



NEWS

Greek students prepare to launch a week of community events. **TOMORROW**



FEATURES

Everyone who's cool is hanging out at these places. **TOMORROW**



SPORTS

Take a look at what baseball players think about the differences between aluminum and wooden bats. **PAGE 6**



TCU

DAILY SKIFF

TUESDAY

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SGA execs disappointed with scholarship legislation

By MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE
Staff Reporter

An addition of scholarships to the SGA budget, which was passed Monday, has ruffled the feathers of the executive board.

A total of \$1,200 in scholarships was passed in SGA's budget for two members of the House of Student Representatives Monday. There are three scholarships in total, which

would provide \$200 per semester to the selected students. These are aimed to encourage student involvement in the House of Student Representatives throughout the semester, according to house bill 93-13, submitted Nov. 28, 2006.

The scholarships will be funded out of the \$24 student fee paid by TCU students every semester.

Jace Thompson, student body

president, said he was unhappy where the funding for the scholarships was coming from.

"We don't feel, as a whole, that it is SGA's job to take student money and spend it on House members," Thompson said. "If a student can afford TCU, \$200 of scholarship money is not going to make that big a difference."

However, Jaylee Maruk, a sophomore European studies

major, said she disagrees with TCU students paying for other TCU students because there is no explanation as to how the students will be selected to receive these benefits.

Ralph Carter, chair of the political science department, said voting for scholarship which could potentially benefit the same house members who voted for it could appear as a conflict of interest to some people.

Carter said, according to the 27th Amendment to the constitution, no law varying the compensation of members of congress can take effect until after the next election for members of the house.

"That's the effort to prevent an immediate enrichment for those who just voted to approve a raise in pay," he said.

Larry Markley, director of the Student Center, disagreed

with the scholarships being funded out of the student fee.

"I'm never in favor of using student money this way," Markley said. "I don't think it's legitimate to use one student's money to pay for another."

If the SGA members who voted to establish these scholarships are immediately eligible

See SGA, page 2

Changes proposed for tenure policy

By BAILEY SHIFFLER
Staff Reporter

The Tenure, Promotion and Grievance Committee of the Faculty Senate is rewriting the faculty grievance procedure, specifically targeting tenure and promotion grievances.

For the 2006-2007 school year the TPG Committee was specifically charged to propose or revise the faculty grievance procedure and has been working on doing so since August.

Stuart Youngblood, chairman-elect of the Faculty Senate and TPG Committee member, said the committee has been working to clarify and simplify what is known as a complicated procedure.

He said tenure denial is often seen as the capital punishment of the academic world and they want to ensure the process is thorough, leaving no holes.

Proposed changes include the creation of a mediation process, the addition of an ombudsman and the removal of the Faculty Senate from the procedure.

The TPG committee is still working on a revised draft and hopes to have a proposal by May 2007, Youngblood said.

If a proposal is not ready for presentation, he said the committee plans to propose that a task force made up of senators, faculty mem-

bers and administrators be formed to ensure the continuance of the procedural changes.

Youngblood updated the Faculty Senate at the meeting Thursday and said the committee decided to start from scratch and rewrite the procedure entirely.

Youngblood said the Faculty Senate has been working on trying to update the tenure and promotion grievance procedures for about six years.

He said it is difficult because there tends to be a proposal ready right before the academic year ends. When a new committee is formed the next year, there are often different initiatives and the proposal gets left behind.

Dianna Newbern, a member of the TPG Committee, said the first draft of the new procedure was sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the deans of all the schools and the provost.

Newbern said the committee received helpful feedback and is working on incorporating suggestions into a revised draft.

Suzu Lockwood, chair of the Faculty Senate, said the old procedure was outdated and confusing.

Youngblood said, "If you want to go to sleep easily at night, pick up the handbook and try to read the faculty grievance procedure."

FROM THE ASHES

Bookstore completion delayed

By ERICK MOEN
Staff Reporter

Empty space is all that occupies the corner of University and Berry, where so much attention was focused just more than one year ago.

And that space may remain empty a little longer.

Liisa Lewis, manager of the TCU Bookstore, said the groundbreaking ceremony for the new bookstore was supposed to be March 4, but, because of difficulties with permits, the groundbreaking has been pushed back to an undetermined future time.

Lewis said some permit difficulties, such as finding a new route for the power lines, have come about because the project has grown so much since its inception.

Lewis said things should pick up in the near future because the project foreman will be on site April 20.

"Things will go quickly once the project gets its legs on the ground," Lewis said.

The new expected completion date is February 2008, Lewis said.

But the bookstore staff and the students sitting out on the curbs March 29, 2006, haven't forgotten what it was like to watch the old building burn.

David Yee, bookstore assistant
See FIRE, page 2



SKIFF ARCHIVES

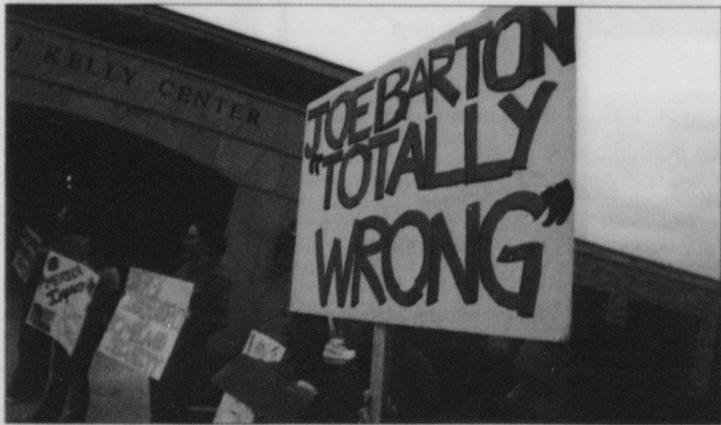
ABOVE: The bookstore burned down during a late-night three-alarm fire March 29, 2006.



RYAN CLAUUNCH / Staff Photographer

LEFT: Just more than a year later, the current temporary bookstore is located in a portable building. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new bookstore was scheduled for March 4, but was postponed because of permit troubles.

U.S. representative's energy stance focus of student protest



MICHAEL BOU-NACKLIE / Staff Photographer

Brittney Smith, program assistant for University Ministries, holds a sign during a protest outside the Kelly Alumni Center on Monday. Students protested the arrival of Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, who spoke Monday evening about energy policy.

By SONYA CISNEROS
Staff Reporter

"Way to go, Smokey Joe," a group of student protesters chanted outside the Alumni and Visitors Center on Monday night.

About 12 students gathered to protest U.S. Rep. Joe Barton's energy policies and to reinforce that global climate change is a real issue when Barton, R-Texas, visited campus Monday.

James Russell, a freshman English major, said this protest is especially important to him because he feels Barton's policies have a bias toward energy and oil companies.

Through research, Russell said he discovered that these energy companies have given more than \$2.1 million to Barton's campaign.

Russell said man-made climate change is avoidable and he's unsatisfied with Barton's attempts to resolve the issue.

Robert Grebel, a senior political science major, said he sees Barton as an obstruction in reversing environmental damage.

Grebel is the president of TCU Peace Action, an organization he said strives to educate TCU and the Fort Worth community about peace and nonviolence.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Don Mills was in attendance at the protest.

Mills said he supports student protests because students have a right to express their views and make a point.

A protest raises awareness and forces students to think of issues outside their daily life, Mills said.

Russell, a first-time protestor, organized the protest to raise awareness about man-made climate change.

Russell said he hoped to see more students involved in the protest. However, he said, he was satisfied with the turnout.

"There's something to say about an engaged student body," he said.

Grebel said students should realize politics affect them directly.

Grebel attended the campus protest to the former Ambassador to Iraq Paul Bremer in February 2006, he said.

Despite a lack of student participation in political activism, Grebel said, he will continue to attend protests mainly because "somebody has to do it."

WEATHER
TODAY: T-Showers, 77/59
WEDNESDAY: AM Clouds, 77/55
THURSDAY: Mostly sunny, 83/66

PECULIAR FACT
NEW YORK — A former city maintenance worker used repeated payments of \$49.95 to a "John Awesome" to steal thousands of dollars from the city, prosecutors said Saturday. — Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES
NEWS: Presidential library at SMU controversial, page 4
OPINION: Paid sick days should be embraced, page 3

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

SGA
From page 1

for them, that would create the appearance of a conflict of interest in the minds of many.

"At the same time, not everyone is lucky enough to have help to pay for college," Maruk said. "I know several people who are in debt and are barely making it by going to TCU."

Nate Arnold, student body treasurer, said only unpaid members of the House are eligible for the scholarships.

"It's ironic (SGA) voted down the first budget because

of worries about not enough funding for activities, but they are investing \$1,200 in scholarships for house members," Arnold said. "I don't think that this is right, and I don't think it's the goal of SGA."

Arnold said the future of the scholarships is unclear because of the opposition, which the bill is facing from the executive board.

"It'll be interesting to see how this progresses," Arnold said. "No one knows if this will work."

Former SGA member and 2006 RTVF alumnus, Glenton Richards co-authored the bill adding the scholarships to the

budget. He said the scholarships are designed to encourage recruitment and retention within SGA.

"Students volunteer many hours a semester to help SGA run smoothly," Richards said. "This is a way of showing a few of those volunteers that we appreciate their efforts."

Thompson said the scholarships are legal under the SGA bylaws, and the scholarships went through a heated debate before they were passed with a 19-8 vote.

"As you can see, it was not a unanimous vote," Thompson said. "There are other

ways to congratulate house members for their hard work. In the past, we've sent out thank you notes or given out gift cards."

The scholarship bill was brought up at the end of the Fall semester, when meeting attendance had decreased, Thompson said.

"Thirty out of the total 56 seats were filled," Thompson said. "Not all the seats were filled, but it was a legitimate vote."

Thompson said if the scholarship bill was brought up this semester that it would not pass but the budget cannot be changed per item.

FIRE
From page 1

manager, said he thought it was the temporary bookstore on fire when he got the call from the police at 2 a.m.

He remembered being told, "You need to come down here, it's a big one."

But, once he arrived, he spent the next six hours watching the big building burn along with rows of students.

Rob Hopkins, a junior marketing major, said he'll remember it for a long time.

"I never thought of any

TCU building on fire," Hopkins said. "It was weird."

Lewis said she remembered some students crying as the night had a very surreal feeling to it.

But, Lewis said, it has been a good thing that time has passed before building the new bookstore.

Before the building completely came down, Lewis said, it was spooky to have students walking into the store with remnants of the old one still blowing in the air.

On the other hand, Lewis said, now a new phoenix is rising from Frog ashes.



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Editorial

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."
— Oscar Wilde

THE SKIFF VIEW

SGA scholarships not ethical

Three Student Government Association members will receive \$1,200 in scholarships to encourage student involvement, according to the bill passed Monday. However, the bill, which passed by a 19-8 vote, presents some ethical issues.

The \$24 students pay each semester will be used in part to finance the education of SGA members. As it is, SGA fees are not optional. And now it seems that the SGA scholarships are coming out of students' pockets without their consent.

However, not all SGA members are in favor of the new bill. Jace Thompson, student body president, said the vote underwent much debate.

Thompson said not every member of SGA feels it is SGA's job to use students' money to benefit House members.

In giving its members scholarships, SGA is creating a conflict of interest. Any scholarships given to SGA members should be awarded after the current members have left the House. Otherwise, the serving mem-

bers are, in essence, passing bills in their own interests. Putting the bill into effect after a new round of members enter the House would eliminate any bias.

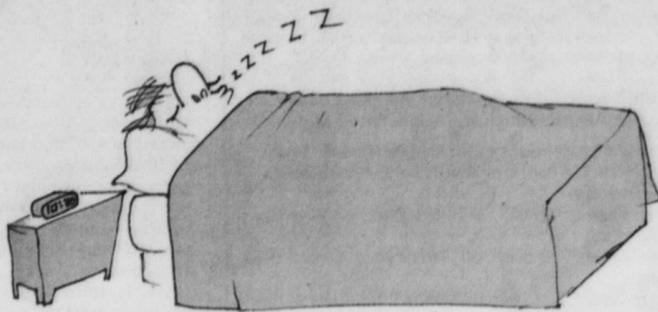
However, students should also have a say in how their tuition dollars are being spent. Awarding scholarships with students' money without consent doesn't seem decent.

Furthermore, awarding scholarships to SGA members is not fair to the other student groups on campus that do not have the same benefits. In the past, SGA members received thank-you notes or gift cards to praise members for the efforts, Thompson said. And there's nothing wrong with the old system.

The idea of honoring dedicated SGA members for their hard work and assisting with their tuition is fine. This issue comes when students' already high tuition is going to finance someone else's education. If SGA wants scholarships for its members, it should find another way to raise the funds.

Opinion editor Lindsey Bever for the editorial board.

BY BRENDAN KIEFER



Good Friday was good all right, but how about a Good Tuesday?

Healthier babies encouraged instead of pressured

It is common knowledge that babies experience their most important developmental period when they are young, usually between the ages of 1 and 3. During this time, many parents are persistent and determined to expose their young infants to clever toys, classical CDs and other objects in order to expand their minds and, ultimately, to try to make them smarter and more intelligent. However, parents may not stop

to think that perhaps their methods for helping their children could actually be more harmful to their infants.

Constant exposure to forced stimuli and pushing new objects on children could lead to disappointments, competitiveness and perhaps impossibly high expectations in later years. Babies and young children should be encouraged but also be given ample time to properly develop and grow at their own pace. Eager parents should not force or push their children into activities without proper consideration or bombard them with objects designed

to make them clever.

Slight encouragement is not the issue, but constant exposure can be tiring and stressful for children. Senior political analyst Sara Mead works with Education Sector, a centrist Washington think tank. Mead told to USA Today that "While neural connections in babies' brains grow rapidly in the early years, adults can't make newborns smarter or more successful by having them listen to Beethoven or play with Einstein-inspired blocks."

Also, there is no proof that an infant's only window of opportunity for knowledge starts and stops like

clockwork, and terminates after the age of 3. Knowledge is continuous throughout a person's life. Though babies' and infants' minds can be compared a sponges in relation to soaking up their surroundings, it is not the only time where children can be encouraged.

Many parents would like to see their children accomplish what they themselves were unable to accomplish. They live vicariously through their children, and overstimulate and overpopulate their children's senses for a seemingly good cause, which is to make sure their children are well-

rounded, healthy and intelligent human beings who will have the upper hand in life because of the parents' determination. Life moves at a fast pace, and too many parents raise their children to the same rhythm. Children need time, patience and a calm environment to properly and healthily develop and mature. Fast or nervous environments can possibly affect children and infants negatively in future years. Parents should learn to slow down and realize that letting their children grow naturally at their own pace, with a healthy amount of

encouragement, can be an improved and safer approach to life for their children.

Ylona Cupryjak is a sophomore theatre major from Keller. Her column appears Tuesdays.



Statistics easily corrupted; fund students not programs

Americans love statistics — or at least numbers that give the appearance of statistics because, when interpreted and compiled into a concise form, it's much easier to digest the information.

Our favorite statistics are probably rankings. We rank everything from hotels to restaurants to sports teams to television shows to colleges.

Some of these rankings are appropriate, and, no matter what, they help give us some perspective on the worth of a particular establishment. But the difficulty comes with how these rankings are organized. If these ratings are generated by unreliable information, it flaws the whole system. This is especially detrimental to college students who want to attend competitive universities and so rely on ranking systems such as the U.S. News & World Report's annual ranking.

How exactly do they develop these ranks?

According to a Time Magazine article on April 2, the magazine uses mostly hard data. But the largest single factor in the rating system, comprising 25 percent of a school's overall score, comes from a survey asking presidents, provosts and admissions directors to assess

peer institutions. This process seems a little fishy for two reasons.

First, there is a great motivation to rank other schools poorly, or to at least give a negative review — in order to make your own institution look better and boost your rating.

Secondly, because these administrators are not actually at other campuses as much as their own, they only have a view from afar. Some schools complain this locks them into the same relative space on the ranking because of "decades-old impressions."

The Time Magazine article emphasizes how the heads of a dozen private colleges are trying to gather up a group of about 570 small or midsize schools, asking these schools to stop participating in the U.S. News ratings. This would include not filling out surveys, not advertising their rank and helping to come up with a better set of relevant data as an alternative.

In an ideal world, this is a fantastic idea — and is much needed. Both schools and students place too much emphasis on the importance of these rankings. So many things that contribute to students' successes cannot be measured with numbers and compiled into a statistic. Anecdotal evidence and testimonials should be

the most important factor for students rather than a comparative number.

Because we don't live in the perfect world, there are known roadblocks to these colleges' plans. U.S. News & World Report has been known to corrupt data for schools who attempt to remove themselves from the system. Case in point: Reed College. In 1995, the magazine assigned the lowest possible score to their missing statistics and their ranking fell. Since then, the college has suffered no shortage of qualified applicants, according to Time Magazine.

TCU, as a small, private institution, could very well be on that list of 570 schools and just not know it yet.

If so, I think it may be wise to join a large force rebelling against the use of a tool that may no longer suffice. Yes, it is exciting to go to a school with high rankings — and we all appreciate the M. J. Neeley School of Business's much advertised No. 11 rank by the Wall Street Journal. But it's more important to devote time and energy to students than to fill out sometimes inconclusive surveys and boost money into the wrong places for the sake of a ranking.

Anahita Katiavivata is a freshman English and psychology major from Fort Worth. Her column appears Tuesdays.

Nation needs public policy to embrace paid sick days

Pundits opine over whether John Edwards should suspend his presidential campaign in the face of his wife's recurrence of cancer — a personal decision that's frankly none of our business. But here's something that is our business, every one of us: what happens when ordinary workers' loved ones become sick with cancer, or for that matter, the flu?

Imagine that John Edwards worked as an associate at Wal-Mart — or any other non-union retail outfit — stocking shelves 35 hours a week. Most weeks he's scheduled for 40 hours or more, but because he doesn't work those hours year-round, he's not full time and not eligible for health insurance.

John has been working more than a year and is covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act. He can take up to twelve weeks off to care for his ill wife, but it is unpaid. With the loss of income from his wife's job while she undergoes treatment and medical bills piling up, he can't afford to take much leave. Only 8 percent of workers in the private sector get paid family leave, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and John isn't among them.

If John wants to hold Elizabeth's hand during chemo, he'd have to hope the appointment falls on a day off. Because of the unpredictability of his schedule, John often doesn't know until a day or two ahead of time which days he'll be working

in the coming week.

Why doesn't he use his own sick days? John has some, but, in his store, you're not allowed to use sick time unless you are ill. As an hourly employee, none of his sick days are paid — like half the workforce, three-quarters of low-wage workers, and five out of six part-timers. Taking off would not only cost John a day's wages, but could trigger disciplinary action.

Or John could be one of the growing percent of workers at Wal-Mart and other employers whose weekly hours are kept at less than 25, removing him from FMLA coverage. That means he's not guaranteed any leave, even unpaid, even to be with his wife after surgery, even if her condition deteriorates.

If John worked at a firm with fewer than 50 employees or was a freelancer or independent contractor, the FMLA wouldn't cover him no matter the hours he worked.

John might have a supervisor who lets him off to care for Elizabeth. But even kind supervisors report to higher-ups who often put the kibosh on kindness. And, with Wal-Mart's new sick-day policy, John would be have to call an 800 number rather than speak with his manager directly.

Business lobbyists tell us the workplace is family-friendly. Of course, many small business owners would know John personally and generously help out.

And an increasing num-

ber of larger employers have policies that cover these situations because they know paid leave cuts down on the high cost of turnover, boosts employee loyalty and adds to productivity.

Many companies have no family leave policies; policies often depend on management discretion.

In imagining John Edwards as an ordinary wage-earner, we could fill in many other employer names. Family values too often end at the workplace door.

Senator Ted Kennedy and Congresswoman Rosa deLauro have introduced the Healthy Families Act, requiring employers with 15 or more employees to offer seven paid sick days. The bill includes part-time workers and care for a family member as well as one's own illness. Senator Chris Dodd is working on a bill that would establish a paid leave fund for workers nationwide needing family or medical leave.

Let's send our prayers to the Edwards family and honor the decisions they make. And let's work to make sure we have public policies in place to guarantee no one will have to choose between caring for a family member and keeping a job.

Ellen Bravo is the former director of 9to5, National Association of Working Women, and author of "Taking on the Big Boys, or Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation." Her essay was distributed by MCT.

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STUDENT PUBLICATION AWARDS

At the College Business and Advertising Managers national convention:

- Advertising Staff, TCU Daily Skiff, Best of Category for Back-To-School/Orientation Issues
- Advertising Staff, TCU Daily Skiff, Second Place CNBAM National Awards, Best Sales Materials and Best Training Program categories for newspapers with weekly circulations of under 40,000.

At the Society of Professional Journalist's Mark of Excellence Awards which were announced March 31:

- Editorial Staff, Image magazine, First Place, Best Student Magazine
- Editorial Staff, TCU Daily Skiff, Third Place, Best All-Around Daily Student Newspaper
- Andrew Chavez, TCU Daily Skiff, First Place, Breaking News Reporting
- Andrew Chavez, TCU Daily Skiff, Second Place, General News Reporting
- Andrew Chavez, TCU Daily Skiff, Third Place, General News Reporting
- Christina Ruffini, Image magazine, First Place, Magazine Non-Fiction Article
- Stephen Spillman, TCU Daily Skiff, First Place, Breaking News Photography
- Andrew Chavez, TCU Daily Skiff, Third Place, Illustration
- Andrew Chavez and Stephen Spillman, DailySkiff.Com, First Place, Online News Reporting
- Travis Stewart and Stephen Spillman, DailySkiff.Com, First Place, Online Sports Reporting
- Michael Dodd, Andrew Chavez, and Stephen Spillman, DailySkiff.Com, Second Place, Online Sports Reporting

Presidential Library controversial among SMU community leaders

By MARK SILVA
Chicago Tribune

DALLAS — For Southern Methodist University, the alma mater of first lady Laura Bush and a proud, nearly century-old institution, the prospect of housing the George W. Bush Presidential Library would seemingly be an honor.

Yet the possible advent of the Bush library — and especially an ideological think tank planned as part of it — has split the SMU faculty, feeding a debate that simmers beneath the serenity of the leafy campus. At an institution dedicated to scholarly achievement and academic freedom, many fear the work of the Bush Institute would forever associate SMU with a right-wing political agenda.

The vision of a Bush-backed think tank at a campus owned by the United Methodist Church has exposed emotional rifts within a church already divided over the war in Iraq. Bishops and other clergy critical of the pre-emptive war and the administration's treatment of enemy combatants are protesting what they view as a memorial to Bush, a Methodist whose policies they say are "anti-

thetical" to their teachings.

The Rev. C. Joseph Sprague, a recently retired Chicago-area Methodist bishop, calls the war and other Bush policies "antithetical to the Methodist movement." Sprague summed up the sentiment of several bishops protesting the Bush Institute.

"I am hesitant to see Southern Methodist University welcoming the institute of a Methodist who has been so contrary to the teachings of the Methodist Church," he said. "It will do nothing but perpetuate the kind of neocon thinking of this administration, which has taken both this nation and the world in the wrong direction."

University leaders are in final negotiations with a cluster of the president's closest friends and family over the library and institute, which they say they hope to conclude "within weeks, rather than months."

Library planners — including Donald Evans, former commerce secretary and a longtime Texan friend of President Bush; ex-Chief of Staff Andrew Card; and Bush's brother Marvin — also have made it clear they have not ruled out Baylor

"It will do nothing but perpetuate the kind of neocon thinking of this administration, which has taken both this nation and the world in the wrong direction."

The Rev. C. Joseph Sprague
Retired Chicago-area Methodist bishop

University. That has created a palpable sense of unease in the red-brick halls that circle SMU's campus green.

"I'm leaning heavily toward SMU," Bush said in a recent Dallas TV interview. "I understand there are some who have reservations, and my admonition to them, or my advice to them, is just understand that a library, an institute, would enhance education. It would be a place for interesting discussion."

Still, the George W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation has described the think tank affiliated with the library as "an institute inspired by the principles of George W. Bush's administration."

Matthew Wilson, an SMU political science professor, said he believes most of the 609-member faculty would welcome Bush's library as a boon.

"It's more a question of raising the profile and reputation of SMU as an institution," Wilson said of the 11,000-student school.

But Benjamin Johnson, a history professor who holds office hours inside old Dallas Hall — a tall-pillared edifice topped with a dome and stained-glass cap that was all SMU had when it opened in 1915 — worries that SMU's reputation will be tarnished.

"I'm concerned that we're going to be judged by the things this institute does," Johnson said. "These guys are so divisive, so unpopular, it seems to me really dangerous to go for an arrangement that could turn the face of your university over to them without any controls over them."

Whether it lands at SMU — which houses the Bushes' own Highland Park United Methodist Church on the edge of campus — or at Baylor, the world's biggest Southern Baptist university and down the road from the Bush ranch near Crawford — the Bush library certainly will be unique. It is to become the 12th privately built and federally administered presidential library.

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TODAY IN HISTORY
1919: Emiliano Zapata, a leader of peasants and indigenous people during the Mexican Revolution, is ambushed and shot to death in Morelos by government forces.

WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: Why did the rooster run away?

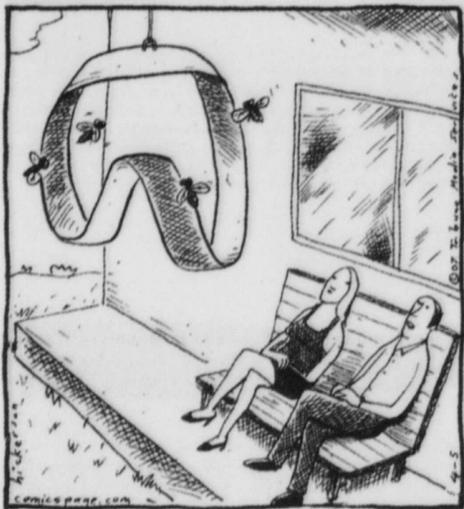
A: He was chicken.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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

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

Thursday's Solutions

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

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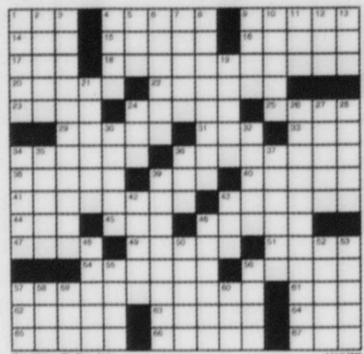
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ACROSS

- 1 Jostle
- 4 Made bovine noises
- 9 Milky gems
- 14 Coach
- 15 Parsaghan
- 16 Old-womanish
- 17 Bobbettes hit
- 18 Bunco game
- 18 Teacher's role, at times
- 20 Actor Warner
- 22 Of living organisms
- 23 Wally's bro
- 24 Big name in brewing
- 25 Webzine
- 29 Garciaparra of baseball
- 31 VCR button
- 33 Late starter?
- 34 Miss van der Rohe
- 36 Idiom
- 38 Equidistant
- 39 Halloween mo.
- 40 Reply to "Are you?"
- 41 Santiago populace
- 43 Apparition
- 44 Rolodex info
- 45 The Flac'er's Edge
- 46 Hooch
- 47 Popular cookie
- 49 Yippee!
- 51 Outback birds
- 54 Closer
- 56 Take on
- 57 "20/20," e.g.
- 61 Colorado
- 62 Dramatist
- 63 Hotelier
- 64 Helmsley
- 64 Saturate
- 65 Mental sheet
- 66 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
- 67 Finnish twins?



By Alan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

4/10/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

LIED COCA BELTS
LEARN ATOP ORION
GRAW LIMP NITRO
LIT BETTERTO
EATSUP ARE ESP
GIVETHANSEND
AMS SPA STIPPS
DEEPS FRY STOOP
GETTEE DEB CIA
ANDCOSTJUST
DEA AIS ROASTS
ABOUTHESAME
TORSO ADEN GAGA
ENTER RING EPIC
DYADS PETE REST

DOWN

- 1 Son of Isaac
- 2 Came up
- 3 Regular union members
- 4 Actor Bert
- 5 Man-mission connection
- 6 Mr. Ed's owner
- 7 Furry of fashion
- 8 Political donkey
- 9 Old Dodge
- 10 Sticker info
- 11 Model Carol
- 12 Slinger Sayer
- 13 Sun, homily
- 19 Questionnaire option
- 21 Admission
- 24 Piece of luggage
- 26 Mickey's gal
- 27 English track
- 28 "Pride" before
- 30 Bogs down
- 32 Mild cigar
- 34 Milk; pref.
- 35 Wedding party member
- 36 Hint to this puzzle's theme
- 37 Astounded
- 39 Out of jail, conditionally

- 42 Fighting battles
- 43 Pursue amorously
- 46 Take out a loan
- 48 First stage
- 50 "Science of Logic" author
- 52 Writer Sinclair
- 53 Dance moves
- 55 Alternative to a saber
- 56 Latin 101 verb
- 57 Take a sofa break
- 58 Wing of a mansion
- 59 Pugnists' org.
- 60 Dijon donkey

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

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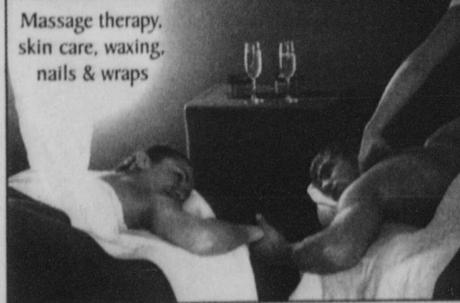
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ALUMINUM VS. WOOD

Nostalgia for 'old school' sluggers outdone by durability of metal bats

By BILLY WESSELS
Photo Editor

It is spring again, and that means the return of our national pastime: baseball.

Baseball season gives people the chance to go out to the ballpark, spend a couple hours with friends, eat a hot dog, "root, root, root for the home team" and hear the "ping" of the bat.

"Ping?"
While the college game currently uses aluminum bats, many baseball purists and fans of the big league game prefer the "crack" of wooden bats.

In 1974, aluminum bats were introduced to college baseball and with the bats came higher batting averages.

WHAT HAS THE NCAA DONE?

According to a study performed by Daniel A. Russell, applied physics professor at Kettering University, batting averages increased by .041 from .265 to .306 during the first 11 years that the aluminum bats were in use by the NCAA.

That same study showed that averages began to drop back down to around .290 in the early 1990s. Part of the reason for that could have been the introduction of a new rule by the NCAA.

After 1985, the NCAA created the "minus five" rule. This rule meant that the difference of a bat's weight (in ounces) from a bat's length (in inches) couldn't be more than five.

For example, a 33-inch bat couldn't weigh any less than 28 ounces or it would be deemed illegal. Batters' swing speeds could have been greatly affected by this rule and it could help explain for the drop in batting averages after the rule was instituted.

This was the last change the NCAA would make to regulation of aluminum bats until after the 1998 season. During the "September Protocol" in 1999, the requirement of "minus three" bats was instituted, according to NCAA.org.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO HIT WITH A WOODEN BAT?

All of TCU's baseball players play with an aluminum bat during intercollegiate games, and some practice with wood bats in the cage, but, when the season closes, they go to play in wood bat leagues for better preparation for the college game and possibly the next level.

One of the biggest differences hitters notice when playing with an aluminum bat compared to wood bats was the size of the sweet spot.

The sweet spot on a bat is "a region, approximately 5-7 inches from the end of the barrel, where the batted-ball speed is the highest and the sensation in the hands is minimized," according to Russell's study.

"The difference between a metal and a wood bat is that you have got to be so precise with the wood," said junior

catcher Andrew Walker. "The sweet spot is really small. With a metal bat, you can get jammed and sometimes still hit the ball out of the ballpark in some places."

Because of this, some players feel that playing with wooden bats provides great practice for college players.

"I think (wood bats) are good for college players because the bats are heavier and it is harder to hit the sweet spots," junior shortstop Bryan Kervin said.

Other players recognize that due to the room for error, the dominance is switched from the batter to the pitcher in wooden bat leagues.

"With a wooden bat, you don't have that much room for error; you have to hit the ball on the barrel," junior outfielder Clint Arnold said. "I like hitting with the metal bat; there is more room for error and the ball goes harder and farther. With wooden bats, the pitchers are going to dominate a lot more than the hitters."

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO PITCH TO ALUMINUM?

"In college, it is like throwing to a Wiffle ball bat," senior pitcher Donald Furrow said. "It is so much easier because of the metal. With aluminum bats, you get away with so much more 'Punch and Judy hits' that get hit off the handle and still get bloop hits."

Those little bloop hits off the handle of aluminum bats were a common complaint

among pitchers.

"You don't give up as many cheap hits with wood as you do with aluminum," junior closer Sam Demel said.

"With a wood bat, if you get a pitch on someone's hands, the bat will shatter and the ball won't go anywhere. But, with aluminum, they can get a little bloop single on an inside pitch."

While pitching to aluminum might be more difficult than pitching to wood, many pitchers view pitching to metal bats as a good chance to learn.

"Now, with the aluminum bat, if you make a good pitch, you may not get rewarded, but you learn from it," Demel said. "At the next level, you make that same good pitch and you don't get rewarded for it, you know you have been through it before so you don't get frustrated."

Another pitcher doesn't focus on the type of bat at all.

"As a pitcher, I don't take too much into wood or aluminum," junior pitcher Chris Johnson said. "I just try to hit the mitt and not worry about it. I think this makes us concentrate and hit our spots better so when we get to the next level and we hit our spots they aren't going to get flare hits."

While the aluminum bats probably are not going anywhere any time soon, Furrow has always been a fan of "old school" baseball.

"I think metal bats are the worst thing ever," Furrow said. "Everyone likes the home run and that is what the metal bat provides. I have always been a fan of old school baseball. You wear your pants up and you swing a wooden bat."



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

After the 1985 NCAA baseball season, 11 years after the aluminum bat was introduced to the college game, the organization created a rule that all bats used had to be "minus five" like this REACT bat created by Easton. After the change in bat regulations, the mean batting averages of players dropped from .306 to about .290 in the early 1990s and remained there until the 1998 season when the averages jumped back to .306 and the NCAA created a new bat regulation.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

After the 1998 season, the NCAA went from the "minus five" rule to a "minus three" rule during its "September Protocol." This rule still stands today, but there has been recent discussion about whether colleges should switch to wooden bats for safety and for better preparation for the next level. Pitchers tend to prefer to pitch to wood bats because some cheap hits created by aluminum bats would turn into easy outs in wood bat leagues. Hitters enjoy aluminum bats because they have a larger sweet spot, the location which produces maximum batted ball speed and where the most energy is transferred to the ball.



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor

Wooden bats, like this Louisville Slugger, are the kind of bat used in both the major and minor leagues. During the off-season, many college baseball players participate in wooden bat leagues, such as the Texas Collegiate League, to better prepare for the upcoming season and next level. Baseball purists prefer seeing the game played using wood bats rather than aluminum ones. One of the perks to using an aluminum bat is the longevity of it. While wooden bats are usually cheaper, they have a tendency to break when the batter attempts to hit a pitch on the inside part of the plate.



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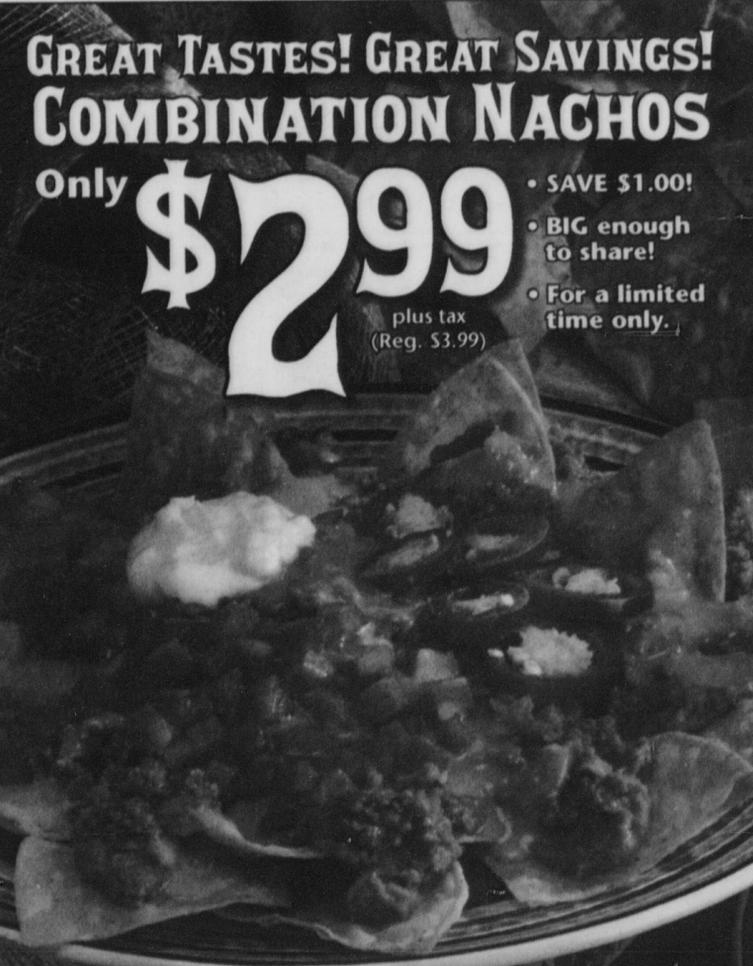


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