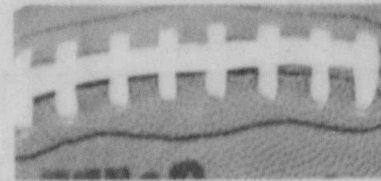




**NEWS**  
Read about today's College Student for a Day program online at [DAILYSKIFF.COM](http://DAILYSKIFF.COM)



**SPORTS**  
Find out how the Horned Frogs stack up against the New Mexico Lobos **PAGE 6.**



**FEATURES**  
See if "Flushed Away" will make a splash or leave you high-and-dry **PAGE 4.**



# TCU DAILY SKIFF

Wednesday  
November 8, 2006  
Vol. 104 Issue 43

EST. 1902 [WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM](http://WWW.DAILYSKIFF.COM)

## Democrats score early wins, anticipate big gains in power

By STEVEN THOMMA  
*McClatchy Newspapers*

Democrats captured a coveted Senate seat in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, an early landmark victory in their bid to gain power in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and change the country's course.

Democratic challenger Bob Casey Jr. was declared the

winner over Republican Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, a one-time conservative icon who'd hoped to run for the presidency. Next door, incumbent Republican Sen. Mike DeWine lost to challenger U.S. Rep. Sherrod Brown, a Democrat.

Democrats also held one of their most endangered Senate seats, as Sen. Bob Menendez of

New Jersey fought off allegations of corruption and defeated Republican Tom Kean Jr., the son of a popular former governor.

In another sign of trouble for Republicans, this one in the House, Democrat Brad Ellsworth defeated Republican Rep. John Hostettler in a solidly Republican district in Indiana. Hostettler was a

leader among the social conservatives who came to power in the Republican takeover of the House in 1994.

In yet another striking gain, the Democrats won the governor's office in Ohio for the first time in 20 years. Democratic U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland defeated Republican Secretary of State Ken Blackwell to seize the governor's office being

vacated by Republican Gov. Bob Taft.

The Ohio statehouse was a coveted prize in a state that could be as important to the 2008 presidential campaign as it was when it put George W. Bush over the top for a second term in 2004. A Democrat hasn't been elected governor of Ohio since 1986.

Early results also showed

a razor's-edge election for a pivotal Senate seat in Virginia, where incumbent Republican Sen. George Allen fought both allegations of racism and a tough challenge from Democrat James Webb, who was Ronald Reagan's Navy secretary and based his campaign on opposing the war in Iraq.

See **VOTING**, page 2

## Compliments to the chef



Kelli Ginther, 20-year-old head baker for the TCU Dining Services, bakes corn bread and cobblers Tuesday morning. Ginther, a Fort Worth native, received a certificate of Le Cordon Bleu Patisserie and Baking from the Scottsdale Culinary Institute before she applied for position with Jazzman's at TCU.

## Baker uses age to her advantage

By KATHERINE LANE  
*Staff Reporter*

Born in 1986, the head baker for TCU Dining Services is the same age as many students attending TCU.

Twenty-year-old Kelli Ginther has been in charge of baking for Dining Services since August — a role that, despite her young age, she is more than ready to fill, said Dining Services staff members.

"For me, this is a really exciting chance to prove that people our age can be capa-

ble of doing the work and gaining respect in the workforce," Ginther said.

A Fort Worth native, Ginther graduated from Boswell High School in July 2004. Ginther then went to the Scottsdale Culinary Institute where she received a certificate of Le Cordon Bleu Patisserie and Baking.

"Basically, I am a pastry chef," Ginther said.

Ginther graduated from cooking school in November 2004 after finishing an externship for a Cold Stone

Creamery test store where new flavors were made. She said she was in charge of making the ice cream cakes.

After moving home to Fort Worth, Ginther heard about an open position in the catering department for Jazzman's at TCU through her friend Debbie Baldwin, an administrative assistant in the political science department.

After spending time working in the catering department, Ginther said she was presented with the opportu-

nity to work as head baker.

"I don't think there were any hesitations about hiring Kelli," said Rick Flores, general manager for Dining Services.

Ginther is now in charge of all the baked goods on campus.

"I pretty much bake the same things every day, but baking danishes is definitely my favorite," Ginther said.

Some of the most popular baked goods Ginther said she bakes include corn bread,

See **BAKER**, page 2

## SGA promotes idea of no tax on textbooks

By BILLY WESSELS  
*Staff Reporter*

Student Government Association passed three bills Tuesday evening, including one that promotes the sale of tax-free textbooks and could save Texas college students \$40 million, said an SGA delegate Tuesday evening.

The bill to support the sale of tax-free textbooks in Texas could help remove the 8.25 percent sales tax charged on college textbooks, said Mickey Ley, delegate from the AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Ley also said the cost of college textbooks has increased by 62 percent since 1994.

This resolution originally came from the University of Texas at Austin student government, which is requesting all student governments in Texas to pass a bill similar to this, said Thomas Pressly, delegate from the AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"They are working on a campaign to promote tax-free textbook sales throughout Texas," Pressly said. "We plan to send it to the local representatives and senators in the Fort Worth/

Dallas community."

This bill was passed unanimously.

The association also passed a bill to reform the procedure for filling empty seats in the house, which will help SGA decide who will fill vacant seats, said Matt Maddera, delegate from the science and engineering constituency.

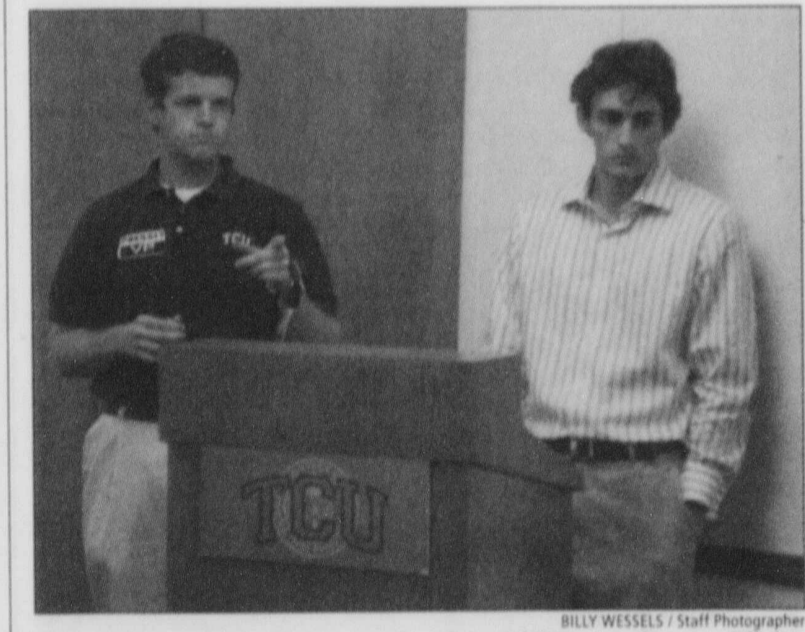
Part of the procedure would involve candidates interviewing with members of the house, Maddera said.

This bill passed with one vote against it.

Christopher Kaupelis, member of the permanent improvement committee, presented the bill to set up mile markers around campus, which he said would benefit students, athletes and faculty on campus by providing them a way to measure distances walked.

This bill faced no opposition and was passed unanimously.

A bill to allow TCU student media to use recording devices at SGA Judicial Board hearings was tabled for discussion to the election and regulations committee.



Political science majors Thomas Pressly, left, and Mickey Ley discuss a bill that promotes the sale of tax-free textbooks at the SGA meeting Tuesday evening.



Daniel Fredrick, left, as Freddie, Cheryl Bellows as Doty and Michael Cook as Garry in NOISES OFF, which starts today at 7:30 p.m.

## Play offers view of actors' back-stage experience

By ALY FLEET  
*Staff Reporter*

A month's worth of work is coming to an end as TCU theatre students present "Noises Off," the biggest production of the semester, today through Sunday.

The crew of "Noises Off," written by Michael Frayn, has been working on the show's set for nearly a month, said Meg Bauman, a sophomore theatre major.

"Our set is enormous," Bauman said. "It's two stories tall and rotates."

Kat Roll, a sophomore psychology major, said "Noises Off" is a play within a play. Audiences will see the rehearsal process, as well as what goes on behind the scenes during a play's production, said Roll, who plays Brooke.

The set rotates throughout the play — one side showing the set of a play called "Nothing On," and the other portraying the "backstage" area, Roll said.

According to a Theatre TCU

press release, "It offers audiences the unique opportunity to view the frenzied lives of actors in their backstage element."

The show follows the cast of "Nothing On," as they have their last rehearsal and take the play on a tour across England, said Daniel Fredrick, who plays Freddie, an actor in "Nothing On."

Jule Nelson-Duac, a freshman theatre major who plays Belinda, an actress in "Noth-

ing On," said "Noises Off" shows all the possible problems a cast might encounter while trying to present a play.

"It's a play about what happens backstage," said Nelson-Duac. "Everything that can possibly go wrong does."

The show will give students a look into the life of a theatre student, both on- and off-stage, said Bauman, who plays assistant stage director Poppy.

"We're getting to let them in on our secrets," Bauman said.

See **NOISES**, page 2

**WEATHER**  
TODAY: Sunny, 84/58  
THURSDAY: Sunny, 85/64  
FRIDAY: Partly Cloudy, 80/46

**PECULIAR FACT**  
Thanks to a typo on a New York law passed this year, the standard for driving while intoxicated was set at 0.18 grams of alcohol in a person's blood. — AP

**TODAY'S HEADLINES**  
SPORTS: Frogs move up in standings, page 6  
OPINION: Volunteering important for future, page 3  
FEATURES: Check out the reviews of the week, page 4

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**BAKER**  
From page 1

garlic bread, cobblers and any other specialty desserts. Executive Chef Joel Branch said Ginther's personality helped her get the job. "She's very durable — she can roll with the big boys, and she has a great attitude and willingness to work," Branch said. Along with being responsible for all the baked goods on campus, students in the quality foods class come to the kitchen to learn exactly what goes into being the head

baker, Ginther said. "I love teaching students, especially when they are my age," Ginther said. Ginther said seeing students get excited about something she does is one of the best parts of her job. She said there's an advantage to working among people her own age because it allows her to go out and talk with students and see what they like. "Being the same age as the students I am baking for definitely gives me a heads-up because I know what people my age are going to eat," Ginther said.

But baking doesn't always stop when the work day is over. "I also love the idea of helping people by coming up with great sugar-free recipes for people who are diabetic like my parents, and baking cookies for a homeless shelter," Ginther said. Ginther said she is a people-person and any career that affects a lot of people is for her. "I don't think a four-year college is for everyone; it wasn't for me," Ginther said. "I learn something new every day working here, so it's like college with a twist."

**NOISES**  
From page 1

"This is our life." "Noises Off," set in 1980s England, features a cast of 10 students, Roll said. Cast members are dressed in exaggerated, '80s-style costumes and speak with British accents throughout, Nelson-Duac said. Fredrick, a sophomore theatre major, said the show also features a lot of physical comedy. "My pants end up falling down about half a dozen times," Fredrick said. Students will have a great time watching, Roll said. "It's one of the funniest plays I've ever seen or been in," Roll said. "It's hilarious."

**VOTING**  
From page 1

At stake Tuesday: —All 435 seats in the U.S. House, where Democrats needed to gain 15 seats to take control for the first time since 1994. —Thirty-three seats in the Senate, where Democrats needed to gain six to take control for the first time since 2002. —Thirty-six governors' offices, where Republicans entered the election with a 22-14 edge, including control of the four biggest states, California, Florida, New York and Texas, plus Ohio. Voting problems were reported at scattered sites around the country, as millions faced new voting machines bought to alleviate problems like the ones that turned the 2000 presidential election in Florida into a mess.



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Fares do not include airport-assessed passenger facility charge (PFC) of up to \$9 and a federal September 11th Security Fee of up to \$5 one-way per person. Published service only. Some flights operated by ATA Airlines. Tickets are nonrefundable but may be applied toward future travel on Southwest Airlines. Fares are subject to change until ticketed. Any change in itinerary may result in an increase in fare. Fares are combinable with other Southwest Airlines fares, excluding Senior Fares. If combining with other fares, the most restrictive fare's rules apply. Fares not available through Group Desk. Service to and from Hawaii excluded. ©2004, 2006 Southwest Airlines Co.

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- Manchester  
(A better way to Boston)
- Miami (See Ft. Lauderdale)
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The TCU Daily Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, published by students of TCU and sponsored by the Schiefel School of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Publications Committee, comprised of representatives from the student body, staff, faculty and administration. The Skiff is published twice weekly (Friday being off) and going forward accepts no advertising. The Skiff is a member of The Associated Press.

Classification: C-200  
Subscriptions: Call (817) 257-7428. Rates are \$10 per semester. Location: Mundy Building Room, Room 211, Box 23, University Blvd Fort Worth, TX 76129  
On-campus distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus, but not on-premise. Additional copies are \$1.50 and are available at the Skiff office.

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**COMMENTARY**



Anahita Kalani

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**COMMENTARY**



Kathleen Thurber

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"He that would live in peace and at ease must not speak all he knows nor judge all he sees."  
— Benjamin Franklin

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

**Service important for future**

Student volunteering should be required. How many times this semester have you or one of your friends done something for either someone in the community or someone in need? It's in TCU's mission statement: "To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community." What better way to follow through with this campus mission than to implement a way students can help their community? Not only is community volunteering good and the right thing to do, such activities are becoming increasingly important to college graduates looking for work. Time after time, interview upon interview, the applicant with the most volunteer time and activities has an advantage. TCU created a center solely to help you do this. The TCU Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, a

branch of Student Developmental Services, is available to help those in the TCU community get involved with volunteer and service activities. But such service ought to be more than a good idea. It should be a commitment required of every student at TCU. Students should be required to share their time, knowledge and friendship with those in need. TCU sponsors events throughout the school year, yet student turnout is not always as high as hoped. If it were mandatory for students to volunteer at least once during their college experience, it would not only benefit the students by opening up their minds, but it would also benefit the community students often neglect. Some of the most important lessons young adults learn are not in the classroom. Students should look beyond University Drive to find others whose lives can be bettered by something students can do.

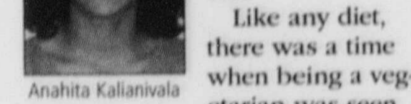
*Erin Glatzel for the editorial board.*

BY LOUIS COPPOLA



**Vegetarian lifestyle has more options**

In today's fashion-forward, weight-conscious market, there are countless diets available. But before South Beach was discovered and before Atkins put pen to paper, there was the vegetarian diet.



Anahita Kalianivala

Like any diet, there was a time when being a vegetarian was seen and used to get attention and a way for people to form their identities. Today, vegetarianism has evolved into an environmentally aware habit, and I think it's safe to say, the "tree-hugging" perception has been put to rest. There are essentially two ways to cut meat out of your diet: as a vegetarian and as a vegan. For vegetarians, the only stipulation is that they not eat meat — no chicken, fish or beef. Vegans don't eat any animal products — no meat, fish, eggs or dairy products. I'll refer to the two groups as vegetarians. People are vegetarian for many reasons. The most commonly cited reasons are for religion, animal

rights, personal health and the environment. Certain religions are known for their meat-free habits. The majority of the world's vegetarians are Hindu, Hinduism and Jainism, both predominantly South Asian faiths, teach vegetarianism as a moral behavior. Certain sects of Buddhism advocate full vegetarian diets, while others do not. The most obvious reason to become vegetarian is for the well-being of our furry friends. According to an article on About.com, "A vegetarian or vegan in the United States saves the lives of around 83 farm animals each year." Also in the article, "According to the Surgeon General, nearly 70 percent of all disease in the United States is diet-related." And with the American Dietetic Association having claimed that a vegetarian diet is "healthful (and) nutritionally adequate" and aids in "the prevention and treatment of certain diseases," there's no reason not to try it. Vegetarians try to slow down the meat industry as much as they can, while also working to protect the environment. According to About.com, the meat industry causes more water pollution than

any other industry, and raising animals as food requires more than one-third of all raw materials and fossil fuels used in the United States. It's easier than ever to become a vegetarian with the information devoted to the subject in cookbooks and on TV shows. There are also specialty grocery stores like Trader Joe's, Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace that carry vegetarian and vegan items to make it easier for vegetarians to shop with discretion. According to a New York Times article, Whole Foods Market is preparing to unveil a line of meats with an "animal compassionate" label to indicate the animals were not harmed while they were raised. The label declares the animals were treated in a humane manner — that is, of course, until they were slaughtered and packaged for your satisfaction. According to the article, "animal compassionate" foods prohibit the castration of sheep and the tail-docking of pigs. "Free farmed" allows castration of sheep in the first week and tail-docking in pigs. Under both labels, electric prods on beef cattle are permitted only in emergencies. How much of a difference do these labels make when animals are still being killed? What is the fight for animal welfare about — the process or the end result? At the very least, the new "animal compassionate" labels will give non-vegetarians a way to express support without changing their diets and the vegetarians a sign that their efforts are in vain.

Anahita Kalianivala is a freshman English and psychology major from Fort Worth. Her column appears every Wednesday.



SXC.COM

**Saddam's verdict proves U.S. commitment to Iraq**

The trial of Saddam Hussein delivered a verdict this weekend, sentencing the former Iraqi dictator to death for crimes against humanity. Despite his request for a death by firing squad, Saddam Hussein will be put to death by hanging. While also standing a second trial, Hussein was convicted of ordering the deaths of 148 Shiite men and boys in 1982 in the town of Dujail. The killings were a result of a failed assassination attempt against the dictator and were intended to serve as a warning to political opponents to not defy him. Hussein is still in the process of being tried for another crimes-against-humanity charge for the genocidal killing of 50,000 Iraqi Kurds in 1987 and 1988. The former Iraqi dictator refused to stand for the delivery of his verdict and had to be brought to his feet by two court bailiffs. When the judge read the verdict, Hussein, shaking and defiant, repeatedly yelled "Allahu Akbar!" ("God is Greatest!") and "Long live the nation!" Gunfire broke out across Baghdad in celebration and fighting occurred in the north of the city as a result. Shiites tended to be jubilant at the verdict they had long awaited. The appeals process for Saddam began Monday. The judges of appeal are to convene within 10 days, but a decision could take several months. If the appeal decision reaffirms Hussein was rightfully sentenced to death, his execution would follow within 30 days. The trial of Saddam Hussein should not go down in history as a footnote, but an event where a dictatorship that assaults humanity is kept accountable for its actions. Although inconsistently applied to regimes around the world,

accountability should be brought to those who commit war crimes against their own people. The European Union was quick to oppose the verdict, as it does not support any form of capital punishment, even for genocidal dictators. It is somewhat hypocritical that the international organization has openly stated its will on an issue where commitment in any other form is, at most, limited. Many countries voiced such concerns about the use of the death sentence, but stood by the right of Hussein to be tried by the Iraqi judicial system. British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said, "It is right that those accused of such crimes against the Iraqi people should face Iraqi justice." Despite his conviction, however, Hussein's legacy still remains in Iraq. Aided by Syria and Iran, insurgents still view Hussein as a leader, either dead or alive. It is the insurgency's continued assaults that drove the Shiites to create death squads of their own that contribute to the "sectarian violence" so apparent in Baghdad. The political fallout of Saddam's verdict will probably be one of little significance. The news of the verdict comes very shortly before midterm elections, and it might not have time to diffuse throughout the minds of average voters. If at all, it will remind the voting public of the war in Iraq and not the more general war on terror, thus hurting the Republican campaign-messaging effort. It does, however, have ramifications in relation to U.S. troops. Even with a mismanaged aftermath, justice for Saddam Hussein is one noble legacy of the American commitment and sacrifice in Iraq. Patrick McFadden is a columnist for the Daily Trojan (USC). Useless

**Pastor's actions do not represent entire evangelical community**

Christianity has been grossly misrepresented. I opened the paper Sunday and saw that Ted Haggard of New Life Church in Colorado Springs had been fired because of "sexual immorality," according to New Life Church's statements. Haggard acknowledged Friday in the Gazette Telegraph that he had paid a Denver man for a massage and for methamphetamine. The man claims the two had a "long-term sexual relationship, though Haggard said he did not have sex with the man and did not take the drug.



Kathleen Thurber

Haggard was also the president of the National Association for Evangelicals, and while he has always preached a message of grace and has championed many outreach efforts, he did represent a church that openly opposed gay marriage and, as any church should, built his ministry on the foundation that people must be truthful — with themselves, each other and God. For a curious skeptic attending his church, I would think it would be very hard to return. I can't imagine the feelings of betrayal his congregation must feel, let alone someone who was just beginning to open up to the idea of Christianity. While I have always shielded

away from this mega-church, it has been one of the cornerstones of faith in Colorado, and I hope his actions do not taint the good he and his church have done. Everyone struggles with something. Many pastors, possibly including Haggard, are involved in facilitating counseling for various issues where they try to work people through crises with God and scripture as their guide — something that comes off much less genuinely when the pastor is secretly struggling with the same issues. Members of New Life have expressed their forgiveness toward Haggard and their commitment to the church. I hope this is the attitude that prevails — not one of bitterness toward the misrepresentation Haggard pre-

sented, though this would be understandable. We should expect these things since humanity is not perfect. No matter how committed one is to God, Christ or the church, he or she will continue to sin. That's why there's forgiveness. That's why there's grace. Because we don't deserve it, because there's nothing we can do to earn it, because it's just there. Not a "get-into-heaven-free pass" but a genuine offer for a relationship that comes through genuine belief on our part. I hope Haggard can save his marriage, or work through his situation so that he's happy with it. But, I can't help but feel this is another strike against us; another chance for skeptics to see Christians as hypocrites. Haggard is not the only one. We all heard about the scandals in the Catholic Church and the issues in the Episcopal Church. Then there are the small things, the day-to-day encounters that are even more important than the stuff that fills the papers. There are the people who shout and shove fliers in your hands on downtown street corners urging you to confess or go to hell. There are the Christian organizations that spend more time judging others than trying to help them and the people who go to church but don't translate any of its teachings into their daily lives. I know there's a place for evangelism in cities. But I

was always taught that relationships were more effective than fliers, especially ones that attempt to instill fear by preaching fire and brimstone. Various headlines about Haggard's situation insinuated he had brought down the church. Don't blame the church for these inconsistencies. The church, no matter what denomination, is not Christianity. The church is manmade and is therefore flawed by design. So are the people in the church. So just as Christians should not be judging, I hope the rest do not judge Christianity based on the actions of a few. Kathleen Thurber is a news-editorial journalism major from Colorado Springs, Colo.

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e-mail it to LETTERS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.



Elections may be over, but take a look back at some of the most politically charged songs of the year on Friday's Features page.

# Reviews of the Week

### MUSIC

## 'Idol' alum releases debut country CD

By MATT MABE  
Staff Reporter

"American Idol" has done it again. Kellie Pickler's debut album, "Small Town Girl," released on Oct. 31, is sure to be a hit with "Idol" fans.

While Pickler was voted off the fifth season of the top-rated Fox reality show, her cuteness and Southern belle appeal won her a lot of fans, especially here in the South.

The album is full of pop-country tunes, several of which were co-written by Pickler. The disc has done well after its first week of release. It is in the top 10 on the iTunes album chart and has risen up to No. 39 on the Amazon.com sales chart. "Girl" was produced by Blake Chancey, who is best known for his work with the Dixie Chicks. The record showcases two distinct sides of Pickler's personality.

The first single, "Red High Heels,"

which already has reached video-hit status on Country Music Television, shows a cheery, playful side of Pickler. She sings, "Well you thought I'd wait around forever/ But baby get real/ I just kicked you to the curb/ In my red high heels."

Pickler keeps her Southern charm that made fans love her on "Idol" as she sings every song on "Girl" with a Southern "good-ol'-girl" twang. "Girl" is a mix of twangy pop-country tunes and over-the-top ballads that show Pickler has some depth.

In "I Wonder," Pickler sings a broken-hearted song about her mother who abandoned her when she was a little girl.

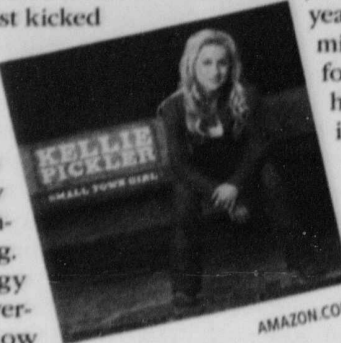
"I Wonder" is definitely a standout track on the CD and has lyrics that will

apply to many girls across the nation. She sings, "Did you think I didn't need you here/ To hold my hand/ To dry my tears/ Did you even miss me through the years at all?" While the lyrics might not be the most profound, they will appeal to her target audience, which is young women.

The song that young women will most relate to is the up-tempo title track in which Pickler sings, "I'd rather be fishin' with grandpa on the lake/ Then getting all glammed up/ Fake eyelashes on my face."

The record is fun, poppy and catchy. Pickler's voice is pleasant, and you can't help but smile after you hear it.

★★★★★



AMAZON.COM

### MUSIC

## Meat Loaf still fresh

By JEFF ESKEW  
Features Editor

It's exactly what you would expect it to be — Meat Loaf's "Bat Out of Hell III: The Monster is Loose" is bombastic, over-the-top melodrama and simply one of the best albums to come out this year.

In what marks Loaf's ninth studio album, and supposedly the last in the "Bat" series, this disc delivers the goods. Opening track "The Monster is Loose," which is about war and famine, is more than seven minutes in length and sounds like something off a Styx record from the 1980s; it is clear that Loaf has been brushing up on his vocal abilities.

The best way to sum up Meat Loaf for those who may not know is simple, he is what Jack Black strives to be but will never accomplish.

One of the best compliments one can give to "Bat III" is that it sounds as if you should be sitting in a theater, watching a Broadway play unfold.

Loaf's voice comes off as being very operatic throughout the entire disc, especially on a track that seemed like an odd choice to put on a rock album.

In what may be one of the strangest (and best) covers in recent rock history, Loaf decides to tackle the super-melodramatic song made famous by none other than Celine Dion, "It's All Coming Back to Me Now."

Performed as a duet with Norwegian songbird Marion Raven, "It's All Coming Back to Me Now" can easily be stated as one of the discs' standout tracks, although not the best.

That distinction would have to go to either the aria-esc "Blind as a Bat" or "In the Land of the Pig, the Butcher is King." While one is a sappy love song, and the other is about knowing your place in the world, both deliver on all accounts and will likely incite multiple replays on the iPod.

While there isn't a bad song on the album, there doesn't seem to be any song that could stand as a knockout single on the radio.

Is the entire album ludicrous? Of course it is; that's Meat Loaf. But would you really want it any other way to close out the extraordinary rock trilogy? Hell no.

This album was made for fans, and this is one fan who couldn't be happier with the end result.

★★★★★



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### MOVIE

## FLUSH THIS

By JEFF ESKEW  
Features Editor

What is there to say about the latest animated movie to hit the silver screen? There are rats, jokes that are three years old and not a whole lot of laughs in between.

Despite game efforts from A-listers Hugh Jackman ("The Prestige" and "X-Men") and Kate Winslet ("Little Children" and "Titanic"), the end result is the same as you would expect from less-talented actors.

Jackman voices Roddy, a coddled pet rat who finds himself flushed down the toilet of his plush bachelor pad by an obnoxious sewer rat named Sid (Shane Richie, "Shoreditch").

Thrown into a dog-eat-dog world he doesn't understand, Roddy soon encounters tough street rat Rita (Winslet), who teaches him a thing or two about the "real world," all while fending off the evil Toad (Ian McKellen, "X-Men" and "The Da Vinci Code").

Toad is out to destroy all things associated with rats and mice. It is unclear for about half the movie why he has such disdain for the rodents but becomes clear as the movie progresses.

With the movie clocking in at less than 90 minutes, it doesn't have too much time to develop the characters. As an end result, they are one-dimensional and flat.

"Flushed Away" is the best example of recent animated movies that depend too much on visuals and not enough on the story. While it is visual eye candy, it makes one yearn for classic Disney movies such as "Bambi" and "Beauty and the Best."

Another pitfall of "Flushed" is many of the jokes fall flat. From the opening scene showing Roddy trying to decide whether to put on a tux or a wolverine costume — an obvious play on having Jackman voice the character — to having him hit or kicked in the groin about 14 times.

Although there isn't a plethora of positives, there are two components that work well.

One is having McKellen on hand to play the villain. McKellen is naturally charismatic on screen, and that certainly doesn't change when only his voice is present. And the other is the soundtrack. It takes songs from the past couple of decades and uses them effectively, although having the slugs sing them gets old after about minute five.

Maybe the movie plays more effectively to children, but the great animated movies know how to attract and keep adults' attentions as well.

While "Flushed Away" isn't the worst movie to come out this year — that honor still goes to "Man of the Year" — it does little more than circle the toilet bowl before it just drowns in its own filth.

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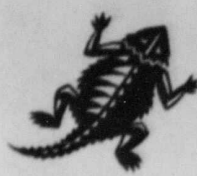
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**WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE**

Q: Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

A: Because if they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.

**Quigmans**

by Buddy Hickerson



"I used to want to be a fireman, but my personality is better suited to being a big, obnoxious, Hollywood hyphenate."

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

**Directions**  
Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, 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**

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

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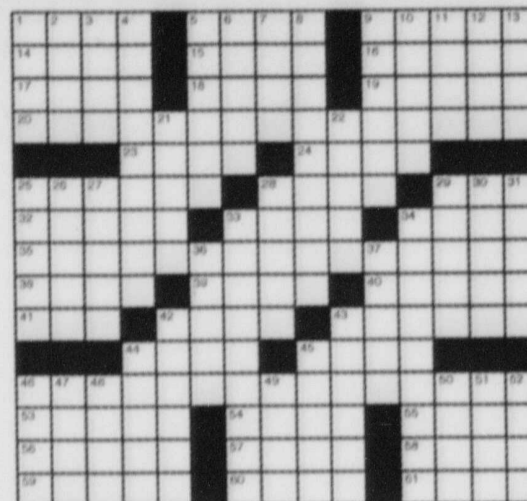
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By Philip J. Anderson  
Portland, OR

11/8/06

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

ACROSS  
1 Czech or Pole  
5 Egyptian goddess  
9 Indian tea  
14 Lug  
15 Unclothed  
16 "Come Back, Little" movie  
17 MBA subj.  
18 Disney sci-fi movie  
19 Subdues  
20 Trounce  
23 Charged particles  
24 Rivers in Spain  
25 Unemotional  
26 Wire thickness units  
29 Conclusion  
32 Tapestry  
33 London gallery  
34 Gin flavor  
35 Trounce  
38 Behind time  
39 BA word  
40 Old hag  
41 French summer  
42 Key pie ingredient  
43 Black eye  
44 French actor Jacques Bernard and Arlie  
46 Trounce  
53 Dress shape  
54 Woeful word  
55 Mint family member  
56 Sisters of Charity founder  
57 Carson's successor  
58 Emcee  
59 Perfume  
60 ASAP word  
61 Angry states

DOWN  
1 Pipe part  
2 Nuts  
3 On the summit of  
4 Air  
5 Have in mind  
6 Rides the waves  
7 Object of devotion

8 Misses in Madrid  
9 Houston team  
10 George Bernard and Arlie  
11 Big rig  
12 Help with a heist  
13 Alda series  
21 Lifting device  
22 Edmonton pro  
25 Mink's cousin  
26 Halloween handout  
27 Speechily  
28 Photo finish  
29 John of pop music  
30 Mary a soul  
31 Table  
33 Airport buildings  
34 Mount  
35 (Flag-raising site on two Jim)  
36 Land of Port-au-Prince  
37 Earth pigment

42 Bemoan  
43 Biblical strongman  
44 Mortimer's partner Liz  
45 Bingo relative  
46 Large unspecified number

47 Guinness or Baldwin  
48 Toy with a tail  
49 Royal role for Liz  
50 Norse god  
51 Seine tributary  
52 Hustler from Minnesota

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

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**FOOTBALL**

**Frogs move up standings**

By **BILLY WESSELS**  
Staff Reporter

With a 25-10 win over the UNLV Rebels on Saturday, the Frogs have moved up in the national polls and in the Mountain West Conference standings.

TCU (6-2 overall and 2-2 conference) is now ranked No. 31 in the nation, receiving seven votes in the USA Today poll and two in the AP poll. The BYU Cougars (7-2, 5-0) are ranked No. 27 in the USA Today poll and No. 25 in the AP poll. After the win, the Frogs moved ahead of the San Diego State Aztecs (1-7, 1-3) for sixth place in the Mountain West Conference.

Saturday's win was also head coach Gary Patterson's 49th career head-coaching win at TCU. If the Frogs win next week against the New Mexico

Lobos, Patterson will be the fastest TCU football coach to reach the 50-win plateau.

Senior kicker Peter LoCoco was named the Mountain West Conference special teams player of the week for making all four of his field goal attempts. The four field goals were from 42, 33, 40 and 29 yards. The kicks were a career-best for LoCoco. The current record for field goals made in a game for TCU is five, set by Nick Browne in both the 2002 and 2003 seasons.

Senior quarterback Jeff Ballard now has a record of 18-2 as a starter, which ties him for the highest quarterback winning percentage at TCU with Howard Grubbs (1928-29). Both Ballard and Grubbs have a 87.5 winning percentage as starters.

The Frogs have won 13

straight Saturday games, dating back to last season. They have also lost just one Saturday game dating back to last season.

The win also put the Frogs' Mountain West Conference record to 10-2 all time. Both in-conference losses have come this season, and the Frogs have an equal record of 5-1 both on the road and at home in conference games.

This is the fourth time in Patterson's six-year tenure as head coach that the Frogs have started the season with a record of 6-2 or better.

The Frogs' rushing defense remained in the top five in the nation, allowing less than 70 yards per game on the ground. The only teams ranked ahead of the Frogs are the Michigan Wolverines, Texas Longhorns and Miami Hurricanes.



Running back Lonta Hobbs finishes the TCU score of 26-3 against Wyoming in the fourth quarter for the Frogs on Oct. 28. The football team plays the New Mexico Lobos in Albuquerque, N.M. on Saturday at 4:30 p.m.



ROBYN SHEPHERD/Staff Photographer  
Head coach Gary Patterson discusses Saturday's opponent, the UNLV Rebels, at the weekly Coaches' Luncheon on Tuesday.

**FOOTBALL**

**Patterson expects intense crowd in New Mexico**

By **MATT MABE**  
Staff Reporter

Coming off a 25-10 win over the UNLV Rebels in Las Vegas, the Horned Frogs will travel to Albuquerque, N.M., to take on the New Mexico Lobos on Saturday.

Head coach Gary Patterson said Tuesday at the weekly Coaches' Luncheon, that the Horned Frogs are preparing heavily to play the Lobos.

"There is a lot more preparation that goes in for us,"

Patterson said. "You have to prepare, especially when you play in somebody else's house, to not give up the easy touchdown."

Patterson said the Lobos' defense is strong, fast and will be hard to penetrate — especially when the Frogs turn to their rushing attack.

"They are a fast defense, and they are always good against the run," Patterson said. "Especially at home, they feed off the intensity of the crowd, and I read

that this week they have already sold over 26,000 tickets."

Patterson said even though the Lobos crowd will be a big one, the Frogs will be ready and willing to take them on in the intense environment.

"Our kids will like the big crowd," Patterson said. "We

like playing in that kind of environment. It makes for a great game."

The Saturday game will be Patterson's first return to the University of New Mexico since he was

the defensive coordinator and safeties coach there.

"I have a lot of good friends there," Patterson said. "It will be my first

time back there since '97, and there are several people there that have stayed in touch with me throughout the years."

Patterson said the Lobos are much like the Frogs in that they play much better at home, and they are always going to put up a fight.

"You always know you are in a fight when you play New Mexico," Patterson said. "I don't care. Win, lose or draw, you always know you are in a fight."

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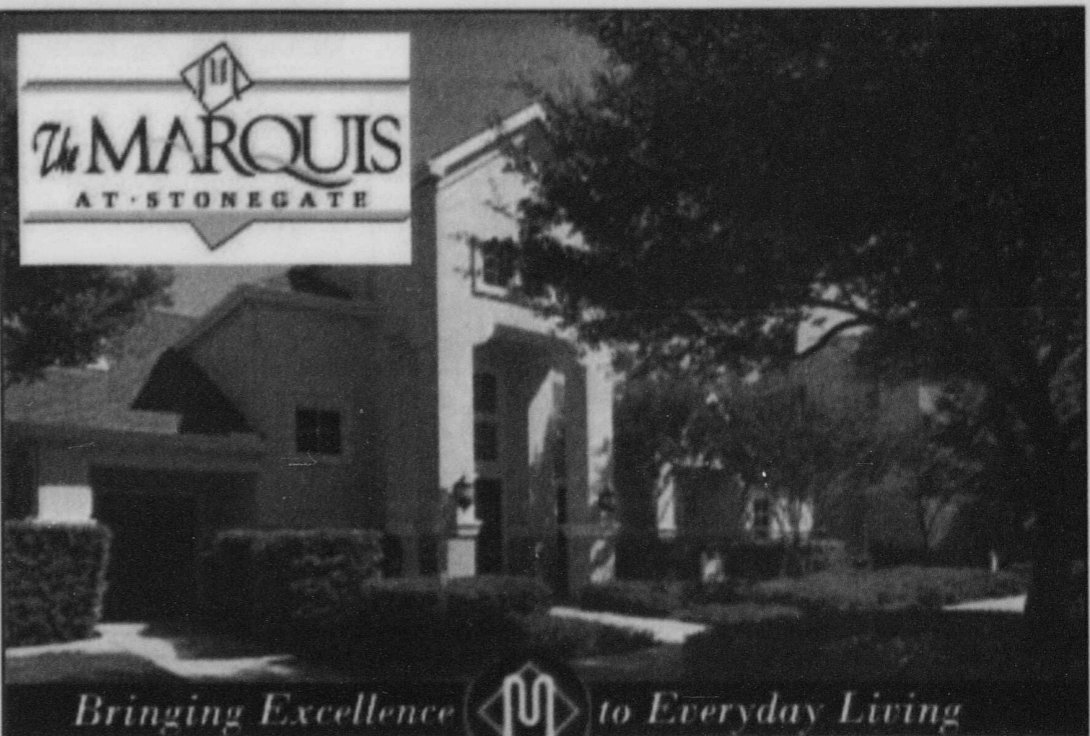
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