruited into the force, and women strapped on the explosives to make them appear pregnant and avoid being frisked.

However the harsh reality is that today, pregnant women are being recruited and being trained to carry out suicidal operations. This is an example of the bloody dangers that separatism creates in a country's economy — uncertainty and fear.

Can TCU do more than organize fundraisers and programs that are generally focused on Darfur? How can we as TCU students do more to help the global community?

What's ironic is not the centrifugal forces that create friction between nations but the centripetal factors that bond the world. It's nothing to do with politics or advanced technology, but everyday things that we incorporate into our lives. Call it culture rocks. Football (or soccer) is watched by millions of viewers around the world. While a red card in the game may be a bad connotation in Italy, it symbolizes good luck in China. In the Western World black is worn to show respect to the deceased, while white is the color used to represent mourning in South Asia.

Religion is another factor that unites the world. There are currently 2 billion people who follow Christianity, while Islam — the fastest growing religion — is reported to have 1.2 billion followers. At TCU both the Catholic Community and the Muslim Student Association are working hard to get students involved in various activities. Next month the Catholic Community is organizing TCU Awakening XI, while MSA is currently organizing Fast-a-thon in celebration of the Holy month of Ramadan. So despite ethnic and cultural differences, how can we make the world revolve around less on culture shock and live our lives around the beauty of "culture rocks?" How can we as an international TCU community help those who need to help themselves and no matter how big or small to make the world a better place. As Gandhi said it best, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

DJ Perera is a sophomore studio arts major from Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Global warming predictions yet to come true, exaggerated

The international treaty to protect the ozone layer turns 20 this year. But is there really much reason to celebrate?

Environmentalists have made numerous apocalyptic predictions over the past several decades, virtually none of which has come to pass. Yet each time, the greens and their political allies proclaim victory, arguing that their preventive prescriptions averted disaster.

Such is the case with the 1987 Montreal Protocol On Substances That Deplete The Ozone Layer. The lurid predictions of ozone depletion-induced skin cancer epidemics, ecosystem destruction and others haven't come true, for which Montreal Protocol proponents congratulate themselves. But in retrospect, the evidence shows ozone depletion was an exaggerated threat in the first place. As the treaty parties return to Montreal for their 20th anniversary meeting it should be cause for reflection, not celebration, especially for those who hope to repeat this "success story" in the context of global warming.

The treaty came about over legitimate but overstated concerns that chlorofluorocarbons, a then-widely used class of refrigerants, and other compounds were rising to the stratosphere and destroying ozone molecules. These molecules, collectively known as the ozone layer, shield the earth from excessive ultraviolet-B radiation from the sun. The Montreal Protocol's provisions were tightened in 1990 and again in 1992, culminating with a CFC ban in most developed nations by 1996.

We know as far as ozone depletion is concerned, the thinning of the ozone layer that occurred throughout the 1980s apparently stopped in the early 1990s, too soon to credit the Montreal Protocol. A 1998 World Meteorological Organization report said, "since 1991, the linear (downward) trend observed during the 1980s has not continued, but rather total column ozone has been almost constant."

However, the same report noted that the stratospheric concentrations of the offending compounds were still increasing through 1998. This lends credence to the skeptical view, widely derided at the time of the Montreal Protocol, that natural variations better explain the fluctuations in the global ozone layer.

More important, the feared increase in ground level UVB radiation has also failed to materialize. But WMO concedes that no statistically significant long-term trends have been detected, noting earlier this year that "outside the polar regions, ozone depletion has been relatively small, hence, in many places, increases in UV due to this depletion are difficult to separate from the increases caused by other factors, such as changes in cloud and aerosol." In short, the impact of ozone depletion on UVB over-populated regions is so small that it's hard to detect.

Overall, the Montreal Protocol isn't making these bad consequences go away — they were never occurring.

The parallels with global warming are striking. Again we face a real but greatly overhyped environmental problem. Virtually everything the public has been told that sounds terrifying isn't true — and what is true isn't particularly terrifying. But doomsayers such as Gore simply soldier on. His claims of blind animals from ozone depletion have been replaced by equally dubious assertions in his book "An Inconvenient Truth," including predictions of a massive sea level rise that would wipe away south Florida and other coastal areas.

Perhaps decades from now, participants in the Kyoto Protocol, the global-warming treaty modeled after the Montreal Protocol, will meet and congratulate themselves because none of their scary assertions came true.

Ben Lieberman is a senior policy analyst for energy and environment at The Heritage Foundation. His column was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.



SXC.HU

Rape coverage should more accurately reflect trends

We need to wrestle with the meaning of the brutalization of Megan Williams in West Virginia. It's not just about race.

For more than a week, Williams, 20, who is black, was allegedly tortured, raped, as well as taunted with racial slurs, forced to eat animal feces and drink water from the toilet by six white people, according to police reports.

Among the people facing prosecution for allegedly raping and torturing Williams are two mothers and their two adult children, the New York Daily News reports. Since 1991, the six suspects have racked up 108

criminal charges against them, including domestic assault and first-degree murder.

Race is a factor in this case. On top of the slurs, her captors reportedly scrawled the "N" word into her skin.

However, there is much more going on here that also needs to be considered.

Police say that Williams had a "social relationship" with one of her accused assailants. While the details of this relationship are sketchy, the fact that Williams knew one or more of her assailants is an all-too-familiar reality in rape and sexual assault cases. The 2005 Department of Jus-

tice National Crime Victimization Survey showed that two-thirds of rapes and sexual assaults were committed by someone who knew the victim.

This runs contrary to what we see in pop culture, where rapists lurk behind bushes or stalk young women on the Internet. TV newsmagazines and talk shows hype these kinds of cases because they play into our deepest fears. But the truth is that people are far more likely to be harmed by someone they know than by a stranger.

The brutal acts done to Megan Williams also bring up an issue that this nation rarely discusses — the vio-

lent crimes committed against people with disabilities. Williams' father told the Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette that his daughter suffered from a mental impairment.

Again, pop culture distorts this reality. Film and television shows depict people with disabilities as being prone to commit violent acts, when the reality is that they are more likely to have harm done to them.

"In study after study, rates of violent crime against people with developmental or other severe disabilities are found to be four to 10 or more times higher than the rate against the general population," the National

Center for the Victims of Crime reports.

The authors of a recent Northwestern University study of violent crimes against the mentally ill in Chicago found that "crime victimization disproportionately affects persons with severe mental disorder, especially racial and ethnic minorities."

Often that crime is rape. Women with developmental disabilities fall victim to rape at a much higher rate than most women, and, again, the victimizer typically knows the victim.

The University of Alberta Violence and Disability Project analyzed 100 reports from the United States, Can-

ada and New Zealand of sexual assaults on women with varying developmental disabilities. Researchers found that in only 8 percent of cases of sexual violence, the perpetrator was unknown to the victim.

Carmen Williams should be praised for allowing her daughter to be identified. She told the Associated Press that she wanted people to know what her daughter endured. It's a story that needs to be heard by us all, and not just because of the race of the victim and her attackers.

Fred McKissack is a former editor of the Progressive Media Project. His column was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

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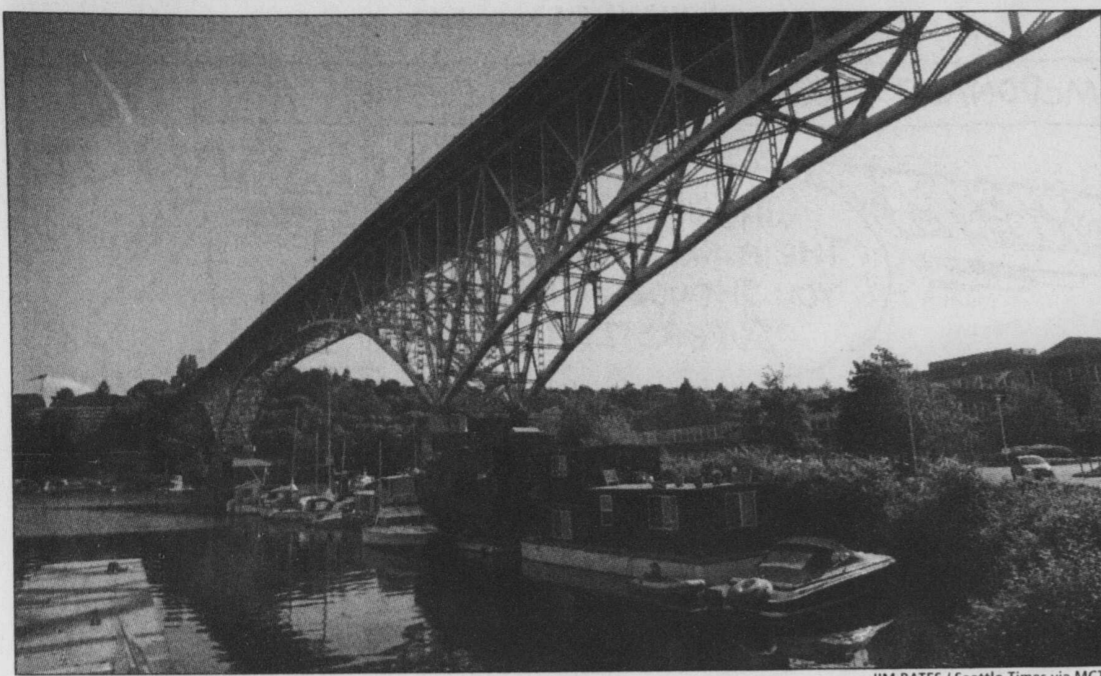
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Activists aim to curb suicides, urge city to install bridge barriers



The Aurora Bridge passes over an area dense with condos, houseboats and office complexes. Living with suicide jumps from the bridge has been traumatic for local residents. On average, four people a year have leaped to their deaths since 1995; last year there were nine.

By MARC RAMIREZ
The Seattle Times

It wasn't like Rachel Izzo's friend and teammate to be late. Their soccer game was about to start. Where was she?

Rachel, then 16, thought it was odd when her normally jovial coach told everyone to sit down. But it was when he started pacing back and forth that she knew something was wrong.

Seattle's Aurora Bridge is a city landmark with a dark allure: Since 1932, more than 200 people have ended their lives by throwing themselves over its modest 3-foot railing. It's the continent's second-most-popular spot for suicide jumpers, next to San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, site of at least 1,200 deaths.

They jump into the waters of the Lake Washington Ship Canal or, with increasing frequency, onto the ground below. Since 1995, four people a year on average have leaped to their deaths, but last year alone there were nine, the most since 1972.

While other cities such as Toronto and Washington, D.C., have outfitted bridges with barriers to address similar situations — in many cases, after far fewer suicides — the Aurora Bridge remains largely unchanged from its original design.

In December, the city installed telephones on the bridge, and signs promoting a crisis hotline, but six people have jumped so far this year. Four died.

"If they don't call, the phones aren't helpful," says

Don Kuch, clinical director at Crisis Clinic Seattle/King County, which is aware of only a few calls coming from the bridge. (The clinic has no caller-ID system.) "Physical barriers are quite effective."

The results have been traumatic for those who live and work in the area beneath the bridge. "A lot of people are angry that nothing has been done," says Bina Donakowski-Jones, whose 34th Street workshop at Jones Glassworks looks toward the span.

The once-industrial waterway it crosses is now dense with condos, houseboats and office complexes. Since early this year, a group of activists, businesses and community leaders has been urging policymakers to help prevent suicides by erecting a barrier on the bridge or closing

off pedestrian access altogether.

The self-described "stakeholders' group" notes successes achieved by barriers on other bridges: Pasadena's Colorado Street Bridge. Australia's Sydney Harbor Bridge. The FDR Memorial Bridge in Augusta, Maine. And Toronto's Bloor Street Viaduct, which had been the second-deadliest span in North America. In all cases, proponents say, the number of suicides dropped to zero.

And already in Seattle, they note, a \$2.1 million pedestrian rail was added to the Aurora Bridge sidewalks after just one car-pedestrian fatality in 25 years.

But while future measures could include added police patrols and cameras, the state Department of Transportation says a barrier remains "a significant engineering and political challenge."

The associated costs, officials say, are formidable,

including installation and increased maintenance and operation expenses. And because the state and city share responsibility for the bridge, neither can move forward without the other.

But the price of doing nothing, the stakeholders group counters, is even higher.

The truth was hard, on this Sunday in May 2006, and it came slowly: A 15-year-old girl, the coach said, had jumped off the Aurora Bridge.

The bold, vivacious teammate would never be back.

Others started to cry. Rachel Izzo, wordless and numb, felt like she'd been punched. When she finally left for an exam, the coach said not to let the news affect her performance — that's not what her friend would have wanted — and that's when Rachel broke down.

For Rachel, now a 17-year-old senior, her teammate's death was the hardest thing

she'd ever experienced. Looking to convert her grief into something good, she joined FRIENDS (Fremont Residents, Individuals and Employees Non-profit to Decrease Suicides), and now runs the group's MySpace page.

She can't dwell on the pain, or the past. She can't bring her friend back. What she can do is this.

"I firmly believe that if the bridge hadn't been accessible, she wouldn't have done it," Rachel says. "If there's a reason she had to die, something positive that can come out of it, I'd like to be a part of that."

It's hard to know whether bridge barriers save lives, but they do act as deterrents. Barrier proponents cite decades of research, including a 1978 University of California-Berkeley study showing that only 6 percent of those who were kept from jumping off the Golden Gate actually went on to kill themselves.

TEAM

From page 6

quarterbacks — isn't the press as tough on them in those situations as the average black quarterback?"

McNabb: "Let me start by saying, I love those guys. But they don't get criticized as much as we do. They don't."

For starters, that's nonsense. Until the Colts finally won the Super Bowl last February, Manning constantly dealt with can't-win-the-big-one questions. Same with Hall of Famer John Elway.

And if McNabb thinks he hasn't gotten a fair deal from hard-to-please Eagles fans, he might want to chat with Ron Jaworski about his experiences with the boobies when he played in this town.

No quarterback in Eagles history took more abuse than Jaworski. The treatment McNabb has received, including the infamous 1999 draft-day booing, is kid's stuff compared to what Jaworski endured. Yet he stayed in this area after he retired, and has become one of the city's most beloved ex-athletes.

McNabb, meanwhile, has purposely kept Philadelphia at arm's length from himself and his family. Even though he has a house in South Jersey, he lists his off-season residence in Arizona as his home in the Eagles media guide. Most of his teammates list both Philadelphia and their off-season residence in their biographies.

McNabb has put up some

very impressive numbers in his career. He has the second-best interception rate (2.18 percent) in NFL history. He has averaged one touchdown pass every 21.8 attempts, which puts him in the same neighborhood as Tom Brady (one every 20.4) and Brett Favre (one every 19.9).

Where he has come up short, where most of the criticism of him has been aimed, is his accuracy. And deservedly so. Two NFC scouts I talked to consider McNabb one of the league's top seven quarterbacks. Yet, both have him rated in the bottom half of the league in accuracy.

The completion-rate bar for quarterbacks in the West Coast offense generally is 60 percent.

"At least 60 percent is the litmus test," Vikings coach and former Eagles offensive coordinator Brad Childress said once. "That's where you want to be. If you can get it up higher, 62 or 63, that's better yet."

That's been a very elusive goal for McNabb. He has a career completion rate of only 58.1 percent, well below Manning (64.0), Palmer (63.8), Brady (62.2) and Favre (61.1).

He has completed 60 percent of his passes only once in eight NFL seasons (64.0 in 2004). No, he hasn't had the kind of receiving corps that some of the other top quarterbacks have. But Brady managed to complete 61.8 percent last year with Eagles castoff Jabar Gaffney and Reche Caldwell as his two primary pass-

catching targets.

McNabb has completed at least 60 percent of his passes in only 50 of 112 career starts, including the playoffs. In those 50 games he's managed to do it, the Eagles are 39-11.

But those 60 percent completion games are getting fewer and further between. He's done it only eight times in his last 22 starts. In McNabb's last five starts, he has completed 51.9 percent of his passes.

In the Redskins loss, he overthrew Reggie Brown on a slant route in the end zone that should have been a touchdown, and he badly missed an open Kevin Curtis, on a crossing pattern down near the goal line late in the fourth quarter.

"It's a lot of things that come together," Reid said of McNabb's difficulty at getting his completion rate above 60 percent. "Obviously, the quarterback has a large portion of that. So does the offensive line. And the people who have the opportunity to catch the football have to catch the football. Everybody has a piece of that pie."

"But as a joint group, it's a great thing for a quarterback, and you're going to win a lot of football games, if that guy can keep it above 60 percent."

Right now, McNabb isn't coming anywhere close to it. He's completed 60 percent of his passes only twice in his last 10 starts, including going 28-for-46 in Monday night's loss. In those eight games he has failed to do it, the Eagles are 4-4.

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NEWS FEATURES SPORTS

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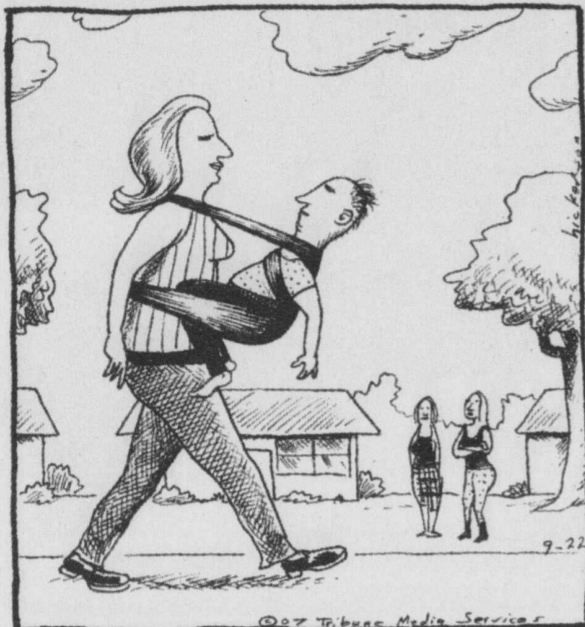
TODAY IN HISTORY
1984: "The Cosby Show" premieres on NBC.

WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE
Q: What has two knees and swims?

A: A two-knee fish

The Quigmans

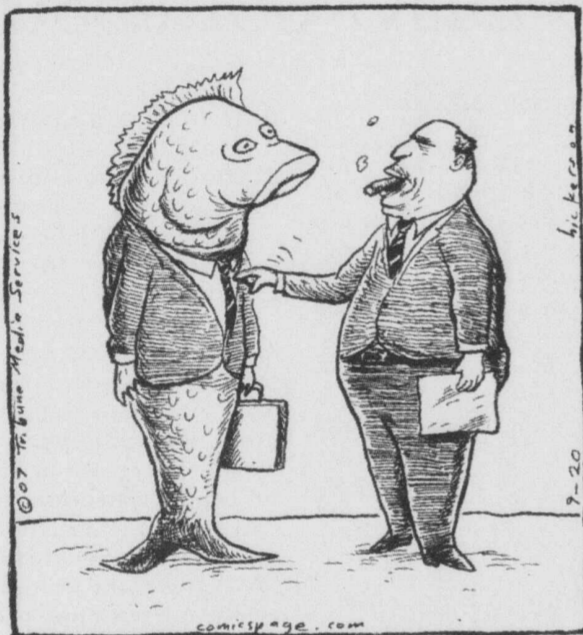
by Buddy Hickerson



"It's not quite as cute when you realize that's her HUSBAND in the baby sling."

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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

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

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

Wednesday's Solutions

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

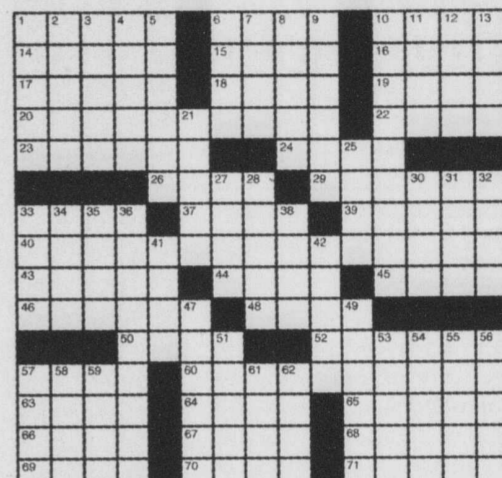
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1 Frauds
6 Links hazard
10 Navy mascot
14 1985 Ben Kingsley film
15 Old audio system
16 Reverse
17 Saxons
18 Hill colonists
19 Article
20 Start of a quip
22 Nary a one
23 Nap
24 Actor's part
26 San Juan or Bunker
29 Intro
33 Japanese sashes
37 Superman's girlfriend
39 Old-style poetry
40 Part 2 of quip
43 Spin
44 Roman despot
45 Turned right
46 Most senior
48 ...avis
50 Lunch time
52 Pictures in the mind
57 In a tizzy
60 End of quip
63 Body of water
64 Actress Jessica
65 Relish
66 Grime
67 Top-medal metal
68 Mary Kate or Ashley
69 Jal
70 Singles
71 Mail component



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	M	A	A	L	D	O	T	A	T	A	R	
O	P	E	N	L	O	O	N	E	L	E	N	A	
D	I	N	I	N	G	B	R	E	A	K	M	A	I
S	A	S	S	O	M	A	R	A	B	L	E		
R	E	S	T	S	L	A	B	A	E	S			
M	A	E	F	R	A	T	M	O	O	R			
T	I	N	C	A	T	I	D	E	A	L	A	L	
S	T	O	C	K	O	A	R	D	C	L	A	S	
S	E	V	E	N	S	M	E	E	A	M	A	T	
S	E	D	I	T	B	A	N	G	I	K	E		
T	A	R	T	O	L	E	T	A	L	L			
E	D	Y	S	R	I	D	S	R	O	Y	A	L	
N	E	W	S	C	O	M	M	O	N	P	A	R	T
E	L	A	T	E	P	A	L	E	D	E	R	N	
T	E	R	S	E	S	P	O	T	S	C	A	N	

49 Chihuahua chums
51 Man-made fabric
53 Grown-up
54 Plaster of Paris
55 Key PC key
56 Sharon or Oliver
57 "M*A*S*H" star Alan
58 Olympian
59 Gumbo ingredient
61 Qualified
62 Ungentlemanly men

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

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FOOTBALL

HEAR ME OUT

Frogs' football has new announcer

By MICHELLE NICOU
Staff Writer

Things sound a little different at Amon Carter Stadium this season, and it's not because of the construction cranes.

After four years, former public address announcer Chris Kelly moved to pursue opportunities related to his day job as an attorney, leaving TCU football without one of the most recognizable voices on campus, said Scott Kull, associate athletics director for external relations.

After a search that lasted most of last spring, the marketing department selected ESPN Radio's Joe Gumm for the job. Gumm reports on the Cowboys and Mavericks and is featured on "Mike and Mike in the Morning" on 103.3 FM ESPN Radio.

Gumm's announcing career spans many pro sports arenas from the hockey rink to the basketball court. He has worked for the Texas Brahmas, Texas Motor Speedway, the Dallas Mavericks, the Dallas Stars and FC Dallas.

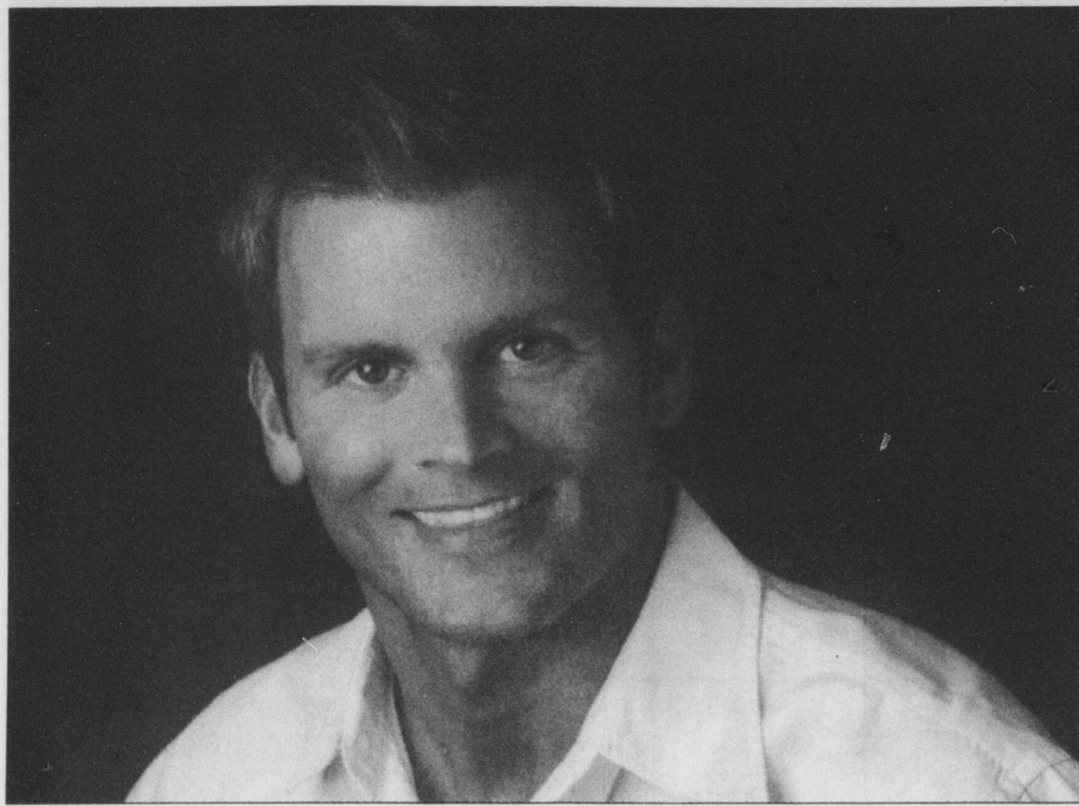
Gumm will be making his return to Horned Frogs athletics as he served as the full-time women's basketball announcer and as a fill-in for the men's squad a couple of years ago. Gumm also served as the Frogs' internal public address announcer to the media for three seasons.

The position's vacancy generated heavy interest because of TCU's growing popularity, marketing director Jason Byrne said.

"One of the things that separated Joe was his ability to have the kind of excitement level as well as a classy approach to how he presents the game," Byrne said. "He's got experience with a number of different sports organizations in the Metroplex and came highly recommended."

Per Mountain West Conference rules, Kull said it was important to find a public address announcer who would remain neutral during the game.

"We can't have a PA announcer that roots for the home team," Kull said. "They really need to try to be unbiased. He can't say 'look at those Horned Frogs go.'"



Joe Gumm at 103.3 FM ESPN Radio's studio in Dallas. Gumm has taken over as Amon Carter Stadium's PA announcer. Courtesy of JOE GUMM

Gumm began announcing football and basketball games as a high school student at Trinity Christian School in Cedar Hill, where he graduated in 1990. The school inducted him into its Ring of Honor in January, Gumm said.

Gumm worked on the intricacies of his delivery as a broadcast communications major at UTA, finishing his degree in 2001, while working for USA Radio Network as a news and sports anchor. In between, he served as an ordained youth minister.

"I always loved sports and knew I would be involved with them," Gumm said. "God called me into sports broadcasting."

Gumm's family and friends do not let him forget that he has, what he called, a "natural public address announcer voice."

"I am reminded of that every day with my wife and kids, so it evolved naturally," Gumm said. "It just kind of got bigger and bigger, and the stage got bigger and the games got bigger."

With the Brahmas, he was a finalist for the 2005-2006 Central Hockey League Announcer of the Year. During his time with the Mavericks, Gumm said he loved working in the rowdy atmosphere of Ameri-

can Airlines Center.

"I like doing the Mavericks because it's an exciting environment," Gumm said. "It's a stressful environment, but it's an exciting environment."

Gumm said he will also never forget his tenure with FC Dallas. The team made it to the finals of the 2005 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, falling 1-0 to the Los Angeles Galaxy. Despite the loss, Gumm said he relished the opportunity.

"That was a championship game, and I don't know too many PA announcers around here who have actually done championship games," Gumm said.

Gumm's professional pedigree fits into what TCU was looking for when selecting a new voice for Amon Carter Stadium, Byrne said. He said the university wanted a credible professional who would also be willing to host other events on campus.

Gumm said he has a passion for college football — no matter who he is announcing.

"I actually (get into the game, really excited about the game," Gumm said. "I tend to get too excited, so sometimes, I have to back off."

As public address announcer, Gumm said he arrives at the stadium two hours before the game.

During that time he will review the gameday schedule with the marketing department and meet with media

FOR YOUR INFO

Who is Joe Gumm?

Work Experience:
Dallas Stars' pre-game and post-game shows: 2007
Dallas Mavericks' preseason and two NBA Finals games: 2005-06
TCU athletics: 2004-05, present
FC Dallas 2004-05
Texas Brahmas: 2003-06
Texas Motor Speedway: 2003-05

relations director, Mark Cohen, to ensure he knows how to pronounce all the names properly, Byrne said.

Gumm said he takes over the microphone about 30 minutes before kickoff to announce the starting lineups.

Gumm said he will carry on Kelly's "It's third down!" catchphrase, and he hopes to find something to call his own without distracting from the on-the-field action.

"If you are talking about the NFL or college football, you just have to be creative because you come up with something you think is original, and all of a sudden someone else does it," Gumm said. "I don't want to be a gameday distraction. I just want to provide information and hopefully get it right for the fans and the team."

EQUESTRIAN



Junior Carrie von Uhlit rides against Oklahoma State last season. The equestrian team begins its season against three SEC opponents this weekend. Courtesy of TCU MEDIA RELATIONS

Equestrian rides to SEC contests

By MARY SUE GREENLEAF
Staff Writer

The equestrian team will look to build off its inaugural season when it starts up its second season this weekend against a trio of nationally ranked opponents.

The team is looking at a busy weekend with a Friday match against the Auburn Tigers and Sunday matches against the South Carolina Gamecocks and the Georgia Bulldogs.

South Carolina, the defending varsity equestrian national champions, beat the Horned Frogs 5-3 in the first round of the western tournament, knocking them out of that event.

Although the team returns qualifying members from its national team such as junior Carrie von Uhlit and senior Kindel Huffman, it also welcomes

in 16 freshman riders.

Head coach Gary Reynolds said competition against renowned opponents will be good experience for the new recruits.

The events consist of four head-to-head matches at each school with teams of five competing in each event. The four events are western horsemanship, reining, equitation over fences and English riding. Teams are judged by two judges and come out victorious with one point, or with zero points. The points are added up to give a total for the team and determine the winning team.

Reynolds said the team has looked outstanding at practice to this point and is confident heading into a weekend jammed with quality SEC opponents.

VOLLEYBALL

Red-hot opening lacks MWC win, despite success

By CAROLINE LOCKWOOD
Staff Reporter

As the volleyball team prepares for its home match tonight against conference foe Wyoming, the team will look to extend one of the best starts in the program's history.

Head coach Prentice Lewis has helped lead the squad to a 13-2 start, highlighted by three tournament championships. Although the team is off to a strong start, the Horned Frogs are still trying to secure the first conference victory of the season. The team stands at 0-1 in Mountain West Conference play, losing to Colorado State in a 3-0 sweep.

On the other hand, the Wyoming Cowgirls enter tonight's match with a 6-3 overall record and a 1-0 conference record, despite not having played a home match.

Lewis said although it is important to get the first conference win, that does not change the magnitude of the game.

"It's not more important than any other match that we will play the entire year," Lewis said. "Of course you want to win. You don't want to go into this season 0-2."

"Of course you want to win. You don't want to go into this season 0-2."

Prentice Lewis
Head volleyball coach

Although Lewis declined to comment on the biggest challenges Wyoming presented to the Frogs, senior defensive specialist Calli Corley said the team has prepared to face the unusual challenge that the Cowgirls present.

"One of their main hitters is left-handed," Corley said. "You don't usually see left-handed hitters as much as you do right-handed hitters, so you just have to prepare for the different shots they can bring."

Even with the success of the Wyoming on the road, sophomore middle blocker Kourtney Edwards emphasized Lewis' mentality of this game being just as important as the next.

"We look at this team as any other team," Edwards said. "We do what we have to do to be successful."

PRO FOOTBALL

McNabb blames criticism on race

By PAUL DOMOWITZ
Philadelphia Daily News

The chip on Donovan McNabb's shoulder always is there, held firmly in place by loving but misguided parents who long ago convinced their son that most white people aren't all that much different from those scum-sucking bigots who broke into the family's suburban home years ago and punched holes in their walls, urinated on their carpets and spray-painted the N-word on the side of their house.

Be careful, son, they warned. They are trying to hurt you. They are trying to bring you down. Because you're talented and rich and successful. Because you're black.

Judging from his curious comments in a taped interview on HBO's "Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel" that debuted Tuesday night, white people all look the same to McNabb. We all look like Rush Limbaugh.

If we criticize him for a poor performance, like the one Monday night against Washington or the one the week before against Green Bay, he feels it has

much more to do with his skin color than his level of production.

McNabb couldn't have picked a worse time to play the race card. The Eagles are 0-2, and he's playing so badly, coach Andy Reid found himself having to address a question at his news conference Tuesday about the possibility of a quarterback change ("He'll get it done").

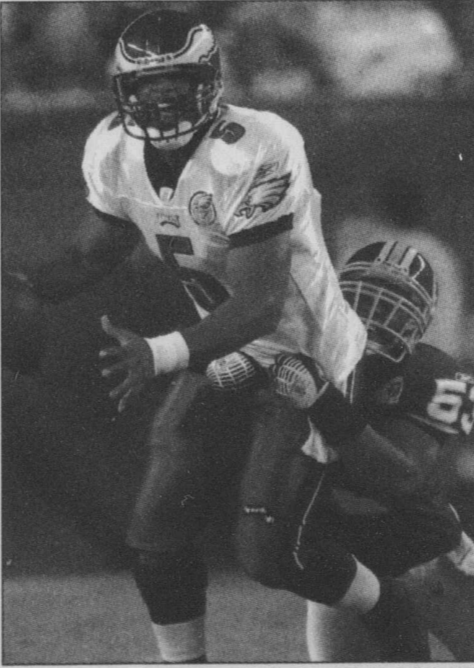
In the quarterback's defense, he did the HBO interview three weeks ago. But he clearly believes what he said then, which is that he and other black quarterbacks in the NFL get criticized much more than their white counterparts.

"I pass for 300 yards, our team wins by seven, (and they say), 'Oh, he could have made this throw here,' or 'We would have scored more points if he would have done this.'"

"But doesn't every quarterback go through that?" interviewer James Brown asked him.

McNabb: "Not everybody."

Brown: "You don't think that Peyton Manning, Carson Palmer, the white See **TEAM**, page 2



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb gets sacked by Washington Redskins linebacker Marcus Washington during first half action at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Monday. ROB KANDEL / Allentown Morning Call via MCT

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By ANA BAK
Staff Reporter

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By ANTOINE... Staff Reporter

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