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NEWS
Amon Carter Stadium has a date set for completion of its renovation project.
TOMORROW



OPINION
Guns against guns isn't protection, especially on college campuses.
PAGE 3



SPORTS
The men's tennis team faces SMU for its regular-season finale.
PAGE 8

TCU

DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008
Vol. 105 Issue 103 www.dailyskiff.com

Dean: Ongoing gender gap matches national trend

By JULIETA CHIQUILLO
Staff Reporter

Admissions data for this year reveal small gains in the number of applications and selectivity but a stagnant gender gap, the dean of admissions said.

The number of students who applied for admission at TCU inched up about 3 percent from

last year for a total of 12,016 applications in 2008, according to admissions data. The acceptance rate, or the percentage of students offered admission, rose from about 46 percent to about 47 percent in the same period.

Ray Brown, dean of admissions, said he expects the

female-to-male percentage ratio for the incoming freshman class to remain fixed at about 58-42, reflecting a trend in colleges and universities nationwide.

"Every year I have hopes that we'll be able to crack through, but it simply hasn't happened yet," he said.

The national female-to-male

ratio in colleges and universities, including graduate students, is about 57-43, according to 2005 U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

"Nobody I've ever heard talk on the subject can offer a satisfactory explanation — it's just happening," Brown said.

One reason may be that an increasing number of men

seem to be attracted to blue-collar employment, such as construction or the Internet-based industry, which do not require a college degree, Brown said. Men are abdicating their roles as leaders while women are stepping up the competition not only at school but also in the workplace, he said.

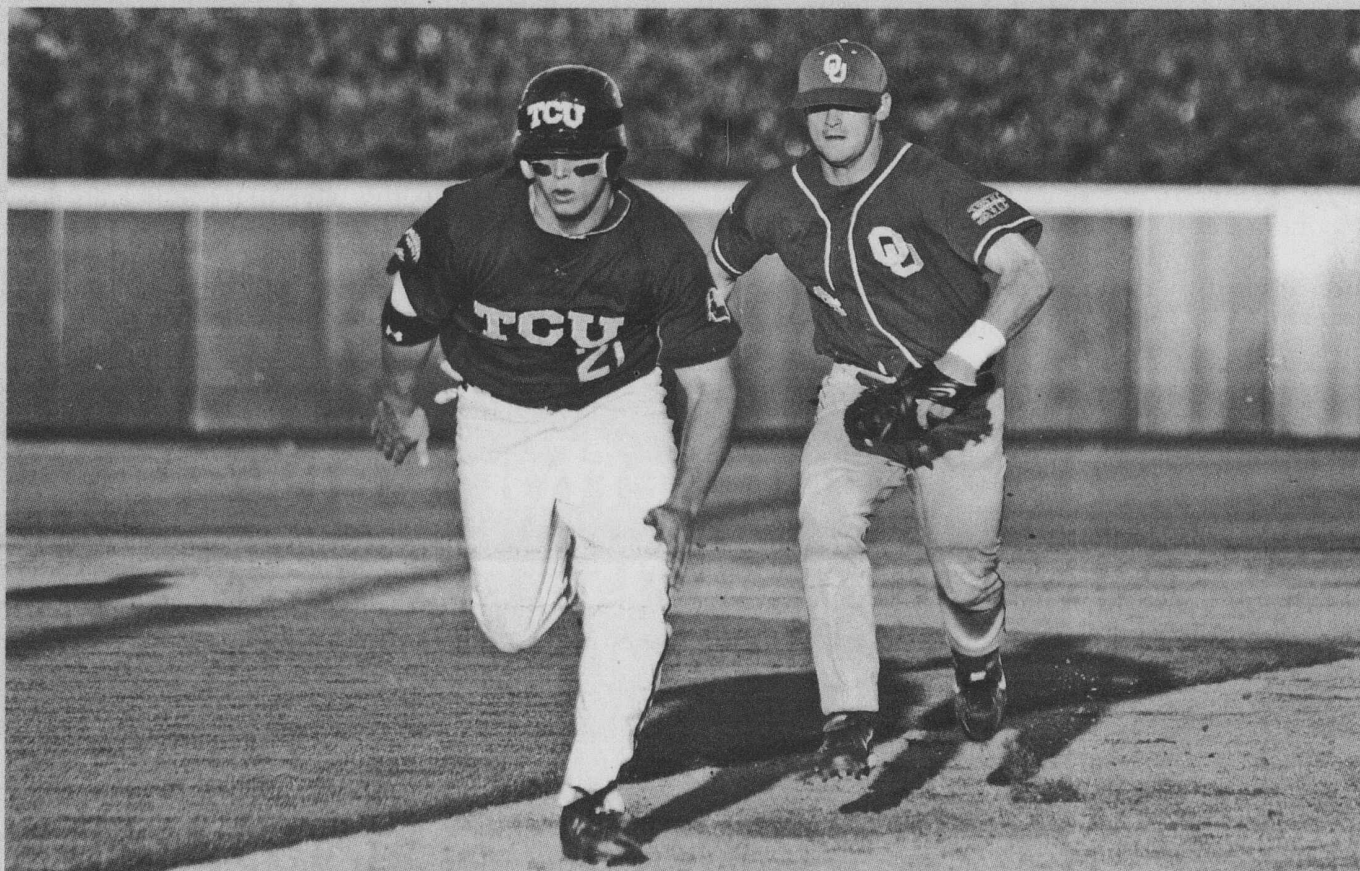
Brown said one of the social ramifications of the college gender gap is that women will graduate into a world with fewer similarly educated men. Recruitment efforts to attract more male students have not reduced the gender gap, he said.

Elizabeth Perkins, director

See **GAP**, page 2

BASEBALL

SOONER LATER



Junior first-baseman Matt Vern runs to avoid a pick-off attempt, but is unsuccessful and tagged out. The Horned Frogs scored three runs in the ninth inning to tie the game against the University of Oklahoma and send it into extra innings. The Sooners scored one in the 12th and TCU did not respond, falling 5-4.

PAIGE MCARDLE / Staff Designer

Horned Frogs lose to OU in extra innings

By JOSH DAVIS
Staff Writer

It took a 12-inning effort from the University of Oklahoma to finally beat the Horned Frogs negating a three-run, ninth-inning rally from TCU.

"It was just one of those nights where it didn't go our way," sophomore catcher Bryan Holaday said. "I

mean, we've won nine straight, but this one was tough to swallow."

Redshirt junior Seth Garrison had another strong midweek start, lasting until the seventh inning and throwing more than 100 pitches. He held the Sooners scoreless through six. Oklahoma starter Ryan Duke, who attended high

school with Garrison in Corpus Christi, had a strong start as well.

The Horned Frogs finally broke up the pitchers' duel in the fifth when Ben Caruthers flied out to score junior first-baseman Matt Vern and looked to increase their lead as Duke was replaced in the sixth.

Garrett Richards came in

for relief and after a ground out, loaded the bases on two singles and a wild pitch hit Matt Carpenter. With two outs, Vern stepped up to the plate and was struck out as Richards found his mark.

Oklahoma finally found their game in the seventh. The Sooners rallied in the

See **BASEBALL**, page 2

Governor to visit amid stir over book

By PATTY ESPINOSA
Staff Reporter

Gov. Rick Perry's new book tour, which has stirred mixed reactions, is making a stop at the TCU Bookstore on Thursday for a book signing.

Perry's book, "On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For," is centered on the Boy Scouts of America program's criteria of having a "duty to God" and supporting the intolerance of homosexuality with a vow to stay "morally straight." According to a synopsis inside the book's jacket, Scouts have been berated by liberals who oppose those Boy Scout standards.

Despite the controversial issues the book addresses, Andrea McCormick, a bookstore manager, said she expects to see about 200 people at the event.

Although many Scouts have shown a positive reaction toward the book's publication, as McCormick mentioned, others have expressed negative feelings.

The Scouts do not need any more attention about the negative issues the organization has faced, said Drew Wilson, an Eagle Scout at TCU.

Perry is "dragging Scouts through the mud" by blowing the controversial issues out of proportion, Wilson said.

Taylor Witt, event coordinator, said unlike some other book signings, he expects the event to remain under control and without controversy.

Perry's office did not return phone calls seeking comment.

The bookstore has 225 copies of the book in stock along with

FOR YOUR INFO
Bookstore signing
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday
Where: TCU Bookstore

book paraphernalia available for the public to purchase and have Perry sign, Witt said.

McCormick said the bookstore has sold about 100 books so far, but said many would wait until Thursday to purchase a copy of the book.

When Perry's book was released in February, Barnes & Noble College Booksellers contacted Perry's office to set up a book signing specifically for TCU, Witt said.

The book focuses on the values of Scouting in America and the right to assemble, McCormick said.

Perry uses his experience as an Eagle Scout as well as the 2000 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, to explain the importance of Scouting values and the right to remain a private organization. He invites other political figures such as Defense Secretary Robert Gates and astronaut James Lovell to share their views as well.

"The U.S. would be a better country if everyone lived by the principles the Boy Scouts of America have established," says Ross Perot, former independent presidential candidate and author of the book's foreword.

The book signing is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the bookstore's upstairs reading room.

Surveys find faith, values may play role in November election

By SHANNON BLEASE
Staff Reporter

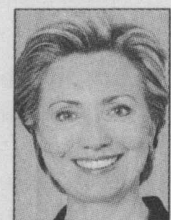
Arizona Sen. John McCain has essentially sealed the GOP nomination, but the Democratic contest between Sens. Hillary Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois continues, and faith could play a role in who occupies the White House come November.

A Zogby poll conducted Jan. 25 to 27 of 1,008 likely voters found that 54 percent of those questioned want a president who mirrors biblical ideals of leadership, such as truthfulness, integrity and belief in God.

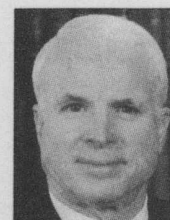
In 2004, a Fox survey con-

ducted on the eve of the presidential election found the most important issues among 2004 voters were moral values (25 percent), compared with the Iraq War (22 percent), terrorism (17 percent) and the economy (16 percent).

In 2008, 38 percent of Americans said social and moral issues will sway their decision on which candidate to vote for, according to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life poll. Meanwhile 78 percent of Americans in the poll said domestic issues such as the economy, health care and the environment will sway their decisions.



CLINTON



MCCAIN



OBAMA

Claudia Camp, a religion professor, said the candidates in both parties appear to be working from a moral or religious foundation to seem more cordial and open to spiritual issues.

Michael Dodson, a political science professor, said he feels the presidential candidates try to reassure the evangelical

right that they are authentically Christian — they talk the talk and walk the walk — to appeal to a significant element represented by each party.

But there are many ways to discuss the religiosity of candidates, said Jim Riddlesperger, a political science professor.

"Their religions, church affiliations, church attendance patterns and theologies are all different, but to say some are more religious than others

would be a misnomer," Riddlesperger said of the presidential candidates.

There is no question that the rhetoric of Obama's former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, has made Obama's religion an issue for the moment, Riddlesperger said.

Wright said during a sermon in 2003 that blacks should not sing "God Bless America" but "God damn America." Additionally, the Sunday after Sept. 11 he said the U.S. had brought on al Qaeda's attacks because of its own terrorism, raising the question of whether his statements reflect Obama's beliefs.

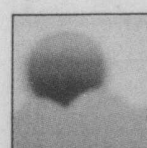
In a campaign appearance in March, Obama said he doesn't think his church is actually controversial.

Riddlesperger said sometimes these controversies spike immediately and have minimal long-term impact.

"My guess is that this will not have long-term effects as long as nothing else happens; however, issues such as this can take on a life of their own and seemingly never disappear," Riddlesperger said.

Obama told Religion and Ethics Newsweekly he believed and still believes in the power of the

See **RELIGION**, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: Partly cloudy/windy, 78/60
THURSDAY: Scattered storms, 75/45
FRIDAY: Sunny, 74/50

PECULIAR FACT

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — A computer programmer proposed to his girlfriend by reprogramming her video game so a proposal would appear on screen.
— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Voting trends expected to continue, page 6
OPINION: Candidates should make airlines an issue, page 3
SPORTS: Spring sports full of ups and downs, page 8

CONTACT US

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

GAP

From page 1

of admission marketing and communication, said the admissions office is actively pursuing higher male enrollment through upcoming marketing campaigns. She said admissions marketing aims to attract more men by making technology a theme in the university's recruitment material because that is an angle that appeals to that demographic.

Perkins said research indicates that college-bound men prefer publications with pictures of male college students in activities they can identify with because it helps them see themselves at that university. She said more pictures of male students will be included in recruitment publications in light of these findings. The admissions office also collects information about students from their application and sends admitted students personalized brochures tailored after their interests, she said.

Even though the gender gap remains constant, minority applications expanded once again, totaling 4,156 in a 7 percent increase from last year, according to admissions data. Out of the minority groups, blacks had the largest increase in applications, up about 10 percent from last year.

Brown said the boost in minority applications is related to outreach programs geared toward those groups, such as Black Senior Weekend, a pilot recruitment pro-

FOR YOUR INFO
Admissions stats

Total applications
2007 - 11,683
2008 - 12,016
Students accepted
2007 - 5,387
2008 - 5,672
Percent accepted
2007 - 46.1 percent
2008 - 47.2 percent
Students who paid deposits as of April 8
2007 - 791
2008 - 786

SOURCE: Admissions Report

gram this semester.

International applications rose about 5 percent from last year, from 328 to 343, according to admissions data.

Brown said the university also seeks to increase out-of-state enrollment. He said the admissions office has deployed three regional representatives in California, Illinois and Houston, where interest in TCU is high and alumni presence is significant.

Victoria Herrera, regional director of admission for Houston, said she is able to give personal attention to an area with an increasing interest in the university. She said alumni play an important role in recruitment.

"They're very good advocates for us," she said.

Brown said 786 students had committed to the university as of April 8, which he said was what the admissions office expects by that date.

RELIGION

From page 1

black religious tradition to spur social change.

"I understand the biblical call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and to challenge powers and principalities for freedom and the rights of man," he said.

Like Obama, each of the remaining candidates considers himself or herself religious and has addressed the issue of religion and moral issues while campaigning.

Clinton has said she has had a strong faith from an early age.

"My faith has sustained me, it has informed me, it has saved me, it has chided me, it has challenged me and I don't know who I would be or where I would be had I not been given this gift," Clinton told the Christian Broadcast Network in February.

BASEBALL

From page 1

seventh as Casey Johnson and Trey Sperring provided two RBIs to give Oklahoma a 2-1 lead. The TCU offense sputtered in the eighth as Holaday grounded into a double and Carpenter grounded out to end the inning.

Oklahoma's offense would strike again for two runs in the ninth, as they built up a 4-1 lead and left it up to the Frogs to show some more late-inning magic. Two of TCU's weekend games against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas were decided in the ninth or later.

McCain has said America was founded primarily on Christian principles and that he would prefer a president who shares that faith.

"That is my religious faith, and it is the faith I want my party to serve, and the faith I hold in my country," McCain told CNN in an interview in February. "It is the faith that we are all equal and endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is the faith I would die to defend."

Dodson said appearing to be authentically Christian will become more meaningful for McCain's campaign, since Mike Huckabee, the ex-Baptist pastor, and Mitt Romney, the first Mormon candidate, are no longer in the race.

Adam Schiffer, an assistant political science professor, said whatever candidates say about their religion, pollsters don't

know what will and will not sway votes.

"For example, if a Republican is strongly pro-life, strongly in favor of tax cuts for the wealthy and approves of the Iraq War, there's no way we can distinguish which of those issues is most important for him or her," Schiffer said.

Riddlesperger said the economy is almost always the most important issue because politicians benefit from a good economy and are hurt by the perception of a bad one.

"It is other issues like religion and health care that historically take a back seat to the economy," Riddlesperger said.

Nonetheless, candidates are still addressing moral issues.

"Justice for the poor, hospitality to the stranger, immigration, peace in the world, troop reduction, are some of the moral issues featured in the Bible and Quran that the candidates

are addressing," said Jack Hill, associate professor of religion.

Dodson said only religious right voters equate morality with being religious and would vote for a candidate first and foremost on the perception that he or she was religious.

Hill said candidates' personal moral codes can influence their political positions and voters look for a candidate whose framework is closer to theirs.

Similarly, Schiffer said he believes choosing a candidate has nothing to do with religious preference, but instead with a person's moral beliefs.

"Whether it's raising some people's taxes while lowering others', giving economic incentives while discouraging others, or raising inflation, which can cause unemployment, the policies are all moral in nature, and are being addressed by each candidate in this election," Schiffer said.

"The rally was something we really needed, and all year we've been competing in late innings," Holaday said. "We just weren't going to give up."

Hunt Woodruff led off in the bottom of the ninth with a double, and Vern filled in behind him after a walk. After a single from Carruthers, the bases were loaded with the Frogs still down three.

Bryan Kervin singled to bring Woodruff home, and Chris Ellington added an RBI single of his own to make the score 4-3 Sooners. Jimmie Pharr stepped up to plate with the game on the line. One sacrifice fly later, the game was

evened up 4-4.

Holaday lined out down the first base line to end the inning and send the game to 10, as junior reliever Andrew Cashner took the mound searching for his eighth victory on the year.

Cashner responded by striking out the side and then repeated the feat when called on in the 11th, at times hitting 97 mph on his fastball. Meanwhile, the offense continued to struggle to get anything going in the late innings.

The Sooners opened the 12th loading the bases for catcher J.T. Wise, who flied out to right field scoring Tyson Seng and bringing the score

to 5-4 Oklahoma. The Horned Frogs escaped without further damage, but the one-run gap was enough.

"I gave everything I had tonight," Cashner said. "I just couldn't make the pitches when I needed to."

The offense couldn't answer in the 12th, and TCU's nine-game streak was snapped. This weekend they face BYU in Provo.

"We love going up there and playing," Woodruff said. "They have great fans, a great atmosphere and a great ballpark and it's one of our favorite places to go up and play. Hopefully we can go up and beat those guys."



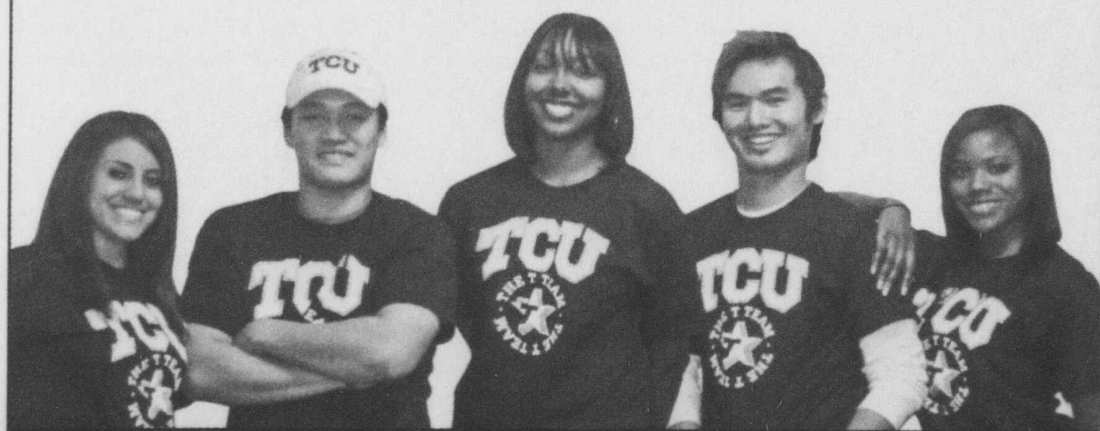
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The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schieffer School of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Publications Committee, composed of representatives from the student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published Tuesday through Friday during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays. The Skiff is a member of the Associated Press.

Circulation: 6,000
Subscriptions: Call 257-4274. Rates are \$30 per semester.
Location: Moody Building South, Room 251,
2805 S. University Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109
On-campus distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus, limit one per person. Additional copies are \$5.00 and are available at the Skiff office.

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Issue

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COMMENTARY



Andrew Young

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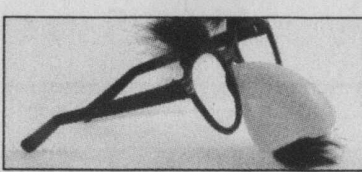
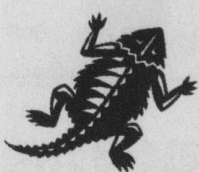
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"My mother loved children — she would have given anything if I had been one."
— Groucho Marx

THE SKIFF VIEW

Issues, not faith should decide vote

N owadays it seems hard enough to get people to vote, but does voting actually help when the only thing people are looking at is what religious preference each candidate chooses?

A January Zogby poll stated that 54 percent of voters want a president who mirrors biblical ideals of leadership, such as truthfulness, integrity and belief in God.

Some people might be relying too much on faith to carry the presidential candidates as opposed to what their platforms actually provide for America.

Although it is important to be able to relate to the person who is chosen to lead, religion cannot lead a country by itself.

At this point in time it seems that we need a president who will provide the people with solutions on the best way help the economy or provide solutions on

what can be done with the war in Iraq. Bringing religious aspects into the campaign is just an easy way candidates try to relate to the people to get votes, and sadly enough, it works.

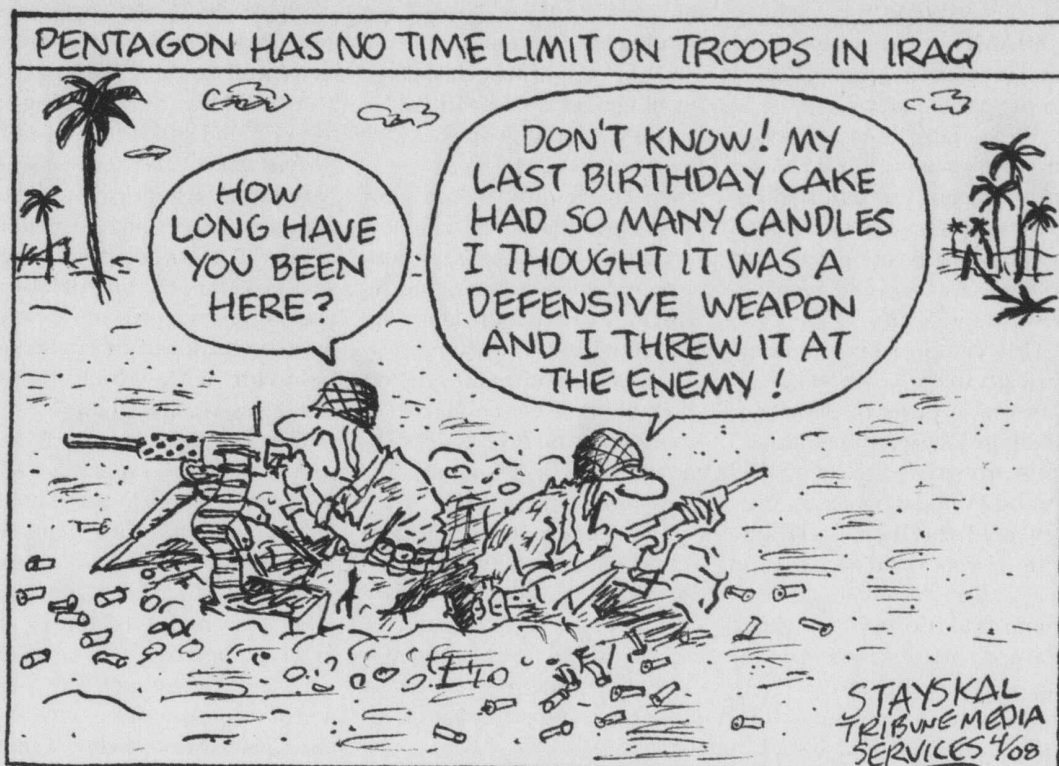
Candidates from both parties want people to believe that they are very religious and that every decision they will make while in the White House will be based off of faith.

But before people vote they should consider who they want waking up to answer a phone call at 4 a.m. and making a life-changing decision in less than a minute that could affect the whole world.

Instead of basing a vote on which candidates were seen in the news walking out of church, people should actually stop and listen to the candidates, because faith cannot change everything.

Features editor Jordan Haygood for the editorial board.

BY WAYNE STAYSKAL



Carrying guns on campus won't solve school shootings

It would be much like the Wild West — students coming and going from class packing .44-caliber Magnums and .38-caliber Specials.

There would be nothing preventing accidental shootings, and security on campus would be completely compromised. Despite these facts,

COMMENTARY



Andrew Young

there is a group of students across the nation that is lobbying for students over the age of 21 with a gun license to be able to carry concealed weapons onto their college campuses.

When I saw the headline article revealing this movement on CNN's Web site, I was immediately taken back. In the article, Michael Flitcraft, a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati and leading advocate and organizer of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, espoused his belief that it is the right of students who can legally carry weapons off campus to be able to protect themselves on campus as well.

"Would you rather just sit there and cower underneath a desk when someone executes you or would you rather have a chance to defend your life? That's what it really boils down to," Flitcraft said in the article. According to the article, the group has been picking up steam around the nation, along with legislators in at least nine out of 50 states considering laws that would make it legal for students to carry guns onto campus.

Utah is the only state that allows guns on the campuses of all public universities. Colorado also allows students to carry guns, except at the main university in Boulder. So the idea that legislation could eventually be passed allowing this to happen is not too far off base.

The question ultimately becomes whether allowing students to bring loaded weapons with the intent to kill those they perceive as being a threat to their safety on campus is the only way to prevent school shootings. The article quoted Gene Ferrara, the police chief at the University of Cincinnati where Flitcraft goes to school, say-

ing that the key to protecting yourself from a school shooting is by focusing on preventing the shooting in the first place.

"I don't think the answer to bullets flying is to send more bullets flying," Ferrara said in the article.

According to the article, since the 1966 Texas Tower shootings at the University of Texas, there have been a dozen shootings on college campuses and universities. Despite the fact that it has been almost 42 years since the original UT shooting, this number seems very high, especially when considering that many of them have occurred in the past decade or so.

School shootings are one of the most terrifying things that could happen for most college students. The threat is real, and students need to be more aware of what is going on around them, but that doesn't mean students should be allowed to bring guns to campus. Ferrara said in the article that the best way to prevent a school shooting is by providing students a safe and anonymous way to report suspicious

actions they see on campus.

"All of the research shows someone knew before the shooting started that the shooting was going to happen," Ferrara said in the article.

Students need to become more alert and more willing to report behavior they find suspicious. The idea that someone else will catch it or deal with it is what gets campuses into serious situations, such as school shootings. Flitcraft and his group are planning a protest later this month where they will wear empty holsters to class.

Quite frankly, this is more terrifying than helpful. As a student, the last thing I want to see on campus is even the hint that someone might have a gun. There's nothing that could prevent someone carrying a gun for protection from killing someone innocent. Any student knows that school can get pretty tense near the end of the semester; the last thing any college campus needs is a bunch of students running around with guns with the

stress of finals on their shoulders. Just because someone carries a gun in self defense doesn't mean he or she is any less capable of losing control of his or her emotions and turning that gun on someone

innocent. Be reasonable; if you see something suspicious on campus, tell someone you know will take care of the situation. Take the initiative to protect yourself by using common sense.

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

Candidates need to take on airline reform

The word "turbulence" doesn't quite do justice to the current state of the airlines.

"Crash landing" is closer to the truth.

COMMENTARY

Ellis Henican

When a single airline, American, is forced to cancel 3,000 flights it's more than inconvenience. It rattles a crucial industry to the core.

For years, we've all complained about the assorted unpleasanties of flying.

To be fair, though, it isn't all the industry's fault.

Sky-high fuel prices. Rising labor costs and airport fees. Competitive pressure to keep fares down. Not long ago, I had the executive of a major airline unload on me when I used the phrase "brand loyalty."

"People who spend \$300 on a hotel room without a second thought will sit for hours on the Internet, shav-

ing \$20 off the flight," he exploded.

Airline people have a snappy answer whenever they get asked: When did the industry's tough times begin? The day Orville and Wilbur achieved altitude.

I get that, even though I don't like it as a flier. But here's what I don't understand: Why haven't any of the presidential candidates made this issue theirs?

Deregulation, regulation, a real passenger's bill of rights. Anything has to be better than this.

It's an 80 percent issue, an easy 5 in the polls, nothing but clear skies ahead, no real downside between here and Election Day.

Candidates, are you listening? Which one of you is ready to fly?

Ellis Henican is a columnist for Newsday. This column was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

Changes in Colombia should be recognized

By refusing to allow a vote on a free-trade agreement with Colombia, Democratic leaders in the House have come down on the wrong side of the struggle to promote liberty in the Americas.

Under pressure from organized labor, the Democratic majority in the U.S. House voted last week to postpone indefinitely a vote on the agreement, even though President Bush had requested a vote within 90 days under existing U.S. trade law.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi dismissed the vote in a statement: "Despite progress made by President (Alvaro) Uribe, Colombia remains a dangerous place to be a labor activist, and for those who commit these acts of violence, there is little threat of prosecution or punishment. Sustained progress on the ground remains a prerequisite for our support." The stance of House leaders is an insult to the people of Colombia.

Since taking office in 2002, Uribe has made heroic progress in stemming violence. His government has boosted the police presence in every major city and region of the country. More than 30,000 paramilitary fighters have returned to civilian life. Through more aggressive policing, prosecution of murderers and military action against insurgents, the lev-

el of violence has dropped dramatically. Since 2002, homicides have declined by 40 percent, kidnappings by 82 percent and terrorist attacks by 77 percent.

Beefed-up government action has reduced the killings of trade union members by almost 90 percent. The Colombian Justice Ministry recently reported that such killings declined to 23 in 2007, from a peak of nearly 200 in 2002. Union members in Colombia are actually now safer than non-unionized citizens. Last year, the general murder rate in Colombia was eight times higher than the murder rate among the country's 831,000 unionists.

The U.S.-Colombia FTA would strengthen our ties to a democratically elected ally in our own back yard. It would eliminate almost all tariffs on trade between our countries. More than 80 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial products exported to Colombia would become duty free on enactment, and remaining tariffs would be phased out over the next 10 years.

On the foreign-policy front, Uribe has been a bulwark against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his plans to spread anti-American and anti-democratic socialism in Latin America. Rejecting the agreement would jeopardize our relationship with Colombia and undermine

Uribe's credibility in the region.

The people of Colombia certainly recognize the progress that has been made. Security and hope have also boosted Colombia's economy. Economic growth has reached its highest level in several years, reducing unemployment and attracting record amounts of foreign investment.

To appease one of the party's core constituencies, Democratic leaders would punish the people of Colombia for the failings of previous governments. They have set a vague and impossibly high standard designed to thwart any fair consideration of the U.S.-Colombia trade agreement.

Uribe's actions since taking office and the dramatic results he has shown should demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt his commitment to freedom, security and democracy in Colombia. If the Democratic Congress rejects this worthwhile agreement, and Colombia slips back toward drug-fueled anarchy, it will bear much of the blame.

For the sake of a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic hemisphere, Congress should vote on and approve this important trade agreement.

Daniel Griswold is director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the Cato Institute. This essay was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune.

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Shunned, sexual predators find home under Florida bridge

By NICHOLAS SPANGLER
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — The bridge overhead is so close there isn't room for a man to stand.

All the neighbors are felons and everyone lives in Wal-Mart tents, except the oldest man, who is 82. He lives in a shack.

There's no running water, no sewer system and one gasoline-powered generator.

This camp of sex offenders beneath the Julia Tuttle Causeway made news in February, when the Department of Corrections probation officers arrived and began passing out notices that said the men — largely barred by local ordinances from living almost anywhere else in Miami-Dade County — might be charged with trespassing if they stayed under the bridge.

The notices appeared to foretell a full-scale eviction. But two months later, the Florida Department of Transportation, which manages the land, is not pursuing charges. Many of the men haven't moved and say they won't.

And while no one would mistake this camp for a home, there are signs of permanence: a weight bench; a pair of composting toilets; a television.

The view of the downtown Miami skyline is fabulous, if you look past the pile of rusted empties. The air smells of old beer and dust and the roast chicken from dinner. Electric lanterns glow through tent walls. A TV is tuned to the news. Salsa blares on a radio until early, early morning, and when it stops there is only the rushing wharf of cars clicking over the seams of the bridge overhead.

That never, ever stops.

Curfew for most men is 10 p.m. If the electronic tracking

device each wears shows he's not back by then, he can get sent back to prison.

So the men drift back at dusk, hitching rides with girlfriends or walking the highway shoulder from the mainland.

On this night, an old man — el viejo, the others call him — shuffled down the steep concrete embankment, gripping the wire mesh fence for balance. He is Manuel Perea, sentenced to 10 years' probation for groping three children in the neighborhood where he used to live. He did not want to talk about this, and besides, he is deaf.

Patrick Wiese started the generator. Wiese — first profiled in a 2007 Miami New Times story — is 46, served 18 months for molesting his 9-year-old stepdaughter, something he did at least three times but says he regrets.

It costs a couple hundred dollars to fuel the generator each week, Wiese said, and the men pool their money. It powers the

"There is a small proportion of sex offenders who are highly compulsive and dangerous and likely to reoffend. The majority do not fall into that category."

Jill Levenson
sex-crimes policy analyst

three fluorescent lights hanging from the bridge overhead, the television he watches at night, everyone's cellphone chargers. More importantly, it powers the chargers for the tracking devices. Another way a man can get sent back to prison is by letting

his device run down.

There are 2,050 registered sex offenders and predators in Miami-Dade and another 1,252 in Broward, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Web site. (The "predator" category includes felons whose crimes — usually related to kidnapping, rape, sexual battery or child prostitution — are deemed more serious than the lewd and lascivious behavior with which many offenders are charged.)

Two hundred forty-five are said to have "absconded," meaning FDLE cannot locate them.

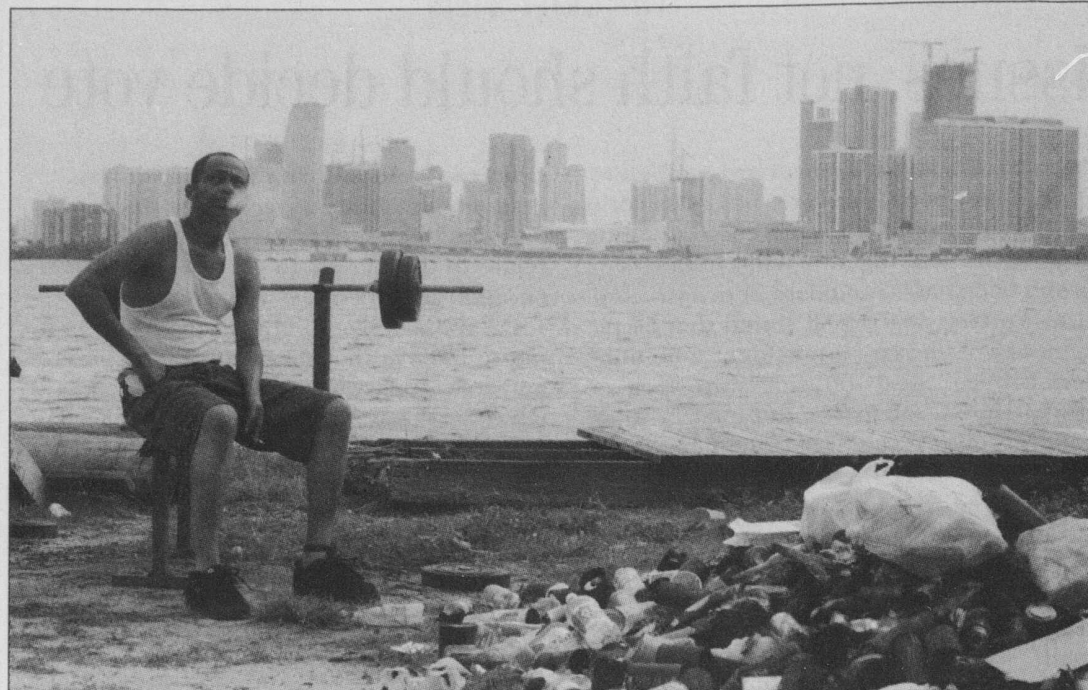
And, over the last year, at least 32 have called the camp under the Julia Tuttle Causeway their "permanent residence," in FDLE parlance.

Several of the men say they were told to come here by their probation officers. Court records for one man back that up, though Gretl K. Plessinger, spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections, wrote in an e-mail to The Miami Herald that "it has never been a policy of the Department to tell offenders where to live."

Others came because they couldn't find anywhere else to legally live in Miami-Dade.

Most of the county has been off-limits since 2005. That's when the rape and murder of Florida third-grader Jessica Lunsford prompted many municipalities to bar sex offenders whose victims are minors from moving within 2,500 feet (almost half a mile) of a school, daycare center, park or playground, extending the 1,000-foot zone already in existence in state statute.

Miami Beach was one of the first to pass the ban. One hundred twenty-five more Florida municipalities passed similar



Jeremiah Williams sits on a weight bench in March as the sun sets in Miami, where he shares living space with other sex offenders.

laws. The patchwork of overlapping no-go zones excludes most of the county except for parts of Pinecrest, Medley and unincorporated land to the far west.

Residency restrictions in Broward are having a similar effect.

Bills now under consideration in the state Legislature would repeal municipal residential restrictions and extend the statewide residential exclusion zone to 1,500 feet, while strengthening penalties against certain offenders for loitering or prowling within 600 feet of children's gathering places. The bills would also make it legal to rearrest an offender for not securing an acceptable address before leaving prison.

It's not easy to find places besides their own family homes that will accept sex offenders, even if it were legal to do so.

"I looked at halfway houses,

drug treatment centers, religious places," Wiese said. "They don't allow us in there."

It's not clear that residency restrictions make children safer; they may even have the opposite effect, says Jill Levenson, a sex-crimes policy analyst and assistant professor of human services at Lynn University, in Boca Raton. "There does not appear to be a relationship between proximity and recidivism. ... Housing instability is a risk factor for criminal recidivism."

It's not even clear that released sex offenders present a greater risk to communities than other released felons. According to a 2003 Bureau of Justice Statistics study, 5 percent of sex offenders were rearrested on another sex crime charge within three years of release, but they were less likely to be rearrested than other felons, and less likely to be rearrested for a felony.

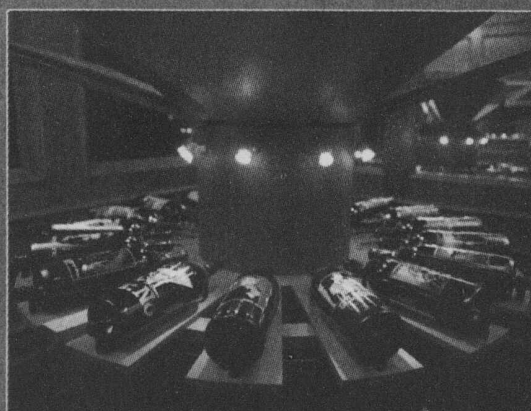
"There is a small proportion of sex offenders who are highly compulsive and dangerous and likely to reoffend," Levenson says. "The majority do not fall into that category."

Levenson argues for a more nuanced approach to risk assessment than the current offender/predator classification system. "A better strategy for public safety would involve ... tailoring restrictions to be pertinent to offense patterns," she suggests.

The Florida Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has taken an interest in the men under the bridge.

"They need to be in a safe, sane environment where they're at the lowest risk of having additional problems and reoffending in the future," said Jeanne Baker, president of the Florida ACLU. They have "all of those same rights that you or I have."

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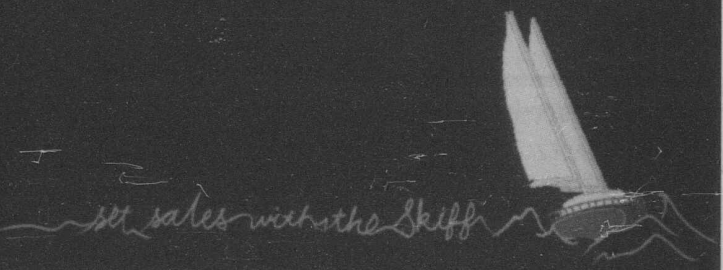


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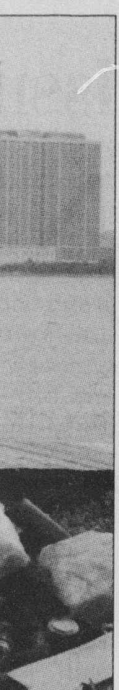
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Who is Natalie Haines?

page 8



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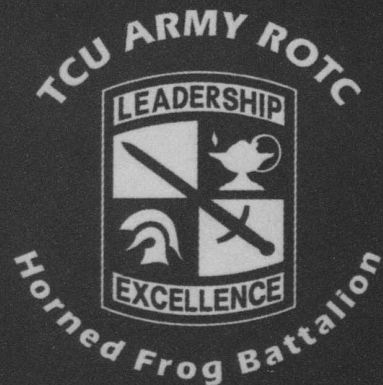
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New voter trends expected to continue in Pa. primary

Jump in registered voters

Voter turnout for this year's presidential primaries shows more African-American and young voters at the polls. Some examples:

African Americans

Democratic primaries

2004 2008

Calif. 232,000 310,000

Conn. 9,000 32,000

Ga. 289,000 536,000

Mo. 62,000 141,000

Tenn. 85,000 179,000

Youth

Democratic and Republican primaries; 18-29-year-olds

2000 2008

Calif. 575,000 853,000

Conn. 21,000 51,000

Ga. 92,000 282,000

Mo. 71,000 191,000

Tenn. 35,000 149,000

© 2008 MCT
Source: Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
Graphic: Judy Treible

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Newspapers

BRISTOL, Pa. — Sandra Jones, an unemployed transit worker, and college student Christy Race are part of 2008's biggest electoral phenomenon — an army of people who never voted but are swarming to the polls this year.

Jones, 48, is under no illusion that an election can instantly get her a good job, but at least it offers hope. "Barack Obama reminds me of John F. Kennedy," she said. "There's something about his demeanor and the way he speaks."

Race, 19, finds Obama unusually inspiring, too — and, she said, Democratic rival Hillary Clinton is sim-

ply unacceptable. "She's too into politics, and I think Bill Clinton's controlling her," Race said.

Race and Jones are part of the throng of new voters who are overwhelming polls across the nation. When Pennsylvania holds its crucial April 22 presidential primary, voter participation is again expected to surge.

Since January, Pennsylvania has registered nearly 210,000 new voters. Seventy percent registered Democrat and 18 percent registered Republican. The rest signed up with other parties.

Experts see the new registrants in Pennsylvania as following a pattern that's been evident all year, one that's

tilted in favor of Democrats in general and Obama in particular.

The influx of new voters isn't only a Democratic phenomenon. In New Hampshire, some 33,000 voters ages 18 to 29 cast ballots in the nation's first Republican primary, up 10,000 from 2000, the last contested GOP primary. Missouri and Texas also showed big increases in young GOP voters.

Pennsylvania will hold a GOP primary on April 21, and Natalie Johnson, a voter-registration organizer at Temple University, said she still sees young people interested in registering Republican. "They want change, too," she said.

But far more young people voted in Democratic than in Republican primaries.

One clear group of new Democrats are African-Americans, who like Jones, have been motivated by Obama, the first black presidential candidate to have demonstrated such political strength.

African-American turnout in Democratic contests has soared in state after state. Compared to the 2004 primary season, it's up 34 percent in California, 151 percent in Louisiana, 240 percent in Ohio, 308 percent in Texas and 115 percent in South Carolina, according to preliminary estimates compiled by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

The largest group of new voters, though, appears to be those between the ages of 18 and 29. In Georgia, for instance, while black turnout jumped 85 percent since 2004, it was up 180 percent among 18- to 29-year-olds. Other states have seen a similar pattern.

ME AND MY GANG

76% of TCU students reported that they did not use marijuana within the past year*



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* CORE Survey administered Spring 2005

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Daniel Conway, Texas A&M University
Kathleen Higgins, The University of Texas at Austin
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Richard Schacht, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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The Modern

www.themodern.org

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Support provided by The City of Fort Worth

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Ladder for Booker T. Washington, 1996. Wood (ash and maple). 432 x 22 3/4 (narrowing to 1 1/4 at top) x 3 inches. Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Gift of Ruth Carter Stevenson, by exchange. Acquired in 2003. Photograph by David Woo.

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1943: Swiss chemist Albert Hoffman accidentally consumes LSD-25, an experimental drug he created in 1938. After taking the drug, Hoffman was disturbed by unusual sensations and hallucinations.

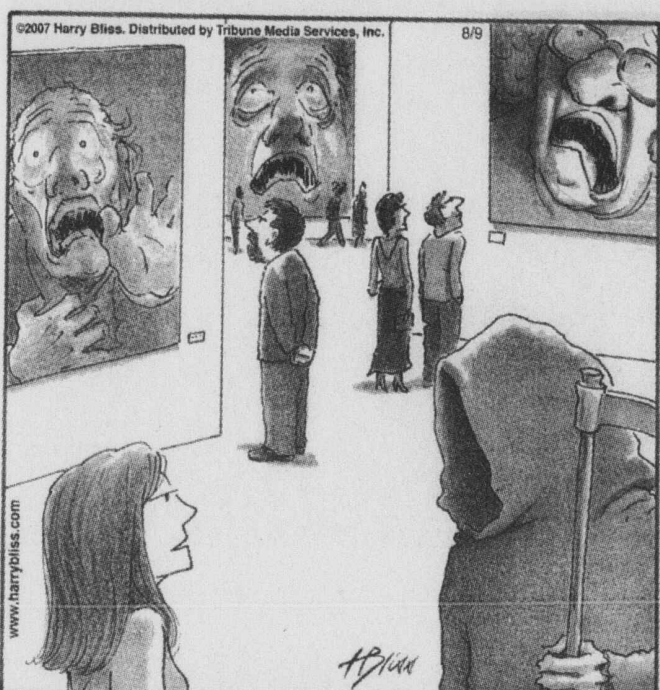
WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE
Q: What do you call a cow with no legs?
A: Ground beef.

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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	8	7	2			9		
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	9	1		8	4			3

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Fill in the grid so
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row and column
contains the digits 1
through 9 without
repeating numbers.

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

Tuesday's Solutions

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7	4	1	8	5	6	9	2	3
5	8	6	9	2	3	1	7	4
6	7	4	3	1	9	5	8	2
8	3	5	6	7	2	4	9	1
1	2	9	4	8	5	6	3	7
4	1	7	2	9	8	3	5	6
3	5	8	7	6	4	2	1	9
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exclamation
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39 Date
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44 Ashe's game
46 Matter form
49 Poker player's
declaration
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54 Steep slope
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71 The German
72 Witch trial city
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DOWN
1 Sajak of
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19 Bern's river
22 Simile center
23 Goldfish
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25 Intestinal
26 "Zip—Doo-
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27 Working copy
30 Ill humor
32 To be, in
Toulon
35 Mme. Bovary
36 Engraved slab
38 Basks
40 Fam. members
41 Audaciously
rude
42 Tiny birds
45 Old draft org.

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CAR	URSULA	ASIA
AMA	POISED	PALM
WATER	BREADHOUSE	
ENEMIES	ROE	CAN
DALIS	ANNLEE	
ELEVEN	SPECKS	
ALP	SANTA	SLOWS
DOHA	NILLY	SLAG
ALARM	DEBUG	LIT
MANIAC	RAMONA	
TALONS	TERRA	
SAM	MAE	HALLWAY
LIES	OXCHOCOLATE	
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MATA	ROBERT	LDR

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47 Exposed to
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48 More agile
50 Flame-thrower
fluid
53 Senator Nunn
57 Stumpy's pal
56 San Diego pro
steps
59 Drunkards
61 Some whiskey's
63 FDR program
64 Latvian chess
master
65 Hotfoot it
66 Supped
67 Legal thing

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

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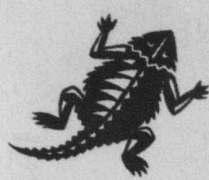
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BRETT'S BREAKDOWN

Spring full of successes, failures

By BRETT LARSON
Sports Editor

It's the spring sports season wrap up — time to look at teams' successes, failures, surprising little tidbits and basically anything else interesting enough to mention all mixed in with a few musings.

First let's start with a great TCU success story, and one of the more memorable spring sports developments.

The rifle team got the ball rolling this spring, finishing third in the NCAA Rifle Championships, the best finish in TCU history. These lady shooters improved on their fifth place finish last year and ended another long-standing Horned Frog drought, beating the University of Nebraska for the first time in TCU rifle history.

Is it possible to transition from a football school to a rifle school? It would certainly put us in a unique class, but I don't think tailgating mixes well with guns and the silence during play rule would get old around hour two.

The basketball teams kept things copacetic by not straying off their established paths too much. The women advanced to the postseason again and the men finished with a losing record. Consistency is key.

The Lady Frogs' postseason berth, however, was in the Women's National Invitation Tournament, breaking their streak of seven straight NCAA tournament bids, but they did advance to the quarterfinals. The men finished with their best record since joining the Mountain West Conference and have a new head coach, Jim Christian, who is coming off a No. 9 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Who knows, TCU might actually sell out more than just Texas Tech games next season. OK, probably not a reality, but at least the new coach's name is Christian, so that's pretty cool.

The equestrian team made horse-riding history with the first undefeated Western style season in Varsity equestrian and senior Kindel Huffman set a school record with 11 MVPs.

Next season TCU needs to start busing students out to Mansfield for the team's home meets. They should be able to coax at least the same amount of fans the basketball teams averaged last season. Just tell people the line for the charter bus is for a cowboy theme party and hand out snap-on bracelets. Theme parties are fun.

The women's tennis team was the outright regular season conference champion and the men's team took home a share of their conference championship. For the most diverse team on campus, great job ... in Russian, Ukrainian, Norwegian, Finnish and Romanian.

The TCU swimming and diving teams finished in fifth and sixth place, respectively, in the MWC Championships and senior Jonathan Berrettini represented his school and conference in the NCAA Championships. Berrettini finished in 26th place in the 100 back with a personal, school and conference record of 48.16.

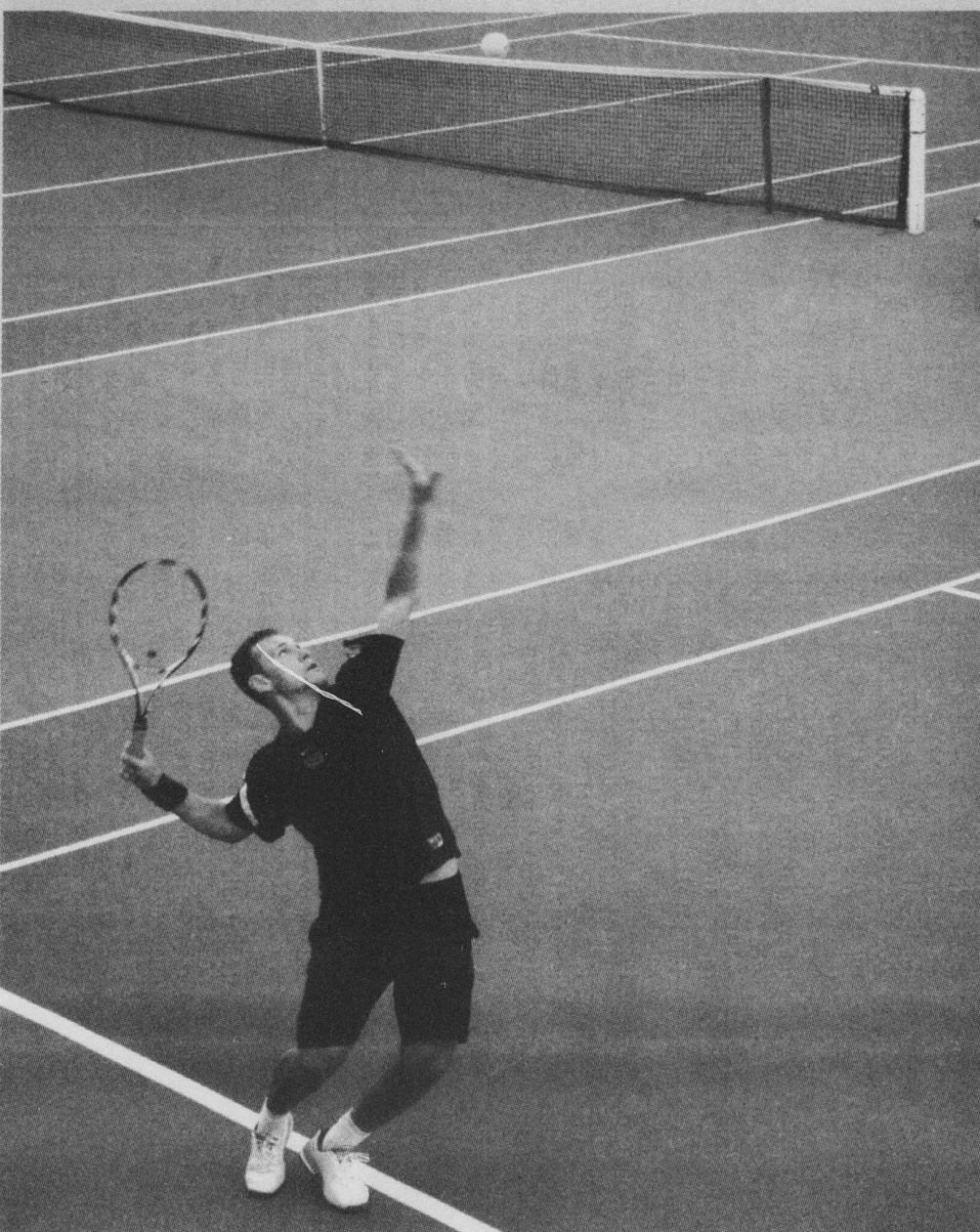
The track and field teams are thriving this season, running past the competition, get it? The women's team won the Mountain West Conference Indoor Championships and the men finished in second. While at the NCAA indoor championships, the men ranked 12th and the women grabbed the No. 56 ranking. These teams are so hot right now.

Horned Frogs baseball got off to a slow start but has regained some momentum, winning a season high nine games in a row. This self-described dirt-bag team could take home its third straight Mountain West Conference title, joining this long list of spring conference champions. Maybe they will take it one game at a time while remembering that its 90 percent physical and half mental, oh and don't forget that it's a team sport and things should develop.

Thanks for the memories, spring sports. We look forward to seeing you after the football season. Good luck with recruiting and remember you're no longer allowed to text message high school athletes.

MEN'S TENNIS

SEASON END



ANNIE COOPER / Staff Photographer

Freshman Emanu Brighiu readying a serve in TCU's 5-2 win over Columbia University. The Horned Frogs have one last regular season test against SMU today before the Mountain West Conference Championships.

Team to face Mustangs in final match

By KYLE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The men's tennis team will finish up its regular season schedule at 2 p.m. today when it travels to Dallas to face the Southern Methodist University Mustangs.

Head coach Dave Borelli said his team has come a long way from a 10-12 record a year ago, entering today's matchup with an 18-6 overall record and a 5-1 record in conference.

With TCU's fifth conference win over the University of New Mexico last weekend, it finished as a Mountain West Conference regular season co-champion, sharing the title with New Mexico and Utah.

The team is the No. 1 seed in the Mountain West Conference Championships.

Junior Kriegler Brink said a big part of the team's suc-

cess this season is attributed to Borelli having the time and resources to recruit players.

NCAA restrictions placed on TCU last year, including the loss of a scholarship and the inability to recruit off-campus, were penalties imposed during Borelli's first year, though, and they were the result of another staff's mistakes, Borelli said.

"Losing a scholarship when you only have four and a half is a big deal," Borelli said.

Borelli said he and his assistant coach recruited some great players for this year and that has made all aspects of the program better.

Both Brink and Borelli agree it is important to finish the season strong, but ending the season with SMU does not make this match more important.

This match was resched-

uled from earlier in the season, and Borelli said he is glad it happened this way.

"We were playing at a high altitude in Utah last weekend, and now we have a chance to play back at sea level against SMU," Borelli said. "I think this will help our team get acclimated before the championships."

The Mountain West Conference Championships will be held in Fort Worth at the Bayard H. Friedman Tennis Center, and they will begin on April 24 and conclude on April 26.

Brink said he is excited that the conference championships are in Fort Worth this year, and he said he sees it as an advantage.

"We know the courts and conditions, and it always helps playing in front of your own fans," Brink said.

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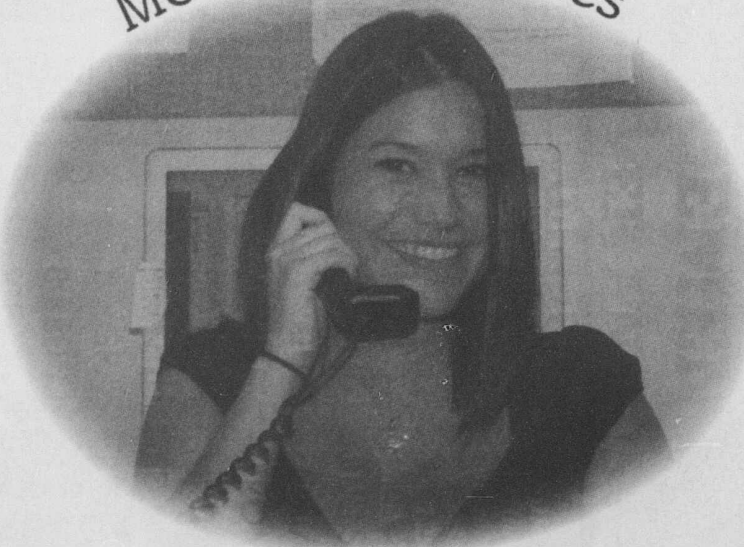


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