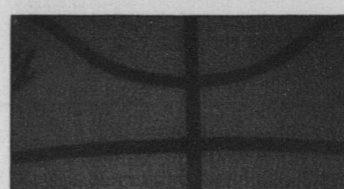




NEWS
Edens and Deco Deli wave
goodbye to campus.
TOMORROW



OPINION
Burying out acres of a rainforest
could be a way to save it.
PAGE 3



SPORTS
The Lady Frogs team defeats Air
Force in its last home game.
PAGE 6

TCU

DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

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Communication dean search down to final four

By EMILY ALLEN
Staff Reporter

After six weeks of searching and interviewing, the College of Communication's dean-search committee has narrowed the field of more than 65 applicants down to four final candidates.

Provost Nowell Donovan announced Wednesday in an e-mail that the committee

had selected Maria Marron of Central Michigan University, Howard Sypher of Purdue University, Judy VanSlyke Turk of Virginia Commonwealth University and David Whillock of TCU.

"I think we have four candidates who could actually become a successful dean at TCU," said John Tisdale, search committee chairman

and associate professor of journalism. He said the committee would like to have a candidate chosen before the end of the school year.

Administrators began to assemble the search committee last fall after Dean William Slater announced his plan to retire May 31 after six years at TCU.

"I am retiring from the

deanship, not the faculty," Slater said. "I will be returning to teach after a yearlong sabbatical."

Each of the four applicants has been invited to return to campus for individual open forums. During these forums, the candidates will present their ideas for the College of Communication and meet other faculty

members.

In addition to faculty and administration from the College of Communication, the 13-person committee includes an alum and two current students.

After placing an ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the committee met in January to begin planning for the search and working with

the consulting group, R. William Funk & Associates.

Candidates were eliminated through interviews and comparison of curriculum vitas, resumes containing extended information about candidates' training and backgrounds in higher education.

Tisdale said the committee

See **DEAN**, page 2

SPRING BREAKDOWN



The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has jars like this one, full of confiscated fake IDs, throughout its local office. The TABC plans to crack down on underage drinking over Spring Break, and part of that crackdown includes going after false identification holders.

TABC aims to curb partying over vacation

By CHARLES RICE
Staff Reporter

With Spring Break days away, some minors may be hoping to have lady luck on their side as they partake in underage drinking.

Some students under 21 still drink — many by using fake IDs.

A 20-year-old sophomore communication studies major, who wished to remain anonymous, said she has been using a fake ID for more than three years and has only had trouble with it twice. She said it's all about being careful.

"A lot of the times when I use it, I'm with people who are 21, so it doesn't seem like I'm underage or with others who have fake IDs," she said.

She said she will be in Austin and plans to drink during Spring Break. Austin, famous for its Sixth Street bar district, was recently under the scrutiny of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

According to the TABC Web site, on Jan. 24, TABC officers conducted Operation Fake Out in which TABC and other law enforcement officers worked together

with authorized alcohol retailers in an effort to thwart underage drinking and fake ID usage. TABC officers waited inside places where IDs are checked and inspected IDs further for signs of falsification. This resulted in 15 arrests related to underage drinking and fake IDs.

See **FAKES**, page 2

DAILYSKIFF.COM

Explore a database of the past two years of citations issued by TABC in Fort Worth.

Texas law helps spike applications

By JULIETA CHIQUILLO
Staff Reporter

The university decreased the percentage of students admitted this academic year, dropping its acceptance rate from 63 percent in 2006 to 49 percent in 2007, the dean of admissions said.

Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said the decrease in the acceptance rate is a reflection of the increase in applications and expects the acceptance rate to decrease again next fall. The spurt in applications came from students ranking below the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class, Brown said.

This may be in part due to a Texas law known as the "10 percent rule," which guarantees students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class automatic admission to state universities, he said. About 30 percent of the 2007 freshman class ranked in the top 10 percent of high school graduating classes, according to admissions data.

Of 11,888 students who applied for admission last fall, 5,812 students were admitted, according to the 2007 TCU Fact Book. In 2006, the admissions office issued acceptance letters to 5,442 students out of 8,677 applicants.

"If you can lower your admission rate one or two points a year, that's pretty good, so for us to drop 14 points in one year is a stunning

See **RATES**, page 2

Neeley rises in undergrad business ranks

By CHRISTINA DURANO
Staff Reporter

Neeley undergrads are getting the most bang for their buck, according to the 2008 BusinessWeek rankings of the nation's undergraduate business schools.

The Neeley School now ranks 32 out of more than 550 accredited business schools in the nation. Last year, Neeley ranked 39.

Bill Moncrief, senior associate dean at Neeley, said the school's ranking rose because in past years, administrators were too busy to provide BusinessWeek with thorough information.

"We were able to get better data on our recruiters this year," Moncrief said. "Last year, we were in a time crunch."

Neeley ranked fourth for return on investment for private schools and 10th for hardest working students. Both rankings topped the charts for undergraduate busi-

See **RANKS**, page 2

House nixes financial aid advisory committee

By PATTY ESPINOSA
Staff Reporter

Congress' decision to remove its financial aid advisory panel will harm TCU's financial aid programs, a financial aid director said.

Deep in the fine print of a bill regarding the reauthorization of

the Higher Education Act is a new rule that will eliminate the 20-year-old Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance in three years.

If the committee is abolished, TCU financial aid students will see major changes in the university's programs within 12 to 18

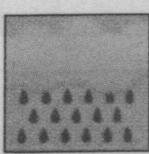
months after its removal, said Melet Leafgreen, assistant director of financial aid.

Although the committee counsels Congress and the U.S. Department of Education on financial aid matters, it also serves as a counsel for financial aid officers and administrators

at TCU and other universities around the country, Leafgreen said.

The ACSFA presents solutions on financial aid issues to Congress, and in turn relays that information and new laws to financial aid officers and

See **FAFSA**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Showers, 42/30
TOMORROW: Rain/snow, 47/28
SATURDAY: Sunny, 49/40

PECULIAR FACT

DENVER—Denver International Airport is now blocking Internet sites that it considers provocative from its free Wi-Fi service.

—Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Cancer therapy keeps prostate on the job, page 4
OPINION: Students should read newspapers, page 3
SPORTS: Baseball team beats Texas State, page 6

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS@DAILYSKIFF.COM

RANKS

From page 1

ness schools in Texas. Return on investment was determined by the average salary per tuition dollar. TCU's tuition for 2007-2008 was \$24,865, and the median starting salary of Neeley graduates was \$50,000. Neeley graduates' average salaries per tuition dollar was \$2.01, according to BusinessWeek.

"We really try to give them skills beyond the classroom that translate well to recruiters," Moncrief said. "(This) is reflected in their salaries."

TCU's Neeley School of Business received an A in teaching quality, an A+ in facilities and service and an A in job placement.

Students agreed with BusinessWeek's assessment.

"The professors are very interested in the students," said Jason Hauck, a junior accounting and finance major. "They are eager to help."

Charles Conway, a sophomore pre-business major, agreed.

"The people in charge care about us," he said.

BusinessWeek used

nine criteria to rank undergraduate business programs, including surveys of 80,000 business majors and more than 600 corporate recruiters, the graduates' median starting salaries and the number of graduates who continue to prestigious MBA programs.

It also calculated an academic quality score by combining SAT scores, faculty-student ratios, class size, the percentage of students with internships and the number of hours students spend on class work each week. Neeley's academic quality rank was 43.

"BusinessWeek is very detailed," Moncrief said. "It's not about perception; it's about reality."

Some students said they think the improvement in the Neeley School's rankings will make a degree from the school more valuable.

"(Employers) are going to start to seek out the school, not just in Texas but nationally," said Jake Mattison, a senior entrepreneurial management and e-business major. "It's a place where you can get into a quality job."

FAFSA

From page 1

administrators at various universities, Leafgreen said.

This process helps universities communicate important programs and information to students and families, Leafgreen said.

Student aid will become more difficult to receive, and students will be neglected because lawmakers do not understand how difficult it is to manage financial aid, Leafgreen said.

"The committee is necessary for our programs to continue to be successful," Leafgreen said.

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., added the provision to remove the ACSFA. The House of Representatives passed the bill in February.

"Chairman Miller believes that this committee has outlived its usefulness, and that the taxpayer dollars used to fund this committee could be put to better use," wrote Rachel Racusen, spokeswoman for Miller, in an e-mail statement.

Since its inception in 1988, the committee has helped simplify financial aid forms and has creat-

ed aid applications such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, according to the ACSFA Web site.

Financial aid programs would not exist without the FAFSA application, Leafgreen said.

"The committee makes our jobs as aid administrators and the FAFSA application process much easier," Leafgreen said.

Without the experts that analyze financial aid reports, conduct surveys and find innovative ways to improve the financial aid system, financial aid would not be as fine-tuned as it is today, Leafgreen said.

She said financial aid administrators and officers across the country are opposed to the removal of the committee and are making efforts to negotiate with lawmakers.

According to the ACSFA Web site, the committee is composed of 11 members including students, bankers, college presidents and financial aid officers. The Senate, the House and the secretary of education appoint the committee's representatives.

FAKES

From page 1

Lt. Jimmy Zuehlke, a TABC officer in the region that includes Austin, said the commission is preparing for Spring Break the same way it did last year — with multiple sting operations.

According to the TABC Web site, it ran sting operations in March 2007 along Interstate 35 and other major highways that lead to the Gulf Coast.

In Austin, 6 percent of the 62 sting operation attempts resulted in illegal sales of alcohol to minors, compared with 48 percent of the 25 operations in Fort Worth, records show.

Zuehlke said more sting operations were run in Austin because more teams worked there.

"Austin police also have a unit dedicated to alcohol control, and one of their main focuses is running the minor stings," Zuehlke said.

He said other cities may not have that luxury.

According to the TABC, the commission targeted South Padre Island, Corpus Christi and Galveston during the weeks many colleges were on Spring Break last year. TABC officers issued 1,919 criminal citations during that time.

Capt. Richard Jauregui, a TABC officer for the San Antonio area, said about 600 of those citations were for minors in possession. Other citations stemmed from public intoxication or using fake IDs.

Sgt. Charlie Cloud, a member of the Enforcement Division for the TABC in Tarrant County, said he has worked in South Padre during previous Spring Breaks.

"We will write hundreds and hundreds of tickets down there in a matter of days," Cloud said.

Despite the TABC patrols in South Padre during Spring Break, students go there with the intent to drink.

Leah Joslin, a 20-year-old nursing major, said she went to South Padre during Spring Break last year.

"I think the general mindset is that everyone feels invincible and Spring Break is the week to let your inhibitions go," Joslin said. "No one worries about underage drinking."

Other students won't leave campus for Spring Break.

Dennis Siaw-Lathey, hall director of Moncrief Hall, estimated that 30 to 35 percent of students will stay on campus during the break.

Cloud said although the TABC doesn't see a real increase in underage drinking and fake ID use dur-

FOR YOUR INFO
In-state admissions

Acceptance rate	Top 10-ranked freshmen	
Rice	25%	83%
Baylor	44%	45%
TCU	49%	30%
SMU	50%	40%
UT Austin	51%	69%

ing Spring Break in Tarrant County, that doesn't stop officers from looking. In 2007, according to TABC records, five citations for fake IDs were given in Tarrant County during Spring Break.

"We do all kinds of special events and special operations during the Spring Break period to make sure our bases are covered," Cloud said.

Dave Mitchell, owner of The University Pub, said that in the nine years he has owned the bar, he has always had to combat the use of fake IDs.

"They are everywhere, and a lot of the times, they are impossible to catch," Mitchell said. "We work pretty hard at trying to keep it 21 and up in here — I'm not naive enough to think we are lucky enough to do that all the time."

Mitchell said the TABC has run stings in his bar before. In the past two months, he said, he has had two to three clearly underage teenagers come in his bar who were working with the TABC. Mitchell said the TABC won't try to trick a bartender into serving an underage customer, but wants bartenders checking IDs.

Mitchell said when he does catch someone with a fake ID, he is nice about it but asks that person to leave.

"I want them to come back as customers of mine when they turn 21, so there is no reason to make anybody upset," Mitchell said.

He said he doesn't feel like serving an underage drinker is worth putting his business or his bartenders at risk.

Another student who uses a fake ID said she doesn't look down on the TABC but does feel busting TCU students for drinking is overemphasized and there are more serious crimes law enforcement officers could focus on.

Cloud said TABC officers do their jobs not to be liked, but because they are enforcing the law. Whether students like officers is not going to affect how TABC works, he said.

"They are everywhere, and a lot of the times, they are impossible to catch. We work pretty hard to keep it 21 and up in here..."

Dave Mitchell
owner, The University Pub

RATES

From page 1

move," Brown said.

Of the students admitted to the university last fall, about 28 percent enrolled, according to admissions data.

TCU has the third lowest acceptance rate among Rice University, Baylor University, Southern Methodist University and University of Texas at Austin, according to their Web sites. As to the proportion of freshman students who ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class, TCU ranks last among the four, according to the university's Web sites. The freshman class academic profile, which describes grade point average, class rank and test scores, is showing improvement slowly, Brown said. The fall 2007 freshman class has an average class rank in the top 22.66 percent of high school graduating classes, the best average class rank in TCU history after the fall 2006 freshman class, which ranked in the top 22.46 percent, he said.

For the majority of applicants, the transcript is the most important element in a student's application, and about half of what the admissions decision is based on, Brown said.

"The transcript is the most important because it tells us not only the classes that you've taken and the grades that you've posted, but it also tells us the rigor of the courses that you've taken," Brown said. "If there are honors or AP classes available in your school, we expect to see some of those on your transcript."

SAT scores constitute 20 to 25 percent of the admissions decision, and the rest is determined by extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, the essay and the interview, Brown said.

The university also considers attributes such as ethnicity, legacy status, place of residence, religious tra-

ditions and special talents, but they do not carry a particular weight in the admissions decision, Brown said. The purpose of taking these attributes into account when evaluating applications is to increase diversity and expose students to different experiences, he said.

"We act affirmatively on people's applications based on things other than grades and test scores," Brown said. "If you happen to be a world-class trombonist, then we're going to act affirmatively on your application if your academics fall below what would normally be considered our standards."

Many factors play a role in students' increasing interest in TCU, and among them is the price, Brown said. At \$33,918, TCU offers a reasonable price tag for a private education, especially in comparison to similar schools in the Northeast and West regions, he said.

Jean Wall and Neil Culhane, two visiting high school counselors from Florida, said TCU is moderately priced for a private university. Culhane said the cost of attendance at TCU is a "good deal."

Brown said the campus and the students make a positive impression on visitors. Many prospective students also find university athletics appealing, he said.

"We get a lot of notoriety from the university's exploits on the gridiron," Brown said.

Some students place too much importance on college rankings when applying for college, but rankings are not a good indicator of whether a university is a good match, Brown said.

Cara Smith, a freshman political science major who was admitted to three Ivy League schools, said TCU is a good fit for her.

"I wasn't trying to pick a school just for a name," Smith said. "I like the environment at TCU."

DEAN

From page 1

mittee rated the top-26 candidates by their vitas as "acceptable," "unacceptable" or "unsure" before limiting the search to six candidates, who were flown to Dallas/Fort

Worth Airport last weekend for 90-minute interviews at an airport hotel.

"You get a sense of the person and how they handle themselves under pressure," Tisdale said. "It was an exceptionally difficult choice going from the six to the four."

FOR YOUR INFO
Communication dean candidates



Maria Marron, professor and chair of the Department of Journalism, Central Michigan University



Howard Sypheer, professor and head of the Department of Communication, Purdue University



Judy VanSlyke Turk, professor and director of the School of Mass Communications, Virginia



David Whillock, professor of radio-TV-film and associate dean of the College of Communications, TCU

Visit DAILYSKIFF.COM to read their curriculum vitas.

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TOMORROW NIGHT
Roger Creager with Fal Diner opening

TCU does not encourage the consumption of alcohol. If you do consume alcohol, you should do so responsibly, and you should never drive after drinking.

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Editorial
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained."

— Mark Twain

THE SKIFF VIEW

Program should be optional

In the past, the Connections program was available to new students once they arrived at TCU. However, starting this fall it will be a mandatory program, which is not necessarily a positive change for incoming freshmen.

Connections is a program that aims to help freshman students prepare for a successful college career. The nine-week program is facilitated by upper-class students and faculty mentors who lead discussions and offer helpful tips for freshmen.

The freshman Connections program is a positive thing for students and can benefit students who really want to take advantage of the program. But making the program mandatory is treating freshmen like they are still in high school.

A university official said the decision to make the program mandatory was made to help increase freshman retention by assisting students in creating a stronger foundation on campus. Although it sounds like a

good idea, forcing student involvement is not the way to go about increasing retention.

For the program to be successful it needs to be full of students who actually want to be attending and learning, not students who are sitting in the back not participating.

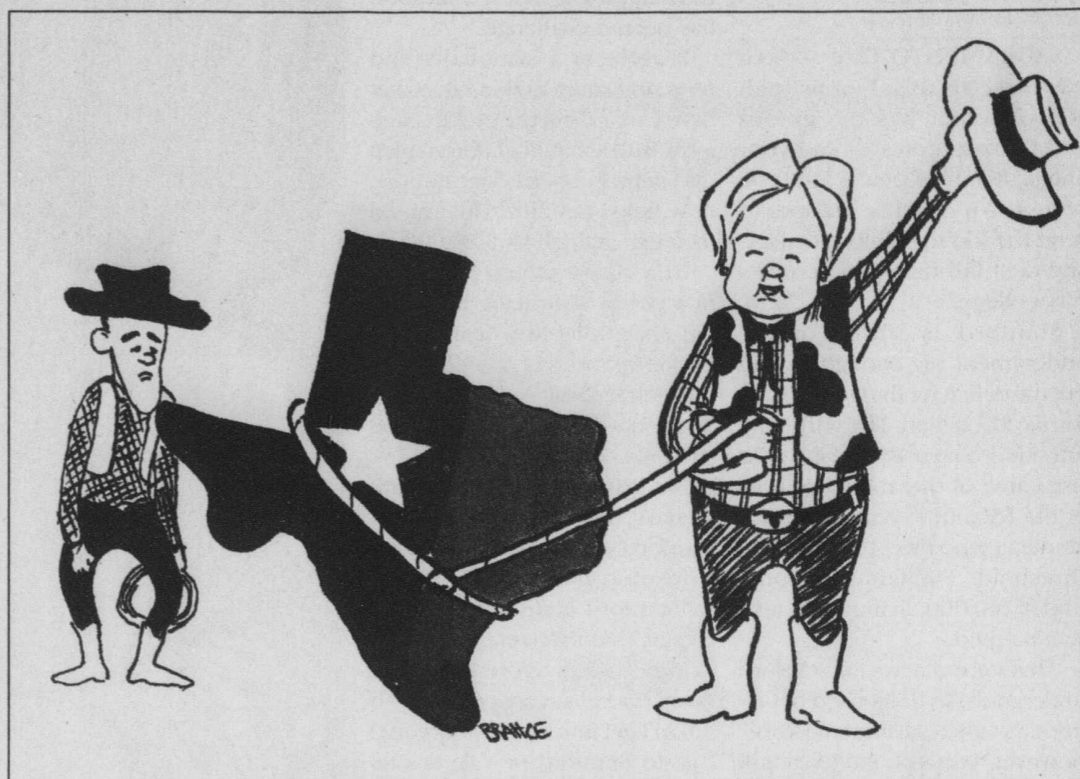
When students come to college, it is a time when they can personally discover their strengths and learn how to be responsible without their parents. Requiring students to attend a weekly class without earning credit for it does not breed responsibility.

Sometimes freshman students really need guidance on campus, but holding their hand is probably not the best way to encourage them to adapt to college life.

Connections is awesome for building better leaders, but it should be left as a program for students who actually want to be there.

Features editor Jordan Haygood for the editorial board.

BY JACOB BRAHCE



Jacob Brahce is a freshman criminal justice and political science major from Cedar Park.

Fall in young newspaper readers indicates move toward ignorance

I was appalled by a conversation I overheard in class Tuesday. Two women were discussing why one of them



Liz Davidson

had the Wall Street Journal on her desk. She said it was for a class, and went on to complain about how ridiculous it was for her professor to expect students to read it every day. The other woman actually sounded relieved, saying how it would be weird if she read it on her own.

And this was even in a class required for journalism majors.

I was amazed. No wonder so many students don't know what's going on in the world around them.

The number of students reading newspapers is continually decreasing, and

students are less informed about current events than in the past. The percentage of adults age 18

to 24 who read the newspaper on a daily basis has decreased from about 44 percent in 1998 to 34 percent in 2007, according to statistics on the Newspaper Association of America's Web site.

If this trend continues, how much will ignorance spread in another 10 years?

A survey conducted by Common Core, an education research organization, reported that fewer than half of teenagers surveyed didn't know the answers to basic history or literature questions. Think of how much of a problem this will become later if people aren't

even aware of events that are happening now. Adults won't know anything about

our history if this continues, whether it's from the 1700s or 2000.

There seems to be a general disinterest in affairs occurring outside our individual 'bubbles.'

So the next time you pass by a newspaper stand in the Student Center, go ahead, pick up a paper, even if your professor doesn't require it.

Liz Davidson is a junior news-editorial journalism major from Austin.



SXC.HU

Crimes against homosexuals should qualify as hate crimes

As the campaign season plows along, the public seems to have set aside that pesky question: "Are we ready?" Are we ready for a black president?

These questions have run their course, especially as both Democratic candidates are doing well.

And now, finally, we are beginning to see candidates tackle a largely-avoided issue: discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The prompt for discussions on this topic may stem from a recent tragedy in California in which a 15-year-old homosexual boy was murdered by one of his male classmates — a classmate who, just days before the attack, received a valentine from the young boy.

Lawrence King, an 8th-grader who had recently been living in foster care, was openly gay. Although he endured regular bullying, his classmates claim they never thought it would go that far. According to reports, his attacker entered the computer lab where Lawrence was working and shot him in the head.

Intolerance of Lawrence's homosexuality does appear to be the cause of his murder.

Federally speaking, however, Lawrence's murder is not officially a hate crime. That is because the Matthew Shepard Act — legislation that would make brutality motivated by a victim's gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity or disability a federally punishable act — has never been enacted. Although it has been a decade since the landmark case for which the legislation was named, this bill has stalled out in Congress.

President George W. Bush has said he will veto the bill. Throughout both of his terms, Bush has shown his ignorance knows no bounds, and this is especially true in the case of homosexual rights. From the proposed constitutional amendment "protecting marriage" between a man and a woman to refusing to acknowledge violence based on sexual orientation as a hate crime, he has shown us again and again he has no tolerance for people who are different from him.

Sexual orientation is one of the last great prejudices in our country — a prejudice that has been repeatedly supported by our own government.

Presidential candidates are finally beginning to discuss this issue. I want to urge everyone to start paying atten-

tion to what these candidates have to say about the recent violence in California; their opinions on this matter might give us good insight into how they view the citizens of this country.

When hatred of a group of people begets violence, it becomes a hate crime. It does not matter if the crime is based on race, religion, sexual identity, disability, age or gender: Hate is hate.

As young voters and American citizens, we can be the generation to eliminate this prejudice. We can talk openly about these issues. This is not about your personal sexual orientation: This issue is about refusing to stand for discrimination of any kind.

It has been said by many — including one of our current presidential candidates — those who stand for nothing will fall for anything. We have been falling for the Bush administration's unique brand of ignorance and discrimination for far too long. It would seem we are ready for a change. Maybe we should start asking a new question: In this upcoming election, what are we standing for?

Julie Lord's column appeared in the (Western Illinois University) Western Courier on Wednesday.

People need to be more active in preserving rainforests

A few mornings ago I logged onto the Internet, checked my e-mail and my banking account



Andrew Young

and braced myself for the thing I dread most about my mornings: logging onto CNN. While I feel the intense need to be kept in the know about things happening in our world, I would be lying if I said I didn't fear what the news will bring at the beginning of each day. My fears were relieved, however, by a video I found buried in the Web site. The video is about a man named Johan Eliasch who recently purchased 400,000 acres of the Amazon rainforest.

I must admit, the idea that one man could possess the means to actually purchase his own chunk of rainforest the size of Greater London caught me a little bit off guard. According to an interview with him by the Guardian, a newspaper in England, the land that Eliasch bought previously belonged to a logging company.

Eliasch closed the company down and laid off 1,000 of its Brazilian workers. According to Eliasch, he did all of this simply "to protect the rainforest." While such practices may not be exactly what Brazil needs in terms of employment, local authorities in Brazil who are friends of Eliasch defended his actions as the cost for saving rainforests of the world.

According to Eliasch in his editorial for the Independ-

ent, a newspaper in England, "Don't let politics prevent us from saving the planet," protecting the world's rainforests from deforestation could dramatically reduce carbon emissions. In the article, Eliasch wrote that "the fact that half of all the carbon emissions since the industrial revolution have been created in the last 20 years is one which challenges the pace of change that most (political) policies can accommodate."

Perhaps the rapid deforestation of our planet calls for people in a position like Eliasch to step in and use their influence to actually produce the change that politicians have been promising to make for years now.

People like the late Paul van Vlissingen, who owned

Calor gas, and Kris McDivitt and her husband Doug Tompkins, who is co-founder of the North Face, have followed suit and bought land in various places such as Argentina, Chile and Africa. The efforts of these people ensure that precious land like the Amazon rainforest will not be greedily gobbled up by logging companies that persuade people that their operations are helping the planet rather than destroying it simply because they provide jobs to local indigenous people.

The unfortunate fact is that the large majority of world citizens doesn't have the clout or will to step in and reverse the damage that each one of us has helped cause the environment.

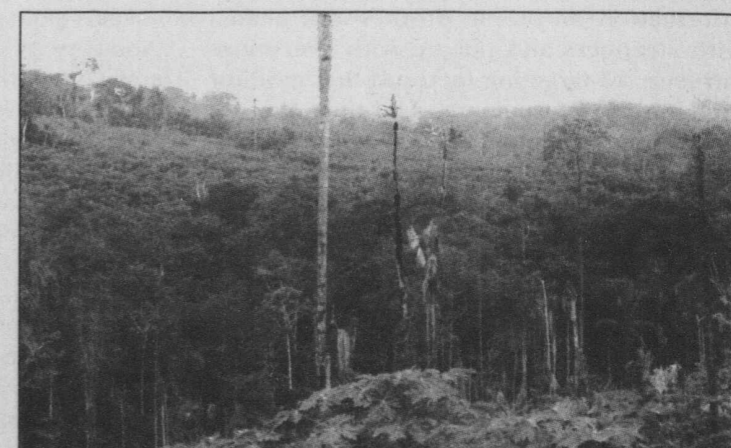
When local and world governments fail, it is up to us, as

citizens of the world, to step up to the plate and put a stop to the evil we have introduced into this world. Although most of us don't have the means to do what Eliasch has done, we can do our part in helping find a reliable alternative to deforestation.

We are all affected by bad

environmental policies, and we need to start pressuring our legislative government to do something about these things. Let's not sit back idly and watch as the select elite bail us out of every problem we have caused ourselves.

Andrew Young is a sophomore radio-TV-film major from Overland Park, Kan.



MCT

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Stanford's endowment to cover lower income families

By DOROTHY KORBER
McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — So it has come to this: If your high school senior has the grades and the test scores — and your annual family income is \$100,000 or less — it could be cheaper to send the kid to Stanford University next fall than to a community college.

Stanford is sitting on an endowment big enough to bail out the deficit for the state of California: \$17 billion. The university announced recently that it would use some of that money to cover the \$36,000-a-year tuition for students who meet the \$100,000 threshold. For family income under \$60,000, living costs also will be paid.

That's good news for Stanford undergrads. In the context of California's vast academic landscape, however, very few students will be affected. Stanford enrolls a freshman class of 1,700 each fall, less than 1 percent of the state's 240,000 full-time college freshmen.

Still, there are broader implications.

Stanford's new policy came just weeks after similar announcements from Harvard and Yale. Last month, Brown University said it is eliminating tuition for students whose parents earn less than \$60,000.

These schools — called the "private elites" — have come under scrutiny by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee for amassing huge, untaxed endowments without making much money available for students.

So, with their tax-free status in jeopardy, the richest universities are eagerly underwriting their \$50,000-a-year sticker prices not just for their poorest students but for middle-class kids as well.

"This is the right thing to do for our Stanford families," said Karen Cooper, Stanford's financial aid director. "Last year, we did a survey of parents, to ask how they've been paying for school. We heard loudly and clearly from middle-class fami-

lies that paying for the education has been a challenge."

It reflects a national trend reversing steep tuition hikes that have choked out the middle class — or thrown their children deep into debt. Harvard, for example, now helps families with annual incomes as high as \$180,000.

In a ripple effect, Stanford's new policy also means that prestigious public universities like Berkeley and UCLA — formerly the better deal — will have to hustle harder to compete for top students.

For Priscilla Herrera at Sacramento's Mira Loma High School, Stanford's generosity may mean a dream come true.

"Stanford is my number one choice," said Herrera, a student in Mira Loma's rigorous International Baccalaureate program. "If I didn't get any aid, no way could I go to Stanford or Yale or one of those top schools."

Like high school seniors across the nation, Herrera is in the anxious limbo between applying to colleges and hearing if she has been accepted — and learning what kind of financial help they will offer.

In addition to Stanford, Yale and Princeton, she's applied to a trio of the expensive and selective Claremont colleges, plus four University of California campuses. It's an impressive list but not unusual for students in International Baccalaureate programs.

A pastor's daughter, Herrera said her family struggles financially and she helps out all she can. She works two jobs, teaching martial arts classes three days a week and managing Mira Loma's Arcade Creek Project — a field study of the suburban stream that winds through the area near the campus — every day after school.

"Scholarship counselors have told me that students with my financial situation will actually receive more money from a private university than a public school," she said.

If Herrera is accepted at Stanford, the university will cover



Mira Loma High School student Priscilla Herrera, 17, plans to major in biochemistry or molecular biology after she graduates from high school. She may benefit from Stanford University's decision to eliminate tuition for families who qualify financially.

tuition, room and board, and all other costs — except for the \$4,300 a year students are expected to earn on their own.

Stanford's generous new grants, the largest aid increase in the university's history, will apply to current students, as well as incoming freshmen. Cooper, the financial aid director, estimates that one out of three undergraduate students will be spared tuition; the rest are from families with incomes above \$100,000.

Cooper said her university was well aware of Harvard's changes, announced in December. "We don't operate in a vacuum," she said, but added that Stanford has been pumping up its student aid for a couple of years.

Another factor is that Stanford's investments paid off handsomely in 2007, with its endowment — the third-largest in the nation — growing by 22 percent.

The University of California doesn't operate in a vacuum, either. Suddenly UC Berkeley's \$25,000-a-year cost — including more than \$8,000 in state fees — isn't the bargain it used to be.

"Given a choice between UCLA, Berkeley or Stanford, it becomes a no-brainer if you can go to Stanford virtually for free," said Jose Luis Santos, director of UCLA's Higher Education Public Policy Research Center. "The private elites can easily afford to do this — and it can be argued that they should have done it long ago."

"They have the luxury to bring down costs, while our great public institutions in the state of California are at a complete disadvantage. Instead of dropping costs, the state's budget situation makes it predictable that they will have to increase fees."

In response, the University of California system is considering

amassing a special \$2 billion endowment earmarked for student grants, according to spokesman Ricardo Vazquez.

His system already is providing a high level of support for its lower-income students, he said. He pointed out that almost a third of all University of California undergraduates qualify for

federal Pell grants, double the percentage at Stanford or Harvard.

Again, it's the middle class that is the current focus: "It's a concern for us when a middle-class family making \$100,000 can afford to send a child to Stanford but not to Cal," Vazquez said.



Mira Loma High School student Priscilla Herrera updates a calendar for the Mira Loma Arcade Project at a school in Sacramento, Calif., on Feb. 28.

Development of networking sites continues to whittle Web security

By MARK BOSLET
San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Americans are conflicted about Internet privacy. They say they want better protection for their personal data, but often trade away safeguards to connect with friends or find what they are looking for online.

Many experts agree privacy has eroded with the growth of social-networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace and the spread of behavioral advertising, where ads are fed to people based on their online behavior. What's hard to know is how much of this erosion people are willing to overlook for the sake of cyber convenience.

"The vast majority of people want to protect their privacy," said Larry Ponemon, chairman of the Ponemon Institute, a Traverse City, Mich., researcher focused on privacy and data protection. "But they aren't doing anything about it."

Instead, they increasingly post personal information on online profiles, share data with strangers and put up with ever-more intrusive ad-targeting methods that monitor their online movements. And they are not just younger computer users — who are commonly believed to be less sensitive to privacy concerns — but older adults as well.

A privacy debate was rekindled last year after Google announced its proposed purchase of ad-targeting outfit DoubleClick. New fuel was added in November when Facebook launched its Beacon advertising program — drawing the ire of privacy advocates and eventually a mea culpa by the company, which responded to the storm of protest by letting people opt out of the program.

Privacy advocates say programs like Beacon, which share information about a person's purchases with his or her friends on Facebook, give consumers too little control over how much personal information Internet companies collect and use.

Similar complaints dog other forms of

behavioral targeting, especially the spread of "third-party" cookies, or little programs that sit on a person's computer and monitor the sites visited, and share that information with groups of merchants.

When people search for information on a particular disease, the search engine they use or the Web site they visit knows their affliction, said Kathryn Montgomery, a professor at American University in Washington and an advocate for greater online privacy.

But consumers don't always react with alarm. Researchers say most people have a line when it comes to privacy, but knowing when that line is crossed is difficult. Public attitudes often are far more pragmatic than doctrinaire.

"The whole brouhaha over Facebook has me a bit puzzled," said bemused Internet user Bob Cullinan, a San Rafael, Calif., member of the social-networking site. "If you don't want the Facebook folks to know anything about you, then don't sign up for a Facebook account. It all seems pretty simple to me."

About two-thirds of people in developed countries say they are concerned about privacy, but not enough to withhold personal information when, say, the convenience of making an online purchase means providing it, Ponemon said. An additional 20 percent aren't concerned at all about privacy, he said, leaving about 12 percent who find privacy a major concern.

A similar split was evident in a December study by the Pew Internet & American Life Project. Ninety-four percent of American adults surveyed said it was important to control who has access to their personal information. But 61 percent hadn't taken steps to limit the information about them found online.

The Internet "feels so incredibly safe, secure and anonymous," said Fred Cate, a law professor at Indiana University and a privacy expert. "People care about other things more when (privacy) is on the table."

New surgical methods reducing aftermath of prostate cancer

By JEAN P. FISHER
McClatchy Newspapers

RALEIGH, N.C. — Doctors at Duke University Medical Center are now treating some early-stage prostate cancers with a targeted approach that appears to let more men retain bladder control and remain sexually active.

Much like lumpectomy for breast cancer, focused prostate therapy aims only at the part of the gland that has cancer, sparing nerve damage and trauma that can cause impotence and incontinence.

One approach involves injecting the diseased part of the prostate with freezing gas. No surgical cuts are needed and patients are typically back to regular activities within a few days. Duke is one of a handful of medical centers in the nation that does the procedure outside research studies.

"I really believe this is the new wave of the future," patient Robert Bryant Sr. said of the focused cryosurgery he had at Duke last month.

Scores of visiting prostate specialists viewed Bryant's procedure, which was transmitted in real time with a video feed to a nearby lecture hall. The experts were in Durham for an international workshop at Duke devoted to focal therapy for prostate cancer.

The prostate is a small gland beneath the bladder and wrapped around the urethra. It makes the fluid that carries sperm as it is ejaculated.

Treating only part of the prostate is controversial among cancer specialists. The standard of care is to attack the disease, even when it is considered early stage and low risk. Surgery to remove the entire gland is a typical approach. Or, alternatively, the cancer is bombarded with hormones and radiation that destroy

the prostate.

Such an aggressive approach is one reason more than 99 percent of prostate cancer patients are still alive five years after diagnosis. Techniques that treat only part of the prostate may not be as effective, both advocates and critics note.

"Before there's a bandwagon to them, I think they need to be studied," said Dr. Raj Pruthi, director of urologic oncology at University of North Carolina Hospitals' Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. He said Lineberger doesn't do any focused therapy for prostate cancer now, but will soon begin a clinical trial. Doctors from UNC-Chapel Hill attended the Duke workshop.

Between 10 and 25 percent of men with prostate cancer have bladder control problems two years after surgery or radiation therapy, according to research compiled by the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Impotence is even more common, with up to 80 percent of men reporting problems after surgery or radiation. Some men improve with time, but others are never the same.

Recent studies show men treated with focal cryosurgery fare considerably better. Up to 90 percent of men who have just one side of the prostate frozen are potent after treatment. Incontinence troubles about 10 percent. No long term data are available about rates of cancer recurrence.

Pruthi said doctors and patients who are concerned about complications should keep in mind that there is already one approach with no side effects: doing nothing. Prostate cancer typically grows so slowly that men with early-stage disease sometimes forgo treatment and monitor their cancer. Older patients are often told they may die with prostate cancer, but not from it.

"I really believe this is the new wave of the future."
Robert Bryant Sr.
cryosurgery patient

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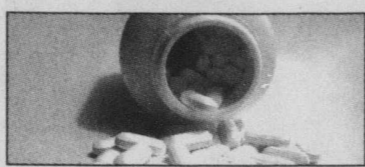
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TODAY IN HISTORY

1899: The Imperial Patent Office in Berlin registers Aspirin.

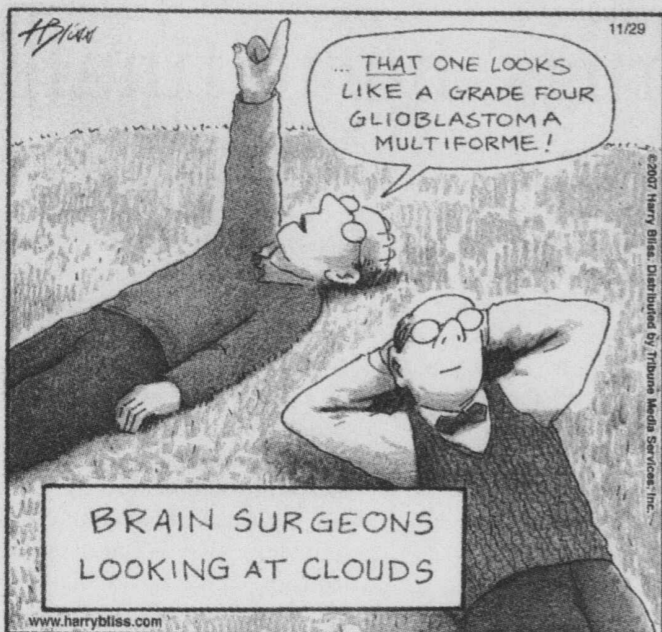
WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: Why are frogs so happy?

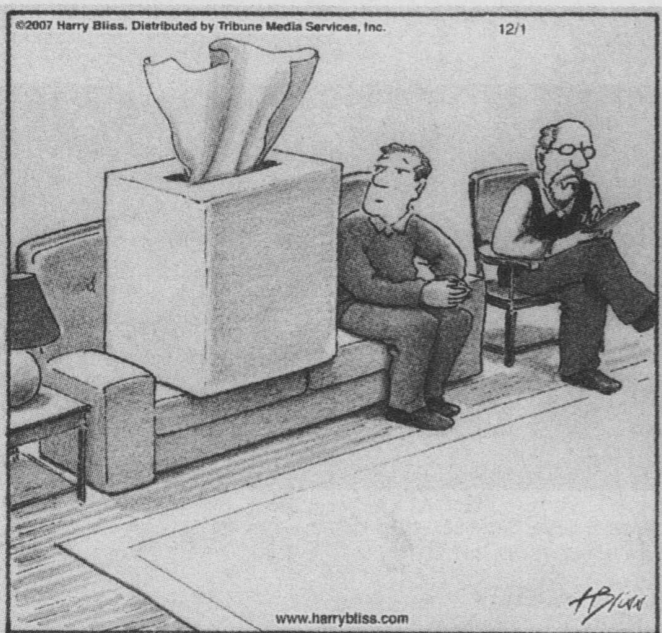
A: They eat whatever bugs them!

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by Harry Bliss



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

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

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

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

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 10 Some G.I.s
 14 Expensive
 15 Borden bovine
 16 French kings
 17 Highway subdivision
 18 Bite playfully
 19 God of love
 20 Start of a quip
 23 Youth org.
 24 British medical syst.
 25 Online loan sources
 28 Bando of baseball
 29 Part 2 of quip
 31 Aid a criminal
 34 Morales of "Bad Boys"
 36 Steps over a fence
 37 Actor O'Shea
 38 Part 3 of quip
 40 Picture on a PC

DOWN
 1 Off-the-cuff remark
 2 Toronto team, tersely
 3 Singer Tucker
 4 Two-tone treat
 5 "Jaws" writer
 6 Walt Disney's middle name
 7 "SportsCenter" stn.
 8 Decree
 9 Fixed charge
 10 Sensible step
 11 Argumentation
 12 AFL
 13 Draft org.
 21 Actress Merkel
 22 Siloed weapons
 28 Metric weights, briefly
 27 Extended areas
 28 Panties and tool sheds
 29 Ridicule
 30 Sword part
 31 Prayer closers
 32 Intelligence test pioneer
 33 Height
 35 Peau de (dull satin fabric)
 39 One way to write

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved
 BED SOLID CEDAR
 ATE OUTRE ALEVE
 THE GARDEN OF EDEN
 MAJOR TREVI
 ANAT DEFERS CIA
 NEY RABID BALLI
 GENRE LOITER
 FIRST OFFENDER
 ORNATE DAMES
 LADY TOROS MAS
 DYE CARMEN PANT
 CORGI AERIE
 SCENE OF THE CRIME
 CONES LAMER NAP
 TROTJIS ECOLE AILS

By Alan P. Olschweg
Huntington Beach, CA 3/6/08

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

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GOING OUT IN STYLE

Seniors stick together in win for Lady Frogs' home finale



ANH PHAM / Staff Photographer

Senior guard Moneka Knight drives the lane against Air Force at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum on Wednesday. TCU beat the Falcons 85-50, winning its 400th game in club history.

By **BRETT LARSON**
Sports Editor

The Lady Frogs basketball team reached two university milestones Wednesday with its 400th victory and 12th conference win on the season, beating the Air Force Falcons on senior night.

The win over the Falcons (10-17, 4-11) was TCU's 12th Mountain West Conference win of the year, beating last year's team record of 11.

TCU (19-10, 12-3) took down the Falcons 85-50, forcing 24 turnovers, including 15 in the first half.

The Lady Frogs cruised through their final home game of the season and never led by less than 20 points

in the second half.

Seniors were the dominant force for TCU. All five graduating players started the game together, and a senior led or tied for the lead in points, rebounds and assists.

Senior guard Helen Roden played an all-around solid game, leading TCU with 12 points and chipping in six rebounds and four assists.

Senior forward Jenna Lohse led TCU in rebounding with nine and finished with 11 points.

Adrienne Ross, last year's Mountain West Player of the Year, leaves TCU as one of the program's all-time greats, finishing first in steals, second in points, third in assists and on-

track for first in games played.

Head coach Jeff Mittie said it was fun to watch his five seniors play well together and said it was great seeing them have fun their last time in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum together.

Lohse said the game was an emotional one for the seniors, but enjoyed being able to start and stick together with her graduating teammates.

Senior guard Moneka Knight and Ross each had four steals, fueling a Lady Frog defensive effort that allowed 23 first-half points.

TCU held Air Force to 36.5 percent shooting while hitting 51.6 percent of its own attempts.

Mittie said the team is doing a much better job at the end of games.

"This team is finishing things much better than before in the season," Mittie said. "It's a big step forward for this group."

TCU still has one game remaining against BYU. A win would guarantee a second-place finish in the Mountain West Conference.

At a half game behind the Lady Frogs, a Cowgirl loss would also guarantee a second-place regular season conference finish for TCU.

The Lady Frogs take on the Cougars at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Provo, Utah.

SNAPSHOTS

BASEBALL



ANNIE COOPER / Staff Photographer

Senior centerfielder Clint Arnold safely slides home against Texas State on Wednesday at Lupton Stadium. The Horned Frogs beat the Bobcats 4-3 in 11 innings.

MEN'S TENNIS



ROBERT BEMBER / Staff Reporter

Senior Cosmin Cotet rallies against an Oklahoma Sooner at home Wednesday. Cotet lost his singles match, but the Horned Frogs finished on top 4-3.

For the full stories, see DAILYSKIFF.COM

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