

Swinging senior

Frog of the Week features Jen Gideon, a social work major and head RA at Jarvis Hall. **Page 6**



Check out the calendar for a list of entertainment events in January and February. **Page 6**

Are you enjoying the abundance of new reality TV shows? Well, we aren't. **Page 3**

TCU DAILY SKIFF

100 years of service to Texas Christian University

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Wednesday, January 15, 2003

New site available to students

BY EMILY BAKER
Staff Reporter

Beginning today, TCU students should have available to them a new personalized portal that will offer features like TCU links, e-mail, weather and news on one Web site — my.tcu.edu — to compensate for a jumbled TCU Web site, said David Ed-

"If the TCU (information) and my e-mail were at the same spot, I'd probably make (my.tcu.edu) my home page."

— Josiah Miller
senior radio-TV-film major

mondson, Information Services Assistant Provost.

"The TCU Web page is difficult to wander through because it is supposed to be everything for everybody," Edmondson said. "This is a way for people to get what they are interested in."

Users can change the appearance of my.tcu.edu to suit their taste. They can also customize it to have the information and resources they want including their TCU e-mail, class schedule, maps, and links to FrogNet, Student Government and the Writing Center, said Josh Harmon, TCU system analyst who worked on the my.tcu.edu project.

Edmondson said my.tcu.edu is also a communication channel to let students know if classes are canceled due to weather, for example.

Though most students didn't have my.tcu.edu available to use until today, some said the idea of the site is appealing.

Senior radio-TV-film major Josiah Millersaid he plans to "check it out."

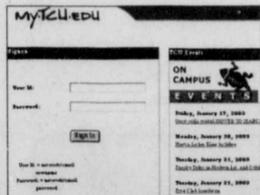
"It would be kind of nice because they don't have a link from the TCU site to the e-mail," he said. "If the TCU (information) and my e-mail were at the same spot, I'd probably make (my.tcu.edu) my home page."

This Web site is also a step towards making everything at TCU Web-based, Edmondson said.

"This is a logical mechanism to tie to that goal," he said. "At some point, everything you do at TCU will be a Web process."

There was a "tremendous" cost to create my.tcu.edu, Edmondson said, but he declined to say what that price tag was. Six new servers, or 12 processors, are required to support the 9,500 users of the system, Harmon said. The servers are the computers to which my.tcu.edu users are networked.

(More on WEB SITE, page 2)



Special to the Skiff

My.tcu.edu offers users a chance to personalize information and is a step towards making everything at TCU Web-based.

Project gives kids place to play



Cole Barton and Hui Sung Park share ideas on their toys in the new Leibrock Village playroom.

Photo editor/Ty Halasz

BY NYSHICKA JORDAN
Staff Reporter

Leibrock resident Tiffany Danna evicted her daughter's play kitchen from their apartment because she said they had no room for it. But Danna said 4-year-old Beth did not have to say goodbye forever because the kitchen now sits in Leibrock's Hill House play area where Beth and other residents' children can play with it.

After a successful first month run, Leibrock Village's Hill House play area has met its creators' goals and in the process has sparked consideration for future play areas, Nancy Grieser, director of Brite Housing, said.

"The goal was to create a safe and fun place for the children to play and learn," Grieser said.

Grieser said she contacted Mary Patton, an associate professor at the School of Education, about resources.

Patton said she suggested the play area as a project for her students in

her play and creativity course. Five students chose to do it in place of a different project she assigned to the rest of her class, she said. The assignment was for students to create a play area that promotes all levels of development, she said.

The play area is located beneath a stairwell inside Hill House. It has been available for residents since Dec. 7 and operates from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily to observe Leibrock's quiet hours, Grieser said.

The play area is not a daycare resource, Grieser said. She said she asked that at least one parent be in the area when children are at play.

Grieser said the items in the play area were donated by families of Leibrock or are materials students collected through other avenues. She said she gave the students a \$100 budget to spend the way the group chose.

Emily Hart, a junior early education major, said this project allowed her to apply knowledge learned in class and gain skills she can use in

her future teaching career.

"When you are going to be a teacher you realize you're not going to have a lot of money to make a classroom," Hart said. "It was frustrating, but we were able to make a great place with a limited budget."

Fourteen children live in Leibrock who are between the ages of 3 months and 7 years, Grieser said.

For younger children, play areas develop physical, social and cognitive skills because children learn through their play, Patton said.

"Materials are open-ended and designed to promote creativity and problem solving, which are the cornerstone of learning," Patton said.

Parents' feedback has been positive, Grieser said. She said the play area has also been a benefit because it gives families a chance to interact with other families in the village.

Danna said she agrees that the play area promotes community and that she enjoys the conven-

(More on KIDS, page 2)

University boasts largest spring class

BY BRENT YARINA
Staff Reporter

The arrival of the spring semester is bringing with it the largest spring class in the history of the university, said Ray Brown, dean of admissions.

Brown said he expects 200 new students to enter TCU this spring semester as compared to 144 new students last spring. However, Brown said official figures won't be available until Jan. 29. TCU also estimates that just 250 of its 1,451 freshman won't be returning for the spring semester, he said.

Brown said the number of students TCU lost is much smaller than in previous spring semesters, Brown said.

Brown said this spring's high enrollment shows the growing popularity of the university.

Sean Scogin, a junior transfer student from Texas A&M at Corpus Christi, said he decided to attend TCU because of the university's academic reputation.

Carrie Zimmerman, director of the first year experience at TCU, said many factors go into a student's decision to attend a university.

"TCU has Frog Camp and orientation which really make the student feel welcome," Zimmerman said. "These programs give students the chance to meet their classmates and make friends before classes even start."

Zimmerman said many universities are starting to develop these same programs after witnessing the success the programs have had at TCU.

The primary reason for the increase in enrollment is the increased number of minority students TCU has attracted in recent years, Brown said.

"Compared to only last year, applications for students of color have

doubled," Brown said.

Brown said he credits several programs at TCU that are currently working to make TCU a more diverse university.

"The Community Scholars Program has gotten the most notoriety and contributed the greatest to attracting students of color," he said.

Brown said he's "giddy" to see TCU achieve a greater level of diversity under his guidance. Since Brown came to TCU three years ago from Marquette University, he said he has already accomplished his primary goal.

"I came to TCU with the objective of creating a more diverse university, and I think I have accomplished that," Brown said.

Aside from diversifying the student body,

Brown said he's trying to place a greater emphasis on grades, test scores and

class rank while also trying to create a higher academic profile.

"At TCU, we're looking for quality over quantity," Brown said. "Bigger is not better in our mind."

Despite receiving a record 6,137 applications last year, Brown said the university will continue to implement an enrollment cap.

"There just isn't enough infrastructure here at TCU for more students," Brown said. "If we were to accept more students, we would then need more faculty, more residence halls and more classrooms."

Brown said he expects 1,525 freshman to attend TCU next fall, leaving the undergraduate student body at 6,800 students. More students would decrease the overall quality of the students, he said.

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Photo editor/Ty Halasz

Study looks to help police fight Internet crimes

BY SARAH KREBS
Staff Reporter

Ronald Burns, an assistant professor of criminal justice, and his team say they hope to help police compensate for a lack of preparedness in terms of Internet fraud based on information they have gathered from a nationwide survey of law enforcement agencies.

The study began in the summer of 2001 and was funded by a \$6,630 grant from the National White Collar Crime Center, Burns said. It found that a lack of resources and jurisdictional issues has hampered law enforcement agencies from effectively combating Internet fraud, he said.

"There has really been this talk about how much Internet fraud is coming," Burns said. "We haven't heard it from the law enforcement and how they are dealing with this."

In 2001, the Internet Fraud Complaint Center recorded 16,775 complaints worth investigating that were

forwarded to the local police department. Out of the departments that responded, about 54 percent had a staff of only one to five people working on the cases, Burns said.

Burns, who worked along with Keith Whitworth, a sociology instructor and Carol Thompson, an associate professor of sociology, said he wanted to document how unprepared law enforcement agencies really are.

The study proposed a centralized database for law enforcement officials and experts to share investigative techniques and resources for training, where judges and prosecutors could get information on other Internet fraud cases, and where different agencies could also collaborate more easily, Whitworth said.

"One of the questions was, 'Where are you getting your information on Internet fraud laws and investigation techniques?'" Burns said. "There were way too many different sources to really find some consistency."

The nationwide survey was sent to 2,344 law enforcement agencies and focused on 700 departments employing at least 100 officers, Whitworth said. These departments were at the local and county level and the general response was that the resources, training and staff are inadequate, he said.

"We are seeing more commerce on the Internet, and if we wait too long and let the bad guys get too far ahead, we're going to be doing a lot of catch up," Burns said. "They have to be concerned about street and traditional crime, but we can't ignore this and pretend that it's not really going on."

Detective Kelly Ham said that over the past five years, TCU has had eight Internet fraud cases. In one case, more than \$500,000 was stolen, he said.

"A few years ago an international student got on E-bay and listed high-price electronic devices and anyone who put in a bid he sent an e-mail saying, 'You won, send me

money,'" Ham said. "We started tracking it up and he had fraudulently misrepresented the sale of about \$680,000 worth of stuff."

TCU has firewalls to prevent outside breaches, and TCU Police work closely with Information Services to investigate Internet fraud cases, Ham said.

The study interpreted Internet fraud to include auction fraud, credit card theft, debit card theft, non-deliverable merchandise, investment scams and confidence fraud or home improvement scams, Whitworth said.

Other major problems are jurisdictional issues and inter-department and inter-agency cooperation, Burns said.

"Whether they expand the jurisdiction of the local municipal courts and departments or hire more people at the federal level, they need to overcome it," Burns said.

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Photo editor/Ty Halasz
Ronald Burns, an assistant professor of criminal justice, sorts out his papers for the new semester at his office in the Temporary East Building.

The Weather

WEDNESDAY

High: 58; Low: 42; Cloudy.

THURSDAY

High: 45; Low: 20; Partly cloudy, wind

FRIDAY

High: 46; Low: 26; Sunny

Looking Back

1929 — Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Ga., the son of a Baptist minister.

1981 — "Hill Street Blues," television's landmark cops-and-robbers drama, debuts on NBC.

1973 — Citing "progress" in the Paris peace negotiations between National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam, President Richard Nixon halted the most concentrated bombing of the war, as well as mining, shelling and all other offensive action against North Vietnam.

Watch For

During 2002, the entertainment industry provided us with the good (and not so good) to entertain us. Check out Thursday's Features page for the tops in movies, music and television in 2002.

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THE PULSE

www.skiff.tcu.edu

CampusLines

Your bulletin board for campus events

• **Peace Action** will have their first meeting of the semester at 5:15 p.m. today in the Student Center, Room 111. Be prompt as different schedules may require many people to leave shortly afterwards. For more information, contact Jeff Brubaker.

• **May 2003 Degree Candidates** should file their Intent to Graduate forms in the office of their academic dean. Each dean's office has a deadline for filing and requires time to process the intent. All the names of degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar by Feb. 14. Be sure to check the graduation Web site for more information. Also make sure your local address is correct.

• **Guest cello recital** scheduled for Friday has been moved to 7:30 p.m. March 7 in PepsiCo Recital Hall. For more information, call (817) 257-7602.

• **A Summer 2003 London study abroad information session** will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Reed Hall, Room 101. The session will cover the British Studies course. For more information, contact Karen Steele at (817) 257-6255.

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to skiffletters@tcu.edu. Deadline for receiving announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Bush says he's not concerned with presidential opponents

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush says he pays no mind to the Democrats jockeying for his job, but his aides are closely watching potential opponents and stepping up their efforts to keep the White House.

Occasionally, that means taking direct aim at a would-be adversary, even though the 2004 election is 22 months away. Thursday, Bush will renew his call for limits on medical-malpractice awards — what one White House official calls a “whack John Edwards” day. Sen. Edwards, D-N.C., made millions trying personal injury lawsuits against big companies, and is seeking the Democratic nomination. Among some White House staff members, he tops the list of potentially strong challengers. The president announced the malpractice initiative in Edwards’ home state last July.

Bush had been itching for a rematch with Al Gore, judging him to be an easy adversary to beat, one top adviser said. Then the former vice president said he wouldn't run. Now, regardless of who emerges, the White House feels the president's re-election will largely hinge on factors unrelated to who the challenger is.



BUSH

Like their boss, White House staff members publicly wave off questions about the 2004 race, insisting they are focused on setting good policy.

“I've got my mind on the peace and security of the American people, and politics will sort itself out,” Bush said this month when asked about the Democrats angling for his job.

But privately, Bush's aides rattle off their personal rankings of who the tougher Democrats would be. They offer complex projections and strategies for any number of scenarios and are overseeing an aggressive re-election effort that began on Bush's first day in office.

The most obvious footprints are on the trail Bush has left in his travels — a heavy itinerary that closely tracks the states top political adviser Karl Rove identified early on as “special concerns” for re-election. Bush will visit vote-rich Pennsylvania for the 18th time when he talks about medical malpractice on Thursday, and has been to electoral war zone Florida 12 times.

He is to visit Iowa, which he lost by fewer than 5,000 votes, for the ninth time following his State of the Union speech late this month, according to several senior Republicans.

The president doesn't expect to be challenged by a fellow Republican. But it's important to shower the early-voting state with attention just in case, a senior adviser said, and besides, Iowa is a general election battleground.

Bush shrugged off a question Jan. 2 about whether he was eager for a rematch against Gore, saying he wasn't paying much attention. But he believed Gore would have been the easiest Democrat to beat among the major challengers, a top adviser said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, as did other members of Bush's team.

Gore's decision not to run has an upside for the president, the official said. Bush believes Gore would have lost in the primaries and who-ever beat him would have been seen as a giant killer, with momentum.

The same adviser said Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., would be the toughest foe because of his support in organized labor, his experience as a national candidate and his ability to raise money.

Fund-raising power will be critical for Democrats trying to oust the president. A joke making the rounds at the White House holds that Bush's 2000 campaign chairman, Commerce Secretary Don Evans, could raise \$200 million for next year simply by standing on a street corner with a tin cup.

Bush successfully skipped public financing in the 2000 primaries, raising more than \$100 million to carry him to the GOP nomination. He is expected to do the same next year. He accepted public financing for his general election campaign in 2000. It's too early to say whether he will take the public money in the general election next year.

U.N. says U.S. pressure is essential for inspectors

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday he was “optimistic and hopeful” that persistent pressure on Saddam Hussein could lead to Iraq's disarmament without a war.

Annan said “there is no doubt” that U.S. pressure and the threat of force led to the return of U.N. weapons inspectors after four years. European and Arab nations are continuing to pressure Iraq to fill the gaps in its 12,000-page weapons declaration, where many questions about its nuclear, chemical and biological programs remain unanswered, he said.

“I am both optimistic and hopeful that if we handle the situation right and the pressure on the Iraqi leadership is maintained, and the inspectors continue to work as aggressively as they are doing, we may be able to disarm Iraq peacefully without need to resort to war,” he said during a press conference.

He said the United Nations is making contingency plans for a humanitarian operation in the event of a war and is holding preliminary discussions on a possible post-conflict political administration in Iraq.

Inspectors resumed work on Nov. 27, searching for Iraqi biological, chemical or nuclear weapons after a four-year absence. Baghdad denies having any weapons programs, but the United States dismisses those claims and has begun a large military build-up in the Persian Gulf.

Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said Monday that Iraq must provide new evidence about its nuclear, chemical and biological programs or face the possibility of war.

“I think they only need to look around their borders, and they should realize the seriousness,” Blix said in an interview with *The Associated Press* and *Associated Press Television News*. “What the show of force demonstrates to Iraq is that here is the other alternative,” if it does not cooperate.

Blix said the inspectors need months to finish searching Iraq for weapons of mass destruction, but they may not get the time if the Security Council decides to stop inspections.

The world wants Iraq to disarm peacefully, Blix said. To do that it must provide documents, allow U.N. inspectors to interview Iraqi scientists in private, and show physical evidence of what facilities and weapons have been destroyed.

Mark Gwozdecky, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency, which oversees nuclear inspections in Iraq, said Sunday that U.N. teams would need about a year to carry out “credible” inspections of Iraq's nuclear program.

Blix said the key message that he and IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei will deliver to Iraqi officials is that Iraq's 12,000-page declaration did not contain evidence to verify that its weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed.

WEB SITE

From page 1

“It won't cost any student fees,” Edmondson said. “It came out of the university budget.”

Faculty and staff will have access to my.tcu.edu beginning Feb. 3, said Kim Weber, User Services manager.

Edmondson said students should remember to log off my.tcu.edu be-

cause if they do not, another user can access it.

Students can attend training sessions this week to learn how to use the portal. Sessions are scheduled from 1-3 p.m. today and noon-2 p.m. Thursday in the Library Training Lab, Room 219, Weber said. Documentation that explains how to use the Web site is available at (my.tcu.edu).

Emily Baker
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KIDS

From page 1

ience it provides.

“It shows that the village is family friendly and cares about the (children),” Danna said.

Grieser said a future goal is to have an outdoor playground, but the estimated \$10,000 needed for the project is currently unavailable.

Grieser said she plans to create a play area in Leibrock's Abell-Hanger House at the request of

parents. The space for the future play area has already been determined and some items have been donated by Leibrock families, she said.

Grieser and Patton said they would like for students who choose to do so in the summer play and creativity course to create a play area in Abell-Hanger with the same goals, but that has a different atmosphere from the present play area.

Nyshicka Jordan
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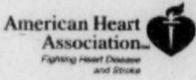
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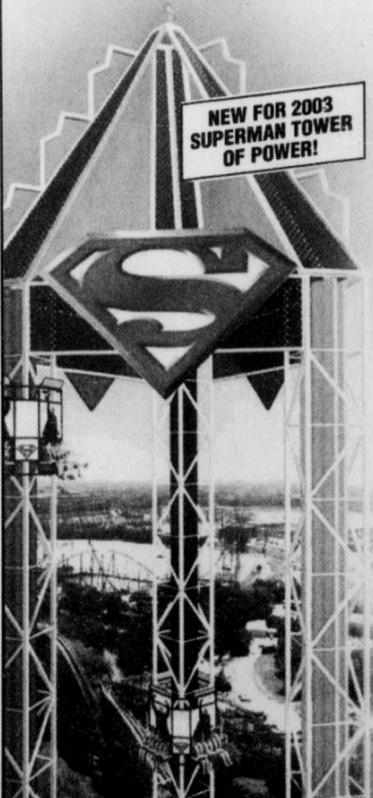


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OPINION

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The Skiff View REAL TV

Reality shows are ridiculous

In the first couple years of the reality television craze, people kept saying it would never last.

Unfortunately, they were wrong. If anything, even more reality shows have invaded prime time television.

When "Survivor" and "Big Brother" first aired on CBS in 2000, the concepts were unique and ratings soared.

Since then, other networks jumped in on the action and television has been full of reality rubbish ever since.

Stick random strangers in a house, on a boat or on an island. It doesn't matter the goal, just as long as they fight, complain and cry.

One of the newest reality hits is the much-talked about "Joe Millionaire."

The premise of this show is inane. The regular "Joe" is courting 20 women who believe he has inherited \$50 million. At the end of the show, the women will learn there is no money and their dream bachelor is actually a construction worker.

Will the woman of his choice spurn the pauper or stand by her man? If the woman is rightly disgusted by his dishonesty and chooses to walk away, she'll be branded snobbish and greedy. If she stays with him, the entire beginning of their relationship is based on a lie. Nobody wins.

Before network executives put any more of these programs on the air, why don't we enclose them in a house together with no outside contact for one month and see how long they last?

If nothing else, maybe while they're trashing their housemates in those stupid little confessionals, the people temporarily filling their positions might get rid of a few more reality shows.

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

Students communicate with parents more now

Time was, parents deposited an incoming college freshman, along with stereo and other critical worldly goods, into a dorm room, and after a tearful hug or two, that was that.

Many of today's college kids, however, apparently are breaking that long-standing tradition. Wielding cell phone and e-mail with reckless abandon, they bombard their parents with calls and letters almost hourly, asking advice, keeping in touch, discussing all manner of academic and personal matters, according to anecdotal evidence and a story in The New York Times.

Hmmm. Much as we endorse family values and a close parent-child relationship, we can't help but wonder if some kids aren't being cheated of one of life's great experiences.

This is an excerpt from a staff editorial in the Chicago Tribune. It was distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service.

Charging for food on planes won't be missed

Under a plan unveiled last week, America West Airlines said it will experiment at charging for the in-flight meals and snacks that most passengers have come to expect gratis. Northwest Airlines is considering the notion, and Continental Airlines is giving it a good think.

America West calls its plan Buy on Board and will try it out for three weeks to see how passengers react.

Soda, juice, coffee and peanuts will still be free. Everything else

will cost you. ... So here's advice for the airlines: Thanks for all those years of free lunching, but we won't miss the food that much. ... Air passengers are impressed by just three words: Cheap, safe, fast. Throw in some peanuts and we're good.

This is an excerpt from a staff editorial that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer. It was distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service.

Republicans must do more to reach black Americans

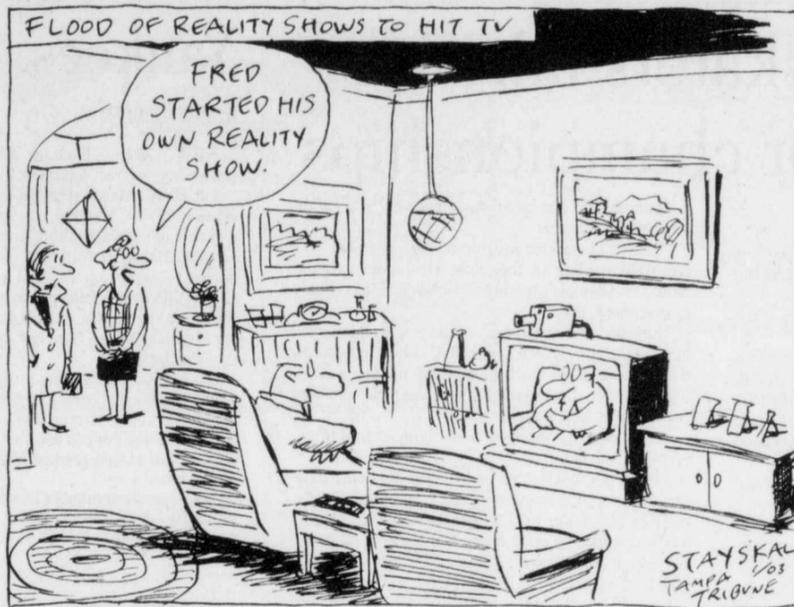
If there was ever time for responsible people in the Republican Party to rise up, denounce and eject the racists who have hijacked the former Party of Lincoln, it is now.

Certainly, we don't believe that the entire Republican Party is racist. ... However, when Republican leaders like former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and California GOP vice-chairman Bill Back make statements that lament the 1948 loss of a segregationist presidential candidate or that say the country would have been better off if the Confederacy had won the Civil War, we have to wonder about the commitment of some GOP members.

The Republican party still needs to do more to reach out to black Americans — through policy initiatives.

We hope the new crop of emerging Republican leaders can break the trend of their elders and offer substantive change, rather than just reassuring rhetoric.

This is an excerpt from a staff editorial that appeared in the Oregon Daily Emerald. It was distributed by U-Wire.



Students have responsibility to protest war before it begins

The daily news is different now.

The Bush administration changed it.

The White House blames the terrorists, Saddam Hussein and North Korean tyrants for the current military unrest in the world.

But Bush, his cabinet and those who support his military actions are the only tyrants here.

By next week, 150,000 U.S. military troops will have assembled in the Middle East poised for war and waiting for the command to go to war.

A command the White House now says is likely to come even without the support of the United Nations.

In North Korea, U.S. officials now say they will discuss, but not negotiate with North Korean leaders about its arsenal of nuclear weapons and that its decision to pull out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The North Koreans have said that should the U.S. attempt to use military action against them, they will unleash World War III.

Military experts say a war with Korea would likely not be a world war, but would be another Korean War for the United States. A war they say would be short,

probably two months or so, but one that could leave 500,000 South Koreans and American military personnel dead. A war, they say, could leave even one million North Koreans dead.

At the center of the controversy, North Korea accuses Washington of trying to "evade its responsibility" for its country's continuing energy crisis. Of that charge, the United States is guilty.

After all, the reason the U.S. so often finds itself in military crises is not because of threats to the U.S., but because we are trying to help out the "little guy."

In this case, North Korea is the "little guy." And although the United States may not agree with the political regime in place, differences in politics haven't stopped the U.S. before.

But more important than all of the political agendas being presented in the world right now is what is happening here at home, in the daily news.

This mayhem of military action leads the news at all hours of the day. Expert after expert can be seen on news program after news program talking about the dangers of the current foreign policies. But hardly any of those stories are followed by stories of protest here in the United States.

For years, our parents have been telling us that we've never experienced anything like they experienced with Vietnam. They're right. We haven't.

Yet.

They stood up and started protesting when the body bags started coming home. Our generation has the opportunities to stop these wars before our friends start coming home in body bags.

Thousands will march for peace this weekend in Washington, D.C. Thousands aren't enough. In this age of technology and information, the young bright minds of this country have a responsibility to pool their resources and fight against fighting these wars.

With the Internet and other technological advances since the Vietnam era, our generation has the resources to organize a tremendous anti-war movement.

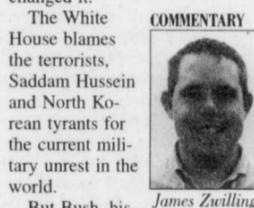
Yet, we have become too apathetic to do anything. We must educate others and ourselves about the evils of American military action in the Middle East, North Korea and other areas of the world.

After 9/11, everyone asked, "Why has this happened to us?" Pick up a newspaper, or watch the evening news. Our actions are why "this" happened to us.

And now, our nation continues its overt military action without blinking an eye. It's time our generation takes a stand.

Without protest, we will be failures.

James Zwilling is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Phoenix, Ariz. He can be reached at (j.g.zwilling@tcu.edu).



COMMENTARY
James Zwilling

Homeless endangered by apathy

It might just be that I've been called a coward by one of them or it might even just be that some of us highly suspect that the one on a bike carries a loaded pistol,

but recently, I've become frightened by some of the Evanston, Ill., homeless.

OK, let's step back from that statement for a moment. What I did not say was that I believe all homeless people are inherently scary. What I did not say was that I disregard the hardships of not having a home while I sit in my ivory tower attending an upper-tier university. What I said was that I've become frightened by some of

Evanston's homeless people.

When I was growing up in the Illinois suburbs, not an hour away from Evanston, there existed exactly one homeless man. He was named Skippy, and he was widely regarded as a village idiot. I remember being 7 and believing that he was affiliated with a traveling circus because that's what he told me.

There are no Skippys in Evanston. Instead, there seem to be two groups prevalent in town: the apathetic and the mean.

The apathetic homeless will not talk to you, but will instead rattle their cups of change and maybe watch you walking down the street. The mean homeless

will start out asking you if they can ask you a question and then proceed down their own bizarre chain of logic until you've been informed that you're the scum of the planet.

The problem is that homelessness is a mobius strip — without happy-go-lucky sorts like Skippy, people become apathetic about the homeless, and this apathy only turns the cycle.

All I can say is that maybe Northwestern should bring back the circus of '20s and '30s yore.

Because Evanston needs a Skippy.

John Dony is a columnist at the Daily Northwestern at Northwestern University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

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StudentSpeakOut

Opinions from the TCU community

"It would be overpopulated, which would lead to other problems like overcrowding and poverty." — Craig Stopa, freshman biology major.



"I think if we succeeded in cloning humans, we'll probably end up with twice as many idiots with more money than sense than we already have, because they're the only ones stupid enough to want to clone themselves." — Gerald P. Dudley, junior theater major.



"I think cloning is not ethical and is morally wrong. How would humans treat cloned humans? Because of my religious beliefs on the origins of mankind, I think that cloning is wrong." — Rodney Thomas, sophomore religion major.



"I would clone Dirk Nowitzki 10 times so that the Mavericks could finally beat the hated Lakers." — Matt Miller, freshman business major.



If indecisive, last semester can be agony

A truly indecisive person like myself (who didn't consider herself indecisive until someone described her as such) hates choices.

Picking a major was an agony. After four official changes at the registrar's office, I am finally coasting through my last semester.

Yet — and I know many of my classmates can sympathize — the truly important choices are just about to come.

I admire those with a thought-out plan. I am currently pretending to know what I am doing by going to law school (a.k.a., a three-year deterrent to a real job).

However, as admissions decisions trickle in from the eight schools to which I applied, I find myself sucked in to the quicksand of decision-making.

Part of my indecisiveness can be attributed to my penchant to explore every side of an issue and evaluate pros and cons. For example, tremendous private school debt versus a cheap state institution; cold weather versus warm; prestige versus location; leaving people I love versus a lifetime of regrets.

Some have tried to ask logical questions that they think will help the decision-making process.

Where do you want to eventually live? (Not West, with the exception of Seattle; nowhere in Texas besides Dallas; in a city.)

What kind of law do you want to practice? (Preferably none; for sure, nothing involving criminals or my greatest fear, public speaking.)

When are you going to get married? (This is from my mother; to be perfectly truthful, she has asked me this question once a week since I was 16. It doesn't really have anything to do with law school, although she thinks it has to do with everything.)

We see answers are not found simply. Basically, I have narrowed my future down to: twelve or so cities, a billion jobs for lawyers who do not want to litigate; a continuing disappointment for my not-yet-a-grandmother; and a commitment to study, nonstop and get yelled at by law professors for the best part of my 20s.

A lot has happened to affect college graduates in the recent past and the near future: the burst of the dot-com bubble, the slow economy and the collapse of giants Enron and WorldCom. Graduate school applications are up; job opportunities are down; living on your own is expensive. Enlisting in the military is always an option, but in the current dangerous state of affairs abroad, not necessarily desirable.

We seniors are panicking. Faced with the revocation of send-home and the elimination of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. schedules, we are desperate.

And yet, amidst this frenzy, I have to remind myself that it is the accumulation of the hard work of many that has granted me these choices. People my age from other families, from other countries, from other economic classes, do not have these options. My grandmothers, because of their gender, faced a different set of expectations and possibilities than I do. For this I will not shirk opportunity, but rather force myself to chose a path.

However, that decision may be made by drawing a slip of paper out of a hat.

Jenny Specht is a senior English and political science major from Fort Worth. She can be reached at (j.l.specht@tcu.edu).



COMMENTARY
Jenny Specht

SPORTS

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Top figure skaters take ice in Dallas for championships

BY BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

DALLAS — An Olympic gold medalist. A six-time national champion. This season's most successful skater.

The competition should be intense this week at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

Salt Lake City winner Sarah Hughes makes her season debut in the most difficult of circumstances. Trying to win her first national title, she has to take on Michelle Kwan, the dominant skater of her generation, and Sasha Cohen, who has outperformed everyone on the Grand Prix circuit.

"As an athlete, I look to compete against the best and do my best when I'm put up against other skaters of a higher quality," Hughes said Tuesday night. "I'm still really eager to accomplish more things and have more goals I set out for myself."

Hughes is the first American woman to win the Olympic gold medal and then skate in the subsequent national championships. She's doing it the hard way, having been sidelined for nearly the entire season with

a leg injury. Her one event was a relatively minor competition in December.

"I haven't competed in almost a year," she said. "It's almost like getting my feet under me. I'm not trying to match the Olympic experience. I know nothing is likely to ever match that."

Normally after an Olympics, many of the top skaters head to the professional ranks. But with the opportunities to make just as much money and maintain a much higher profile by staying Olympic-eligible, few are making the move to the pros.

That's led to the strongest post-Olympics field imaginable at nationals.

The 17-year-old Hughes and 18-year-old Cohen have the incentive of seeking their first U.S. crown. Except for Tara Lipinski in 1997, Kwan has won every American championship since 1996. And Kwan could move into second place among U.S. singles skaters with a seventh title, behind only Maribel Vinson's nine.

So while no Olympic berths will be at stake this week, something nearly as significant might be: the early leadership for the next Olympic cycle.

Yankees, N.Y. welcome Matsui

BY RONALD BLUM

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even the mayor showed up to greet Godzilla.

For Hideki Matsui's formal introduction to New York, he was given a news conference befitting a head of state: Hundreds of reporters and dozens of camera crews filled a hotel meeting room, Yankees manager Joe Torre interrupted his Hawaiian vacation and Roger Clemens came up from Texas.

As he put on the famous pinstripes for the first time, he turned around to proudly display his usual No. 55. Flashes popped and shutters clicked, and Matsui grinned widely, giving thumbs-ups.

With a uniform number like that, some Yankees' fans might be expecting a double Joe DiMaggio.

But the three-time MVP of Japan's Central League only has to hit enough to please owner George Steinbrenner, who is paying Japan's biggest baseball star \$21 million over the next three seasons.

Things can change quickly in the Bronx — pitcher Hideki Irabu — arrived as a star and left, in Steinbrenner's words, as a "fat ... toad."

The last Hideki who played in the Bronx — pitcher Hideki Irabu — arrived as a star and left, in Steinbrenner's words, as a "fat ... toad."

"It's tough to project when he's never played in this league before," Torre said. "He's going to have to get adjusted. Robbie Alomar had trouble

last year switching teams in the same country."

Matsui isn't just a player, he's a symbol of Japanese baseball. Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani sent him a handwritten note welcoming him to the city. The news conference was televised live in the United States on the Yankees' YES Network and beamed back to Japan, where it was 2 a.m. Wednesday.

Yoshihiro Nishida, Japan's counsel general in New York, was on the podium. In all, 12 people sat alongside Matsui on the dais — four more than the Yankees' current total of starting pitchers.

"Spend a lot of money," Mayor Michael Bloomberg told him. "Goodness, we need the sales-tax revenue. If George is ever going to get a new stadium, you'll have to spend a lot!"

NHL fine despite Sabres bankruptcy

League signs sponsorship deal with Kellogg

BY HAL BOCK

Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the day the Buffalo Sabres became the second NHL franchise in a week to declare bankruptcy, the league signed a \$1 million sponsorship deal with the Kellogg Company.

So how bad can things be? Jim Andrews, editorial director of IEG Sponsorship Reports, which monitors corporate sponsorship of sports, sees the Kellogg buy as a sign of a healthy league.

"In terms of marketers, it takes more than those bankruptcies to dis-

rupt interest in a league," he said. "The NHL is still a good buy. If you take a three, four, five-year view of its health, there might be serious questions. But most sponsors look short-term."

"Until the ratings plummet and people stop buying tickets — and at this point there's not a compelling reason to do that — it remains solid."

Commissioner Gary Bettman endorses that perspective. Following the Sabres filing, he addressed the state of his league.

"Overall, we're coming off five years in a row of record attendance," he said. "We have unprecedented exposure and, in fact, we have unprecedented revenues."

"In the last decade, we have managed to grow revenues from a little over \$400 million to \$2 billion. So

in some respects, the business side, as it relates to revenues, has never been stronger."

There are, however, other issues like spiraling salaries, poor business decisions in individual markets, limited revenue streams from broadcasting and perhaps an overambitious expansion to 30 teams. Half the teams reportedly lost money last year. Ottawa filed for bankruptcy protection from more than \$160 million in debts. Court papers indicate the Sabres owe their 40 largest creditors more than \$206 million.

Yet the league has no trouble attracting sponsors with more than 20 in the fold. Corporate spending increased from \$350 million last year to \$400 million this year. Eleven of 13 sponsors renewed and five new sponsors have signed on over the last two years.

Need a job? Want to write sports? The Skiff is looking for sports writers, photographers and editors. Stop by the Skiff newsroom, call (817) 257-7428 or e-mail (skiffletters@tcu.edu) for more information.

Men's team loses to DePaul
The men's basketball team lost their third game in a row against DePaul Tuesday night, 71-65. The team takes the court again Saturday on the road against Louisville.

TCU	29	36	65
DePaul	29	42	71

Player	MIN	PTS
J Brown	12	0
C Valsin	26	8
B Merriex	36	9
Santee	34	11
J Blount	29	25
R Hobbs	2	0
N Smith	22	6
J Davis	17	4
M Sloan	19	2
B Carter	3	0

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK

LOUIS ARMSTRONG

WAS THE FIRST MAN TO

WALK ON THE MOON.

It's a long way from the Apollo Theatre to the Apollo program. And while his playing may have been "as lofty as a moon flight," Time magazine once suggested, that would be as close as Louis Daniel Armstrong would ever get to taking "one small step for man."

But as the jazz musician of the 20th century, leaps were simply a matter of course for Satchmo. For no one has ever embodied the art form the way he did. It was he who helped make virtuoso solos a part of the vocabulary. It was he who was honored with the title "American goodwill ambassador" by the State Department. It was he who was the last jazz musician to hit #1 on the Billboard pop chart.

Not bad for a kid whose first experience with the trumpet was as a guest in a correctional home for wayward boys. If only today's schools were as enlightened and informed as that reformatory was.

Alas, the arts are dismissed as extravagant in today's schools. This, despite all the studies that show parents believe music and dance and art and drama make their children much better students and better people.

If you feel like your kids aren't getting their fair share, make some noise. To find out how, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us on the web at AmericansForTheArts.org. Just like the great Louis Armstrong, all you need is a little brass.

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