

NEWS
 CNN Money ranks Fort Worth No. 9 for best cities to start small businesses.
TOMORROW

OPINION
 Social Security woes can be fixed.
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SPORTS
 Women's tennis star Nina Munch-Soegaard is leading her Horned Frog team.
PAGE 6

TCU

DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

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Official: Loan market stunted by lender dropouts

By PATTY ESPINOSA
 Staff Reporter

About 3,500 students who have federal loans will soon feel the effects of the currently unpredictable federal and private loan market as early as this summer, a finan-

cial aid officer said. Some lenders have dropped out of the loan market, causing students to seek different lenders for next fall, said Mike Scott, director of scholarships and financial aid.

"This is the worst situ-

ation we have seen in the 10 years I have been working with loans," said Melet Leafgreen, assistant director of scholarships and financial aid.

Earlier this year, congressional actions led student-

loan companies such as Sallie Mae and College Loan Corp. to either quit or make changes to loan programs. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, signed by President Bush on Sept. 27, 2007, stated that money

would be cut from the federal loan market.

However, in the bill, \$20 billion in new aid will increase the maximum value of the Pell Grant scholarship and reduce the pressure of college costs on the shoul-

ders of low-income and minority students, said Melissa Wagoner, spokeswoman for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., in February. Kennedy is chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health,

See **LOANS**, page 2

DOG DAY AFTERNOON



REESE GORDON / Staff Reporter

Carla Wilson hands a fresh hot dog to a student as the new meal cart made its first appearance on campus Tuesday. Dining services began serving the hot dogs at 11 a.m. The cart is an alternative to Edens and Deco Deli after the closure of the two eateries before Spring Break.

Funding campaign brings in millions

By HILARY WHITTIER
 Staff Reporter

Bob Schieffer can soon add rock star to his resume after he performs with his band "Honky Tonk Confidential" during the launch of The Campaign for TCU on Thursday.

Schieffer, moderator of CBS' "Face the Nation," and other donors are contributing to The Campaign for TCU, a fundraising event expected to raise \$250 million by 2012 to support a wide variety of efforts, such as increasing scholarship support, strengthening academic programs and continuing to increase endowment, Chancellor Victor Boschini said.

"The campaign means more stability for the school in the long run," Boschini said. "It also means a more predictable budget in the future if it raises more money for the endowment, which it will."

Boschini said the campaign is the biggest in TCU's history and has raised about \$157 million halfway through the fundraising.

This year, it assisted in offsetting the 8 percent tuition increase by raising financial aid by 18 percent, and the mon-

ey raised for scholarships also helps offset any future tuition hikes, Boschini said.

Donald Whelan Jr., vice chancellor for University Advancement, said it was important to have half the campaign goal secured before beginning the public phase.

Before the public phase, the university went through a "leadership gift phase," he said. During this time, the university talked with close friends, trustees and people who may make leadership gifts to the campaign, and this campaign secured more than 14,000 donors, he said.

"Our goal at the end of the campaign is to have strengthened the university across the board," Whelan said. "Along the way of doing that, we'll certainly enhance our reputation."

Justin Brown, a junior political science major, said this week students will see many prominent alumni, such as Schieffer.

Brown, Student Government Association Student Relations Committee chair, said the campaign is a time for TCU to highlight itself and show it

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 2

Symposium to focus on '08 election trail

By MICHELLE ANDERSON
 Staff Reporter

Bob Schieffer will ask panelists at the fourth annual Schieffer Symposium today

to answer the question, "Is campaign '08 about the right stuff?"

Schieffer, moderator of CBS' "Face the Nation" and a TCU graduate, will moderate the discussion between Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today and chairman of the Freedom Forum; Andrea

Mitchell, chief foreign affairs and lead political correspondent for NBC News and regular panelist on MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews"; Robert Novak, syndicated columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and commentator for Fox News and Bloomberg News; and Roger Mudd, former correspondent for CBS News and NBC News.

"I think up until recently, the media has done a good job of covering the campaign because of the debates," Schieffer said.

Because Democrats do not have a nominee yet, the

media is not focusing on their issues, Schieffer said. After a nominee is chosen, he said he thinks the focus will get back to the issues.

With experienced reporters on the panel, there will be a several different opinions represented, Schieffer said.

"It will be interesting to see if the panelists agree with me," he said. "Some of them have been around for a while."

Tommy Thomason, director of the Schieffer School of Journalism, said people get most of their information from the news and said the

panel represents some of the best-known and most qualified people to discuss the issues the country is facing in

See **SYMPOSIUM**, page 2

FOR YOUR INFO Schieffer Symposium

What: Fourth annual Bob Schieffer Symposium: "Is Campaign '08 the Right Stuff?"

When: 6:30 p.m. today

Where: Ed Landreth Auditorium

Tickets: \$15 or free with student ID

Horned Frog football sports new spring look

By ROBERT BEMBER
 Staff Reporter

Off-seasons may not be the most exciting time for football, but new marketing campaigns for spring football are attempting to change the stigma.

The athletic marketing department collaborated with Fort Worth-based Concussion Advertising LLC to launch the "Next Season is Now" marketing campaign Friday for the spring football season.

The bulk of the campaign consists of posters featuring close-up photographs of players and a Web site where fans can download desktop wallpapers and print posters.

Friday through Sunday, the Web site recorded 1,586 hits, a number Allen Wallach, Concussion's chief executive officer, called "through the roof."

Wallach said Concussion

was initially brought on for the fall advertising campaign, but after meeting, the two sides decided to add a spring campaign at the last minute.

Wallach said many Division-I programs try to hype football during the spring and he hopes the campaign will enhance the team's position among the major programs.

"We're adding a marketing program to match the quality of product they put on the field," Wallach said.

Concussion's work for the Armed Forces Bowl is what caught the marketing department's attention, said Scott Kull, associate athletics director for external operations.

This is the first time in Kull's three years at TCU that the athletic marketing department has worked with an outside firm for such a project or attempted a marketing

See **FOOTBALL**, page 2

Visibility is key, visiting dean candidates say

By KRISTIN BUTLER
 Staff Reporter

Increasing the visibility of the College of Communication is a top priority, every dean candidate for the college said, agreeing that the college has the potential to be one of the best communication schools in the nation.

The candidates were given



SYSPHER



WHILLOCK



TURK

for a question-and-answer session during their visits to campus over the past week, said John Tisdale, chairman of the dean search committee and associate professor of journalism.

Tisdale said each candidate has different, distinct personalities and approaches that would work for the College of Communication.

The three remaining hopefuls are Howard Sypher, head of the communication department at Purdue University; Judy VanSlyke Turk, director

See **VISIBILITY**, page 2



WEATHER
TODAY: Iso. Storms, 67/63
TOMORROW: Iso. Storms, 78/53
FRIDAY: Showers, 65/48

PECULIAR FACT

AVON LAKE, Ohio — A developmental problem split a dog's leg, making it look like a five-legged pet.
 — Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

SPORTS: New Mexico coach signs extension, page 6
OPINION: Earth Day promises don't last, page 3
SPORTS: Horned Frogs struggle out of MWC gate, page 6

CONTACT US

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

LOANS

From page 1

Education, Labor and Pension and sponsored the bill when it was enacted.

As of March 1, CLC left the federal loan market and stopped providing Federal Family Education Loans. It has become difficult for "mid-sized" corporations like CLC to compete in the federal loan market, said Joanna Acoella, CLC's chief communications officer, in February.

So far, there are five stu-

dents who will be receiving e-mails stating they must switch lenders because of CLC's drop out from the federal loan market, Leafgreen said.

Within the next 18 months, students could see a situation in which there are not enough lenders in the federal and private loan market, Leafgreen said.

Scott said the bigger changes in the loan market are seen in private loans. Students' credit requirements are becoming more difficult to reach, he said.

The university recently removed CLC from the suggested list of federal lenders, Leafgreen said, but it will remain on the suggested list of private lenders. The suggested lenders lists were created by financial aid officers and administrators to highlight lenders that have good benefits and work well for TCU students, Leafgreen said.

Scott said students will not have issues accessing loans, but borrower benefits will not be as good as they used to be.

CAMPAIGN

From page 1

is a worthwhile investment.

Boschini said the campaign was mandated by the Board of Trustees and will help pay for the four new residence halls in the center of campus by repaying bonds taken out by the university.

Whelan said the campaign will also contribute to sustaining a vibrant living community by improving the Greek

area, the campus commons and athletic facilities.

"It will go toward anything that will improve student life on campus," he said.

Whelan said Schieffer will be the masters of ceremony of the event, which is expected to have more than 800 people present including alumni, parents, foundation representatives and friends. The program will begin in Ed Landreth Auditorium with an introduction of specifics about The Campaign for

TCU, such as how the money raised will be dispersed.

The remainder of the launching event will be located at a tent in the center of campus where Schieffer's band will perform, Whelan said.

"We will reach the goal because we're already so far ahead," he said. "We would not be starting the public phase right now if we weren't 100 percent confident that we are going to surpass our \$250 million goal."

FOOTBALL

From page 1

campaign for spring football, he said.

"It's always good to have different people, whether inside or outside your organization, to kind of assess what you're doing and maybe bring some fresh, new ideas," Kull said.

With the May 1 deadline for season ticket renewal approaching, the department is aiming to create a buzz within the fan base and raise awareness for spring football, Kull said.

Players loved participating in the campaign, Kull said. A professional photographer was brought in to create an intimidating look for the players' photos to conflict with the lighthearted phrases on the posters, Wallach said. Wallach, who graduated from TCU in 1988, said he thinks the players were enthusiastic

because they recognize the efforts being put forth by the marketing department.

"We do have some marketable players," Kull said. "We strive to represent the team."

Junior linebacker Jason Phillips felt the need to go above and beyond the call of duty.

During the photo shoot, Phillips used a plastic knife to open up a scar on the side of his nose, which was caused by his helmet repeatedly sliding down and hitting him, Kull said. He wanted to have the blood in his picture, Kull said.

"I'm just surprised that when he cut himself it didn't bleed purple," Wallach said.

Jason Byrne, the director of athletics marketing, said the campaign was a good opportunity to highlight the student-athletes and take a fresh approach to advertising by varying from the typi-

cal action photos of previous campaigns.

Byrne said he also wants to educate fans on the history and success of TCU football by celebrating the 70th anniversary of Davey O'Brien's Heisman Trophy-winning season and the team's undefeated national championship season in 1938.

Wallach said the marketing department welcomed Concussion's outside perspective. Concussion was allowed to bring a creative attitude to the table while the marketing department helped to guide them along the way, he said.

"When we met them, I liked the range of talents, and also their experience and the spirit of collaboration," Wallach said.

Wallach calls the spring campaign more of a quick and easy mini-campaign and said the fall campaign will be "one like you've never seen before for TCU football."

SYMPOSIUM

From page 1

the 2008 campaign. They not only understand the media but also the campaign, Thomson said.

Students are looking for-

ward to the symposium, also.

"The current political environment is both fascinating and exciting, and discussing the 2008 campaign is important because facilitating interest and driving excitement for the campaign is a tremen-

dously important role of the media," said Dylan Taylor-Smith, senior advertising/public relations major.

The symposium will be held in Ed Landreth Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for the public and free to TCU students with an ID.

VISIBILITY

From page 1

of the School of Mass Communications at Virginia Commonwealth University; and David Whillock, radio-TV-film professor and associate dean to the College of Communication at TCU.

Turk said it is important to bring all three units of journalism, advertising/public relations and radio-TV-film together to achieve the goal of visibility for the college.

The best colleges of communication will be ones that integrate with other colleges and networks to raise awareness and develop strong high-

quality relations in and outside the U.S., Sypher said.

"It is an exciting time to be at TCU to experiment and move forward with the times," Sypher said.

According to TCU factbooks, the number of students in the College of Communication has grown from 888 in 2003 to 1,121 in 2007. The student ratio has decreased from 15:1 in 2003 to 14:1 in 2007, but the hopefuls said they would like that number to be smaller.

Whillock said it is important to hire more faculty for more accessibility to students. He also said it is important to reward faculty for their research and cre-

ative activities.

Each candidate said he or she expects great things from the students and faculty who will move the university toward its goals for the College of Communication.

"No dean wants to take a walk and turn around and find that no one followed," Sypher said. "They want everyone to move forward with them."

Tisdale said the committee will meet Monday to discuss each candidate and the provost and chancellor will work on making a decision.

"For the benefit of the candidates, I hope that the decision is made shortly after the meeting Monday," Tisdale said.

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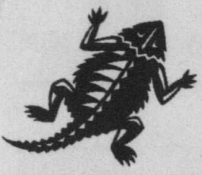
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none."
— Thomas Carlyle

THE SKIFF VIEW

Lending companies' follies leave students in financial limbo

College is often referred to as the "best four years of your life." Parties, all-night cramming for exams and everlasting friendships all make up the years spent in life after high school. However, debt and loan issues are ongoing and plague students years after crossing the stage at graduation.

With some companies dropping out of the college loan market, some students are being left without a loan provider.

A month ago, College Loan Corp. dropped from the federal loan market, and as a result, students across the country are being forced to find a new lender.

CLC's withdrawal from the market is leaving those who pay the loans in an unfair situation.

Five TCU students are already begin-

ning the search for a new loan outlet. These students are being put into a tough spot and are being forced, in a shrinking market, to seek out new lenders to pay for an education that is already underway.

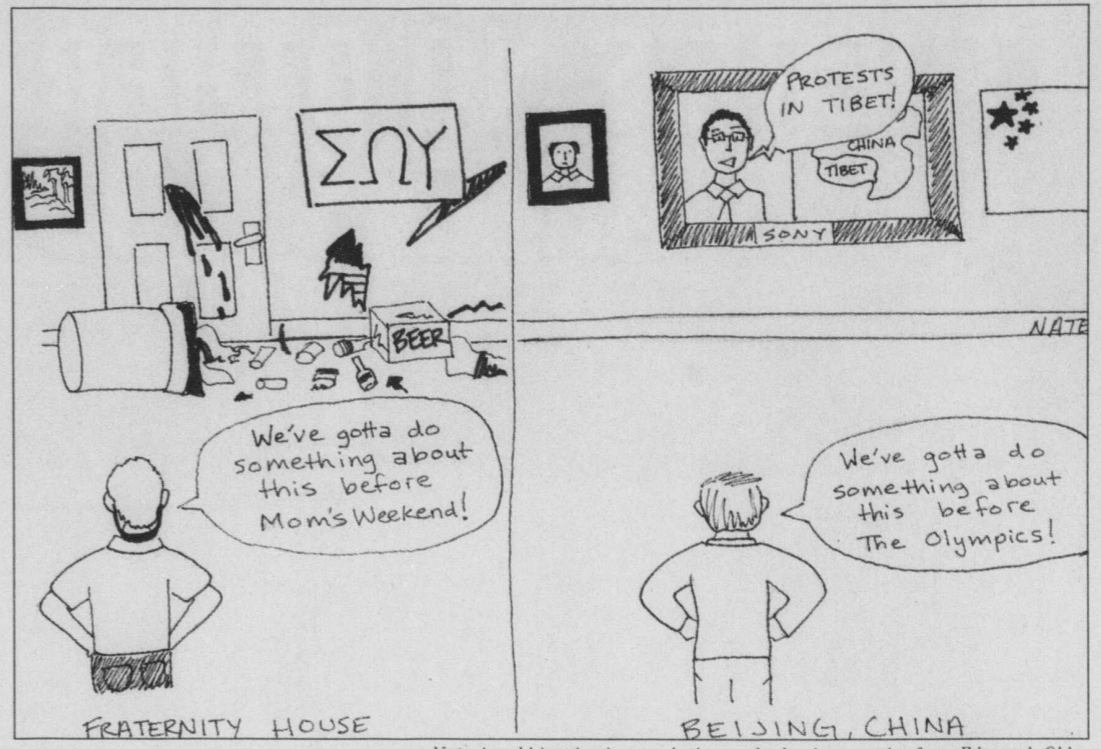
CLC still provides private loans, but a student with weaker credit might not have this option.

Reasons for the change in the loan market can be attributed to congressional changes that have taken place over the past year.

Although fingers cannot necessarily be pointed to one source, there is a problem in the college loan industry that needs to be remedied for the sake of those paying their way to a higher education.

Multimedia editor Marcus Murphree for the editorial board.

BY NATE ARNOLD



Nate Arnold is a junior marketing and e-business major from Edmond, Okla.

Empty environmental promises overshadow Earth Day's mission

Earth Hour, which took place Saturday, reminds me of New Year's Eve.

COMMENTARY



Andrew Young

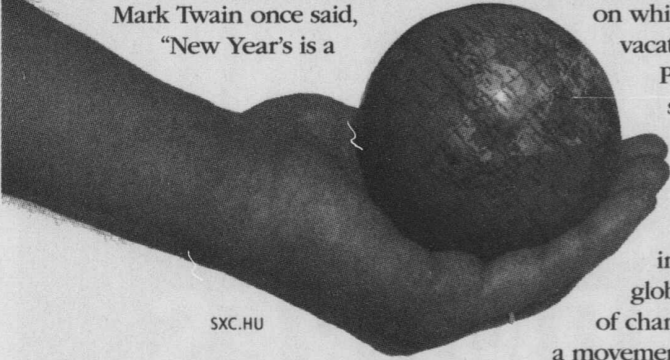
Families sit around their TV sets anticipating that big moment when some city in the world becomes the first to turn off all of its lights to show solidarity in the global effort

to save the planet from its environmental ills. The sense of awe and connection to other people is similar to when the ball descends upon Times Square.

You feel like you are a part of something bigger than yourself, something that doesn't necessarily have anything to do with you, but at the same time does.

The problem is that behind all of the pomp and circumstance of global awareness are promises being made that will never be kept.

Mark Twain once said, "New Year's is a



SXC.HU

harmless annual institution, of no particular use to anybody save as a scapegoat for promiscuous drunks, and friendly calls and humbug resolutions." While I don't think anyone gets drunk on Earth Day, I think his stance on "humbug resolutions" is accurate.

Think of it this way: The world produces about 27 billion tons of carbon dioxide a year from transportation, use of electricity and one of the most difficult monsters to kill — deforestation.

Say it's Earth Hour and you decided that your Earth Hour resolution is to stop producing so much carbon dioxide. You don't have to stop producing all 20 tons of it — say, 10 tons of it. Even if you were to do this, your efforts would be rendered relatively ineffective because people in the world as a whole would continue to produce copious amounts of carbon dioxide. People in America will still drive cars to work and leave the air conditioner on while they are on vacation.

Perhaps I sound cynical. After all, if Earth Day was actually effective in producing a global movement of change, instead of a movement of aware-

ness, then we could become less dependent on those conveniences that are slowly bringing the ship down. The problem is that we, as a nation, and as a world, are in the pain of global warming, and we need to make more drastic efforts to curb the problem.

The average individual will not be able to stop global warming. It will take a complete overhaul of the way the world functions politically and economically. For example, per person, air travel burns more fossil fuel than any other form of transportation.

In order to cut this major pollutant out of the equation, we would have to stop relying on the speed and efficiency of air transportation. People would have to go back to times when it would take you much longer to receive postage, reach vacation destinations and transport vital resources of the world's infrastructure. We are dependent politically on all of these things.

Don't get me wrong, there are individuals in the world who are making a difference. But until the world is willing to put aside its rapid growth and industrialization, take a step back and start working toward a dramatic solution.

I remain convinced that this problem will go the same way as a New Year's resolution to stop smoking.

Andrew Young is a junior radio-TV-film major from Overton, Kan.

Clinton's economic views ignore need for free trade

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal last week, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton outlined the economic policies she would pursue if elected. As usual, she demonstrated an incredible level of economic illiteracy — a quality politicians exhibit with disheartening regularity.

To be fair, Clinton is trying to be elected president, not chairman of the Federal Reserve. Accordingly, she does not have the incentive to propose good economic policy but rather the economic policy that will help her win. So it's entirely possible Clinton doesn't actually believe in the proposals she outlined last week, but I'm feeling unusually gullible, so I'll take her words at face value.

The major economic policies she addressed were the housing crisis, the Bush tax cuts and free trade policy, specifically NAFTA.

Clinton's plan to fix the housing crisis does nothing more than encourage the same kind of bad decisions and foolish loans by irresponsible lenders that got us in this crisis in the first place. Her proposed government bailout of nearly \$1.9 trillion in loans rewards bad behavior. On the Bush tax cuts, Clinton agrees with her rival, Barack Obama, in support of rolling back cuts for wealthy Americans. Some argue higher taxes for the wealthy will hurt economic investment and growth; Clinton rejects this, telling the Wall Street Journal, "The tax rates of the '90s did not slow down investment and wealth creation."

OK, fair enough. But that doesn't mean investment and wealth creation couldn't have been better. However, Clinton does make a good point here: The economy during the Clinton years was arguably as strong as it has ever been. Unemployment was low and per capita incomes grew at solid rates. So you'd think Clinton would be in favor of the policies that led to the economic success of the '90s, right?

Wrong. One of the great economic legacies of her husband's term in office was his support of free trade — most notably his 1993 NAFTA with Mexico and Canada. However, Clinton has openly expressed her desire to take a "timeout" on free trade agreements; apparently, she wants to take a "timeout" on economic growth and prosperity as well. While NAFTA has not had an incredibly significant effect on the American economy, free markets and free trade are the driving forces behind our incredibly prosperous economy — the current credit crisis notwithstanding.

Clinton, among many others, argues free trade has hurt the average American worker, telling the Wall Street Journal profits are going to "elites and

multinational companies in a way that isn't spreading prosperity."

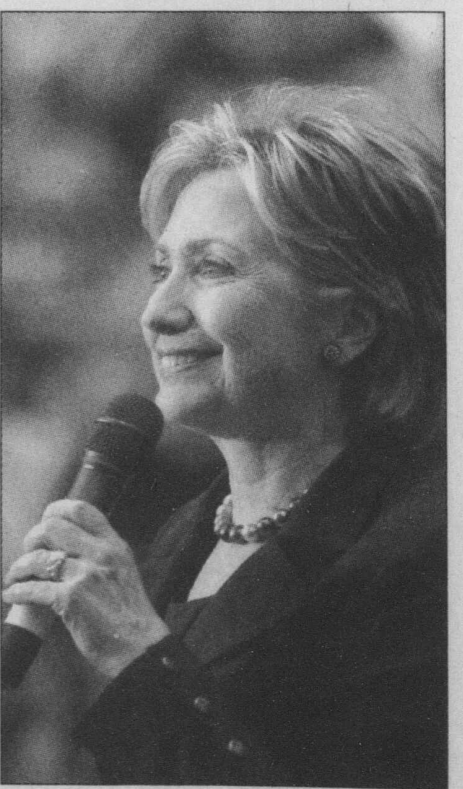
According to the 2007 Economic Report of the President, U.S. manufacturing output reached an all-time high in 2006. Revenue and profits of the manufacturing sector reached all-time highs in 2006 as well, according to the Census Bureau. Most importantly, the average compensation — wages plus benefits — for manufacturing jobs was \$66,414, another all-time high, according to the National Association of Manufacturers.

The expansion of free trade has given American manufacturers new markets in which to sell their goods. Not surprisingly, exports by the manufacturing sector also reached an all-time high in 2006. Would the manufacturing industry be able to export in such great numbers without free trade? The answer is a politically unpopular "no."

Although it's true some manufacturing sectors are failing, the U.S. is still the leading manufacturing country in the world. That's right — we produce more manufactured goods than Germany, Japan and even China. As our technology continues to improve, low-tech industries like the steel industry are replaced by high-tech sectors by which America's technological advantages can be best exploited. We're producing better and more sophisticated goods and selling them at higher prices to our economic partners throughout the world.

The jobs of the 2000s are better than the jobs of the 1980s, which were better than the jobs of the 1960s. I'm confident the jobs of the 2020s and 2040s will see similar improvement, but only if Clinton doesn't get her way.

Corey Sheahan is a columnist for the (University of Wisconsin) Badger Herald.



NASA celebrates 50-year anniversary, but scientific priorities in wrong place

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson on Tuesday repeated the Bush administration canard that Social Security is "financially unsustainable."

COMMENTARY

Sacramento Bee

This falsehood has been endlessly repeated to promote the administration's agenda of privatization — shifting Social Security taxes to private accounts.

This rigid adherence to ideology over pragmatism has resulted in a failure to craft real, bipartisan solutions to Social Security's problems. As a result, the Bush administration will leave legitimate issues of long-term Social Security solvency to the next president.

Social Security's short-term finances are solid. The latest report of Social Security's trustees predicts that Social Security

will be able to pay 100 percent of scheduled benefits for all workers through 2041. The question is what happens after that.

Even under a "do-nothing" scenario, the trustees project that Social Security will be able to cover 78 percent of scheduled benefits after 2041. But to avoid steep benefit cuts three decades from now, Congress and the president will have to do as they have traditionally done — gradually change the retirement age, benefits and payroll taxes.

A fix is achievable, as President Reagan, a Democratic-majority House and a Republican-majority Senate showed in 1983. Robert Ball, a former Social Security commissioner, says that earlier compromise showed "there is a political

center in America that can govern for the benefit of the country even when there are extremely difficult problems to be faced and strongly held differences of opinion about solutions."

That is what has been missing in the Bush era and will have to be revived. The next president should be able to say, as Reagan did in signing Social Security amendments in 1983, that hard-won bipartisan agreement "will allow Social Security to age as gracefully as all of us hope to do ourselves, without becoming an overwhelming burden on generations still to come."

Despite the foot-dragging of the last eight years, that vision remains within reach for 2041 and beyond.

This editorial appeared in the Sacramento Bee.

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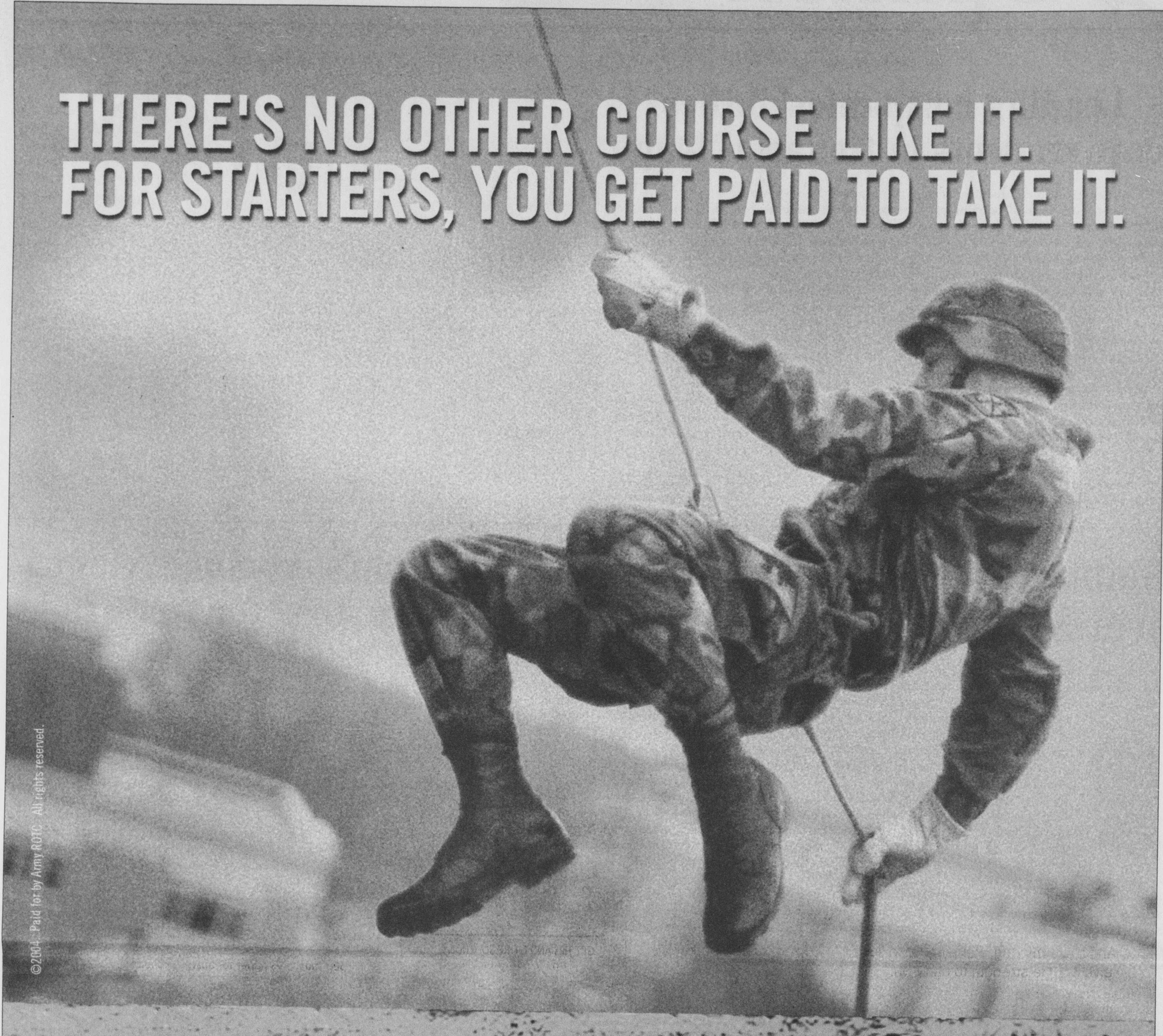
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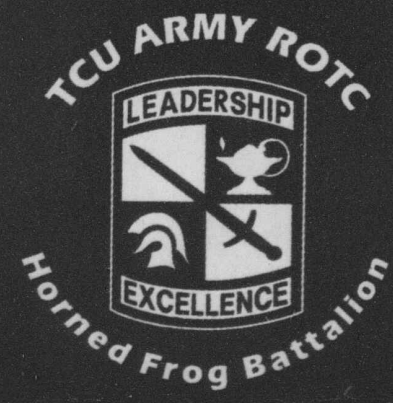
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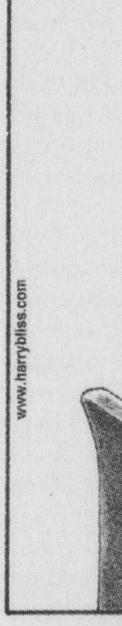
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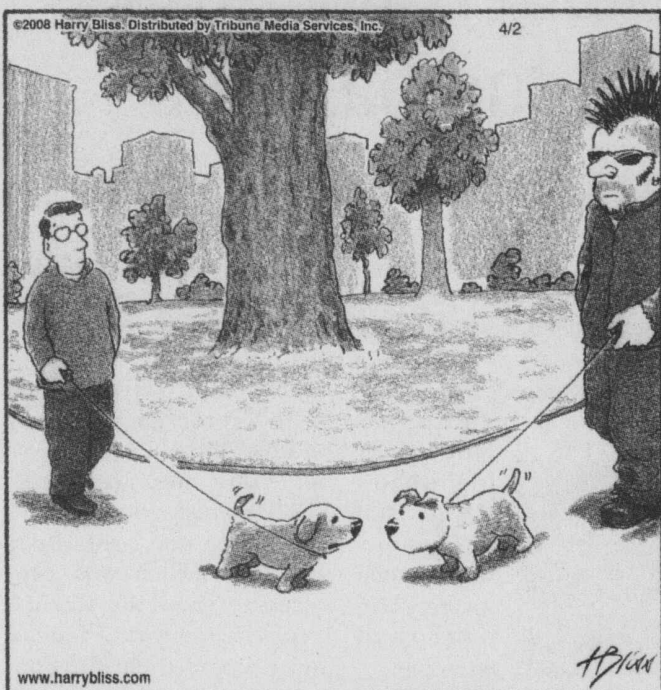
TODAY IN HISTORY
2005: Pope John Paul II dies.

WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

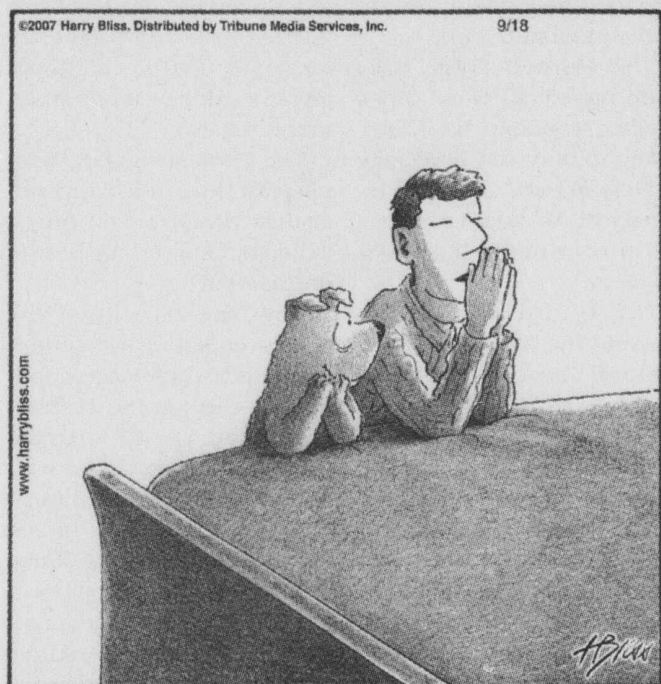
Q: Why do gorillas have big nostrils?
A: They have big fingers.

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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

Tuesday's Solutions

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

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

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ACROSS

1 Colorado resort
6 Tobacco plug
10 Certain mil.
14 Former NYC mayor Abe
15 Molten rock
16 Billy or Jack
17 Seven-time N.L. home run champ
19 Type of type: abbr.
20 Thick-brick link
21 Quite angry
22 "Fiddler on the Roof" village
24 Attacks zealously
26 Mountain ridge
27 Henry James biographer
28 One operating a dragline excavator
32 Shortstop Jeter
34 First man
35 Grads-to-be
36 Where Flo worked
40 Sales channel
43 John's beloved
44 Dressed like a judge
48 QE2, for one
52 Extra-long skirt
53 Specter
54 Singer Flack
56 Singer Brewer
58 Epidermal opening
59 NOW element
60 Writer Kingsley
61 Frisco gridder
64 Decent chap
65 "Star Trek" character
66 Plant swelling
67 Transition point
68 "Back in Black" rockers
69 Clan emblem

DOWN

1 Chafed
2 City near Fort Ord
3 Chitchat
4 Part of HRE
5 Some grape sodas
6 Grisham novel, with "The"
7 Deck worker
8 5th or Park
9 Violent conflicts
10 Composer
11 Shiny fabrics
12 Loud noise
13 Clouseau portrayer
18 Actor/singer
23 John Henry's tool
25 Kind of sch.
29 Element No. 86
30 A mean Amin
31 Scathing review
33 Economist
37 Chat-room laughter letters
38 Hit the slopes
39 Apple choice
40 Kidnap victim
41 Plotted
42 Coming closer

By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	L	A	W	B	O	M	B	C	H	A	R	M	
L	I	R	A	A	R	I	A	O	U	T	E	R	
A	N	T	I	R	A	N	G	N	E	E	D	S	
S	E	E	T	H	E	L	I	G	H	T			
P	U	R	S	E		Y	A	R	D	A	G	E	
S	P	I		A	B	O	T	S	A	I	L	O	N
				E	R	A	S	E	D		N	O	N
G	E	T	T	H	E	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	
M	E	N	U		S	P	E	E	C	H			
A	I	N	O	D	E	S		O	R	C	A	B	I
T	I	E	L	E	X	E	S		L	A	R	G	E
				T	A	K	E	T	H	E			
O	B	E	S	E		A	L	S	O		E	D	I
R	E	R	U	N		T	B	A	R		A	L	T
B	E	R	E	T		E	A	R	N		D	E	E

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

SERVING IT UP



Sophomore Nina Munch-Soegaard rallies against SMU. The No. 1 positioned player for the TCU women's tennis team has been active in the sport since she was 2. Munch-Soegaard is an international player with international roots, possessing a dual citizenship in both the U.S. and Norway.

Young international player leads team

By MEGAN MOWERY
Staff Reporter

Tennis runs in the blood of TCU's No. 1 singles player.

Nina Munch-Soegaard was coached by her father, Jan, a former Norwegian Davis Cup player who played in college at Murray State University in Kentucky.

Nina Munch-Soegaard, who has dual citizenship in the U.S. and Norway, said she has been playing tennis since she was 2 and international tennis for almost 10 years.

As TCU's No. 1 singles player and she has traveled to Europe at least once a year since age 12 to compete on Norway's national junior team. She said she plays in the Federation Cup for Norway and competes in International Tennis Federation events.

Her time at TCU has been acclaimed, as well. She was named Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year in 2006-2007 after an overall singles record of 21-6 and ended her freshman campaign playing at the No. 1 singles position for the Horned Frogs.

Head coach Jefferson Hammond said she showed she could handle the pressure of playing the No. 1 position as a freshman, and said she has improved her game since the end of last season.

"She's definitely more consistent," Hammond said.

Jan Munch-Soegaard said as a child, Nina did not have a choice — she had to go with him to lessons, so she grew up on the tennis courts.

"I could kind of tell when she was 8 or 9 years old that she could compete," her father said.

Nina Munch-Soegaard, who is still in TCU's No. 1 singles position and also plays No. 2 doubles, said she doesn't get nervous playing tough competition and just focuses on her game.

"I just play whoever is on the other side of the net," she said.

Hammond, who attributes some of Nina Munch-Soegaard's success to her father, said Jan Munch-Soegaard understands the pressures that come with playing tennis and has prepared his daughter to play

under pressure.

Hammond said Nina Munch-Soegaard, who was named Player of the Week by the Mountain West on March 6 after knocking off two ranked singles opponents, including No. 11 Melanie Gloria of Fresno State, is easy to coach because she has such a good attitude on and off the court.

Another accolade for the sophomore is the honor of being named Tennis Player of the Year for 2007 by the Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, said the key to tennis is to keep your composure and not worry about a single point.

Nina Munch-Soegaard, a nutrition major who plans to attend nursing school, said she would like to play on the Pro Tour after she finishes school.

Jan Munch-Soegaard said he thinks it's a good idea that Nina Munch-Soegaard wants to play on the Pro Tour and she should have fun with it as long as she can.

"She's shown that she can play with tough players," Jan Munch-Soegaard said.

BRETT'S BREAKDOWN

Conference losses plague ballclub

By BRETT LARSON
Sports editor

In the three full seasons TCU has played in the Mountain West Conference, the baseball team has dominated conference play.

The Horned Frogs finished first in both seasons, outdistancing themselves from the competition while garnering national attention.

The 2008 season has been a different story for TCU, which has struggled in its first two conference series, falling to 2-4 in the Mountain West.

The Horned Frogs have been unable to close series against Mountain West foes, losing to both the University of New Mexico and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas 1-2 after winning the series openers.

TCU is currently in eighth place in the Mountain West, ranking ahead of a winless Air Force squad.

Compare this to the Horned Frogs first two seasons in the Mountain West, in which the Horned Frogs lost a total of eight conference games.

In those two seasons, TCU only lost one conference series to San Diego State in 2006.

So why the early struggles? Why, in the first two series, has the team already passed the series loss total of its first two years?

TCU entered the year with a few admitted questions. Who would provide consistent power and scoring? How would its pitching staff, with almost zero starting experience, stand up? How would

the team respond to its predominantly unknown roster?

Despite the questions, the team was still picked to three-peat as conference champions.

The team has struggled to find consistency, notably because the questions have not exactly been answered.

TCU started its season with a monster non-conference schedule, which was supposed to show the Horned Frogs what they are made of and prepare them for conference play while providing answers to those preseason questions.

They took on Cal State Fullerton, Pepperdine, Ole Miss, Wichita State and Tulane, all teams featured in the Rivals top 25 rankings at one point in the season.

The team struggled, winning just three of its 11 games against these ranked opponents, but it faced the best in preparation.

Now, the majority of the team's remaining schedule is made up of conference opponents — teams the Horned Frogs had yet to struggle against entering the season but now find unable to beat.

Could the conference be getting stronger? San Diego State was ranked in the top 25 at one point, but that's no tangible sign of a conference surge.

TCU still has 18 conference games left to play. Even if the team wins them all, its record won't equal last year's.

It all comes down to the Horned Frogs figuring out their problems. The season is not over — just take the sports adage of one game at a time, and maybe a third year as champs isn't too much to ask for.



Brett Larson

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lobo coach signs contract extension for three years with no pay increase

By STEVEN FERNANDEZ
(U. New Mexico) Daily Lobo

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Lobo head basketball coach Steve Alford signed a three-year contract extension, athletics director Paul Krebs announced Monday.

The contract keeps Alford signed through the 2015-16 season. There is no pay raise, and Alford will continue to make about \$975,000 per year.

Like the original contract, there is no buyout clause in the extension.

However, there is an economic penalty. If Alford were to leave UNM, he would have to pay \$100,000 per year until his contract expires, Krebs said.

Alford said the extension is a sign of commitment and that UNM is where he wants to be.

"I very much enjoy the University of New Mexico," he said. "I very much enjoy the Albuquerque, New Mexico area. I want to build something, along with my great staff and the players that we have coming in and the players that are returning — I want to build something special here."

The contract was signed amid rumors that Alford could be a candidate for the vacant head coaching job at Indiana, his alma mater.

Kelvin Sampson resigned as Hoosiers head coach earlier this season after violating NCAA recruiting policy. Alford won a national championship under head coach Bob Knight in 1987.

Knight's son, Pat, endorsed Alford as the best candidate for the Indiana job, and newspapers and Web sites have rumored that Alford might leave UNM for Indiana.

However, Alford said he has not been contacted by Indiana and doesn't plan on taking the job.

"It's not happened," he said. "That's not something that I'm even looking at or entertaining."

Alford said it is frustrating that rumors about him leaving to Indiana pop up every time there is a coaching vacancy.

He said he has fond memories of playing in his hometown of Bloomington, Ind., but the speculation does damage by worrying fans and recruits.

As for the specifics of his contract, Alford said he's not in favor of buyouts and has never had one in his 17 seasons as a head coach.

Krebs said the contract extension speaks for itself and shows the loyalty of Alford and the university.

"None of us know what the future holds, but we're very excited about the leadership that coach Alford and his staff have brought to our program," he said. "The speculation — I understand why that's there. I don't necessarily agree with it. There'll be speculation until the end of time on who's going where and when."

Alford said he is excited about building a program and continuing off a successful first season. In 2007-08, the Lobos tied a school record with 24 regular-season wins and eight road victories.

Prior to Alford, UNM had a total of eight road wins in the previous five years.

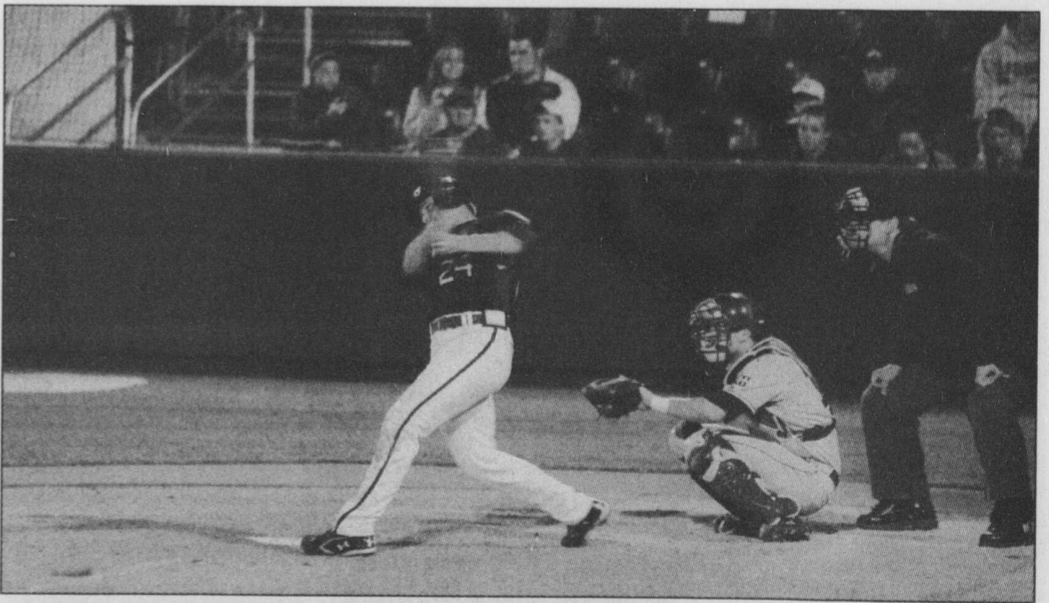
The coach talked about his excitement for UNM's future, with renovations to The Pit and quality players he hopes to bring in.

For now, Alford said he wants the contract extension to end speculation of him leaving to another school.

"I don't want to have to deal with that," he said. "I want our players to know where I'm at, and I want our fan base to know where we're at. I'm wearing Lobo red, and I really enjoy that."

BASEBALL

Squad scores in eighth for win



ANNIE COOPER



The Horned Frogs broke their two-game losing streak with a win over the Baylor Bears on Tuesday. The eighth inning proved to be the deciding inning in the game. The Bears tied the game with a run in the top half, and a double in the bottom of the eighth gave TCU the lead and the win.

Above: Junior outfielder Chris Ellington swings against the Bears' relief pitcher Craig Fritsch.

Left: Head coach Jim Schlossnagle has a conference on the mound in the middle innings.

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