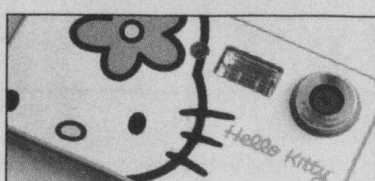


NEWS
The Vagina Monologues are back on campus this weekend to celebrate V-Week.
DAILYSKIFF.COM



OPINION
Hello Kitty designs on weapons make for bad gift and unfriendly smiles.
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SPORTS
Plans for a new TCU sports fan club move forward.
PAGE 8

TCU

DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008
Vol. 105 Issue 77 www.dailyskiff.com

School of Education graduates help fill area demand

By CHARLES RICE
Staff Reporter

As the demand for secondary math, science and bilingual elementary school teachers continues to grow, TCU education graduates are apparently hot commodities.

TCU students get picked up

right away by area school districts, said Molly H. Weinburgh, director of the Institute of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education for the College of Education.

"There are principals around the Metroplex who say they would take a less-than-stellar

TCU graduate over a stellar someone else," Weinburgh said.

Finding certified teachers in those areas is something that continues to be a struggle not just in Fort Worth but all over, Weinburgh said.

However, Weinburgh said she feels TCU students are well pre-

pared not only in their content knowledge but also in how they are taught to teach it.

Terry Buckner, director of recruiting initiatives for the Fort Worth Independent School District, said TCU does well at sending students to schools in the district to get firsthand experi-

ence, such as tutoring, student teaching and even substituting.

"The training at TCU is great," Buckner said.

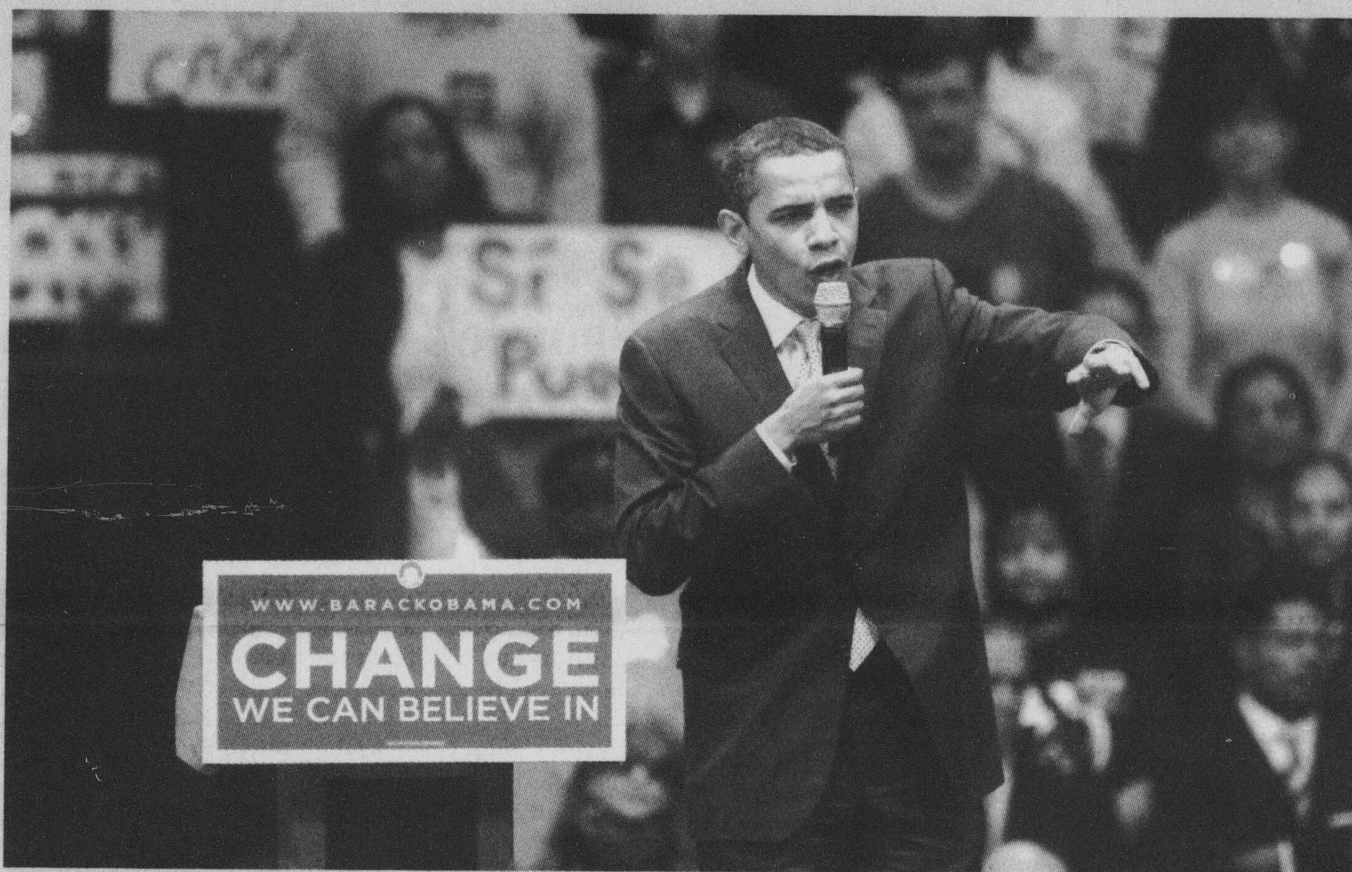
While TCU may not be filling all of the area's needs, Weinburgh does feel students in the School of Education are well-prepared, she said.

"Our elementary (graduates) are much better prepared to

teach science and math than many other systems," Weinburgh said. "It's not unusual for elementary people to take one methods course where math and science are combined. Ours have two in

See **TEACHERS**, page 2

OBAMANIA



ANDREW CHAVEZ / Editor-in-Chief

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama speaks to a crowd at Reunion Arena in Dallas during a campaign stop Wednesday. About 17,000 people packed the arena to hear the presidential hopeful make a pitch for Democratic votes for the upcoming Texas presidential primary, which could be a deciding factor in the national race.

Road to presidency winds through Dallas

By HILARY WHITTIER
Staff Reporter

The noise was nearly deafening as about 17,000 people rallied to support Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. on Wednesday at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

Obama said the country is at a defining moment in history for politics and referenced Martin Luther King Jr. early in his speech.

"I am running because of what Dr. King called the 'fierce urgency of now,'" Obama said.

Cathi Hoag, a graduate student and outreach coordinator for TCU Students for

Barack Obama, said about 30 students went to the rally representing TCU's group.

She said Obama draws in young people to his campaign because of his message of change and his magnetic personality that other presidential hopefuls lack.

"It's a huge representation for our generation to be a part of this," said Dani Folks, a junior social work and anthropology major. "We can be the generation that matters."

Obama said it's time for Texas to vote blue. He's betting on American people of all ages and walks of life to make a

choice by electing a president who could change the nation, he said.

"I'm here to report that my bet has paid off and the American people have been vindicated," Obama said.

Gregg Cantrell, a professor of history at TCU, said he supports Obama because the nation is at a point in history where

See **OBAMA**, page 2

DAILYSKIFF.COM



Watch and listen to an online slideshow of scenes from the rally.

University may be 2nd in Texas to offer child-life emphasis

By HILARY WHITTIER
Staff Reporter

Injuries, painful procedures and prolonged stays at hospitals can increase a child's anxiety and fears. However, students may soon have an opportunity to study a field that works to alleviate a child's stress when hospitalized.

A child-life option within the School of Education will be proposed in March. If approved by the faculty, undergraduate and graduate councils before the end of the semester, the program will be available for students beginning next fall, said Mary Patton, associate professor of early childhood education.

Patton said if approved, it will be available as a graduate option for counseling majors and early childhood education majors in the three-two program, an option that allows students to combine a bachelor's degree with a Master of Education in five years.

Along with Texas State University, TCU would be the only other university in Texas to have a child-life program.

Students interested in the field will be expected to take courses in areas such as child development, family dynamics, sociology, counseling and expressive therapy, Patton said.

"This added option would help significantly," said Ashton Niemann, junior early childhood education major. "It would allow students more opportunities to go directly

into the graduate program and not be limited in choices for those who plan to pursue a job as a child-life specialist."

Child-life specialists are also referred to as "play therapists" and are experts in child development. They encourage children to cope with difficult medical situations through play, education and self expression, Patton said.

"I think this is a response to student interest and a need in the field of child life," Patton said. "We always try to be on the cutting edge for programs students are interested in and ones in which we are able to find a foundation for."

Sharon McLeod, senior clinical director of the child-life department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, said individuals who participate in child-life programs do better on the certification exam that graduates are required to take before becoming a specialist.

McLeod said she interviews people wanting to obtain a child-life position and has noticed that the ones who have gone through the program during college are stronger candidates for employment.

"I think the College of Education has a reputation of preparing remarkable teachers of young children," Patton said. "Our graduates are in great demand throughout the state and I think this initiative is another option responsive to the needs of the community."

Student filmmakers hold auditions for pilot of comedy series

By BIBEK BHANDARI
Staff Reporter

Are you Audrey — a 24-year-old sassy, hardworking perfectionist who does whatever it takes to get to the top?

The radio-TV-film department is on a hunt to find characters for its pilot, "A Fork in the Road," through open auditions today.

Maggie Truitt, a senior radio-TV-film major and an executive producer, said the pilot is a department-wide production based on an idea

some of the students had in a dramatic writing class.

"A Fork in the Road" is a story about Audrey, who works for a Fortune 500 company and gets relocated in a small South Carolina town to run the Lazy River Cafe, Truitt said. The story moves as she comes across a group of country people including Stewart, a celebrity chef who was kicked off his TV show after a scandalous event.

"She comes into the situation and shocks everyone," said Katherine Beattie, a

senior radio-TV-film major and another executive producer of the pilot.

Truitt said her personality can be compared to Monica from "Friends."

Beattie said "Fork in the Road" has a female lead and the pilot has a wide appeal. "We're trying to reach the 18 to 34 demographic," she said.

Truitt said the team is handling standard auditions and has asked talent agencies in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to showcase their talent for the

pilot. She also said she hopes to see TCU students in the casting call. Charles LaMendola, a radio-TV-film instructor, and a group of students associated with the pilot will cast it.

LaMendola said the team has some character sketches and profiles but the auditions may have surprises. "We'll try to go in with an open mind," he said.

Brittany Teague, a senior radio-TV-film major and one of the pilot's writers, said it would be exciting to see the

script come alive.

"I'm excited to see my vision appear in the auditions," Teague said.

"A Fork in the Road" is a 22-minute pilot, unlike radio-TV-film's most recent production, "Southern Comforts," which was 10 episodes and aired spring 2007, Truitt said.

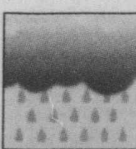
"We want quality production values," Truitt said. "We want one final product that we can show and a quality episode."

The shooting for "A Fork in

the Road" starts April 3, and the team hasn't decided when and which channel the pilot will be aired on, Teague said. DVDs will also be available for sale after its airing.

FOR YOUR INFO 'A Fork in the Road' auditions

When: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today
Where: Studio B in Moudy South.



WEATHER

TODAY: Showers, 57/36
TOMORROW: Mostly sunny, 55/35
SATURDAY: Sunny, 61/42

PECULIAR FACT

ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Plants believed to be marijuana were seized from a greenhouse in the University of Michigan's botanical gardens.
— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Legal drug gains popularity, page 4
OPINION: USDA needs to step up regulations, page 3
SPORTS: Men's basketball tops CSU at home, page 6

CONTACT US

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

TEACHERS

From page 1

math alone and two in science alone."

Buckner said the problem the district is facing isn't the quality of teachers but the quantity. Getting teachers in these fields is becoming difficult, Buckner said.

"Nobody is training secondary math teachers, (TCU) is training some and we grab them up," she said.

Clint Bond, FWISD spokesman, said more than 200 recent TCU graduates apply in the district each year. Because TCU isn't the only school not producing enough graduates in the needed fields, the district hires from other places as well, including state, out-of-state and international schools, Bond said.

In an effort to fill needed positions, the district is beginning to offer \$3,000 signing bonuses to certified elementary and secondary math and science teachers

as well as elementary bilingual teachers, Buckner said. The district also issues reoccurring stipends of \$2,000 a year for math and science teachers and \$3,500 for bilingual teachers, he said.

Holly Stringer, a senior education major, said she likes the idea of signing bonuses.

"I think it's a good idea. Math and science teachers right now are definitely at a shortage," said Stringer. "I think offering the bonus would be a good way to lure people in that are in that profession."

Weinburgh said TCU is producing a good number of teachers given its small size.

Buckner said the school districts are doing things to encourage more students to go into these fields, such as creating a new Web site, ramping up recruiting, increasing marketing and holding information sessions, Buckner said.

"We need to encourage more students to go into education at a secondary level," Buckner said.

OBAMA

From page 1

Obama can inspire people in a way the public craves.

"He wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth," Cantrell said. "What he has done in his life, he has done on his own."

Cantrell, who holds the Lowe Chair in Texas history, said the importance of the youth vote during this election is palpable.

The indications from the primaries so far show there has been a massive youth vote turnout. The American people and its youth seem to think Obama is the most poised of the candidates to be the agent of change supporters desire, Cantrell said.

Obama said the changes he hopes to implement, such as creating a stronger education system by making college affordable, restoring the economy by cutting taxes and ending the war in Iraq, will challenge

the status quo and get results the American people want.

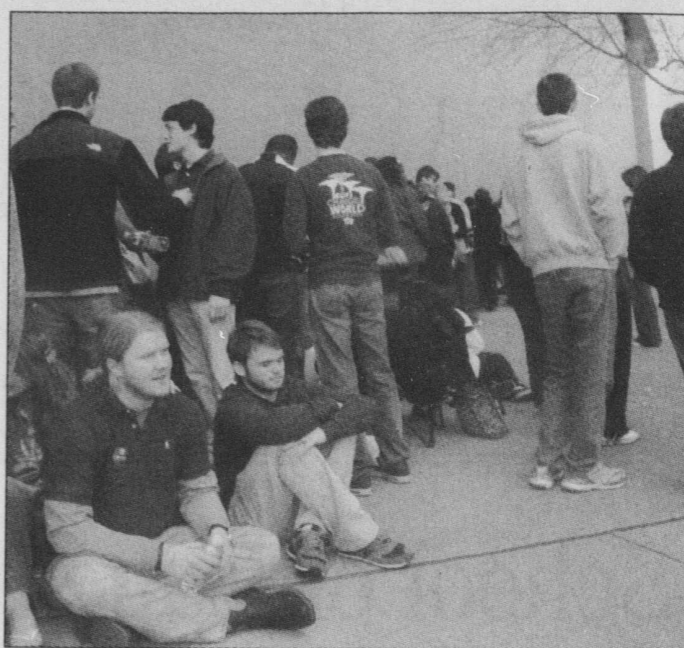
Throughout his speech, the crowd erupted in rock concert-like cheers, while holding up signs that read "hope" or "a change we can believe in" that were distributed by the campaign staff.

When former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk spoke before Obama stepped onstage, he quickly responded to the roar of the crowd.

"If we had been this loud, maybe the Mavericks would have beaten the Warriors the other night," he said. "But we're going to bring this one home."

Also speaking was NFL Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith, who elicited cheers from the crowd when he spoke before Obama. He said he believes everyone in support of Obama's campaign is on the right team.

Obama urged supporters to vote as soon as possible, before the scheduled Texas primary



Andrew Chavez / Editor-in-Chief
A group of TCU students waits in line Wednesday near the entrance of Reunion Arena in Dallas to hear presidential hopeful Barack Obama speak.

will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday in San Marcos, followed by a debate against Hillary Clinton scheduled to take place that night at the University of Texas in Austin.

Improvements to television slated for '09

By BOB FERNANDEZ
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — The nation's over-the-air TV broadcasters are going digital.

In exactly one year, on Feb. 17, 2009, broadcasters will stop beaming the analog signals they've used since the dawn of TV time and switch entirely to digital.

The new signals — already being broadcast by some stations — offer TV viewers brighter and clearer picture quality and will expand the number of over-the-air channels for local broadcasters, allowing them to compete with cable and satellite.

If you didn't know about the so-called digital transition, or if you've postponed thinking about it, stop dillydallying.

Start preparing. Twelve years in the making, the digital-TV transition will force households with over-the-air reception into these choices:

Get cable or satellite. The cable industry has said it will continue to carry analog signals until 2012, so people can use older TVs.

Buy a new TV with a digital tuner.

Purchase a digital-to-analog converter subsidized with a \$40 coupon from the government. The converter, like a cable set-top box, will plug into analog TVs.

The government has budgeted \$1.5 billion for the \$40 coupons and began taking requests for them — maximum of two per household — over the phone and online in early January, said Bart Forbes, spokesman for the National Telecommunications & Information Administration.

The first batch of coupons will

be mailed out Tuesday. About 2.6 million households have already requested more than five million coupons, a government official said Friday.

If a person requests a coupon now, it will take a month or longer to get it because of the initial five-million-coupon backlog, the official said. After the backlog is cleared, it should take two or three weeks between the time a coupon is requested and when it arrives. Coupons are valid for 90 days.

As long as they last, consumers can request the coupons through March 31, 2009, and redeem them at stores through July 7, 2009, the government says.

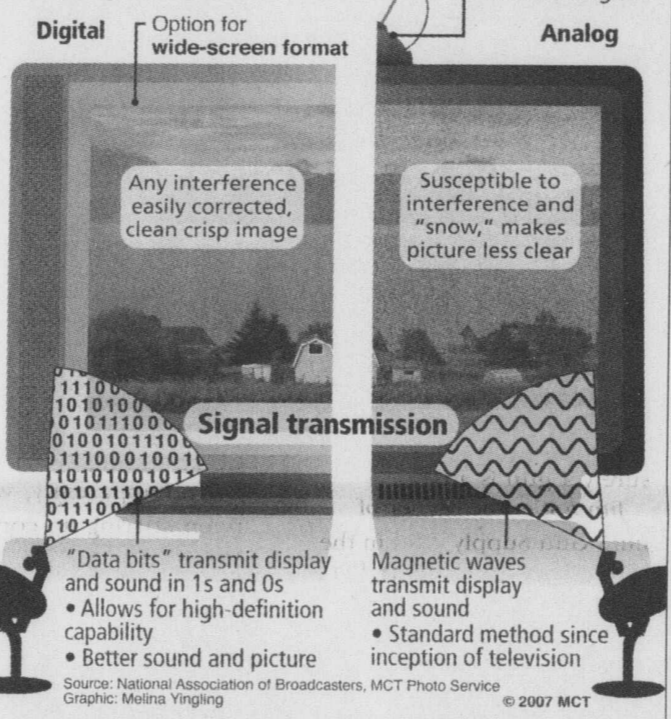
The digital transition was first mandated in 1996 federal telecommunications legislation. Its implementation was delayed until a deficit-reduction measure in 2005 forced the February 2009 deadline. Washington tied the digital transition to raising billions of dollars for the U.S. Treasury by selling the part of the electromagnetic spectrum that carried the analog signals. The new uses for the spectrum include carriage for public-safety radios, and, potentially, wireless services.

Broadcasters will obtain additional channels in the digital transition, giving over-the-air customers more choices, officials say. People who bought TVs in the last few years might be OK, experts say. The question is whether the new TV has a digital tuner. If it does, you're OK. If it doesn't, you're not.

The government has budgeted \$5 million to advertise the digital transition — enough to buy about

Television transmission

On February 17, 2009, television stations will turn off their analog channels and broadcast exclusively in digital. How the signals differ:



Source: National Association of Broadcasters, MCT Photo Service © 2007 MCT

a minute of advertising during the Super Bowl — and is expecting the broadcast industry to do its part to inform the public.

The broadcasters association has said it will spend \$1 billion on public service ads and grassroots outreach to help with the transition.

The group has broadcast 30-second public service advertisements since September. Broadcasters have been criticized for airing many ads in the middle of the night when no one saw them. Shermae Ingram, spokeswoman for the NAB, said the ads run "all hours of the day."

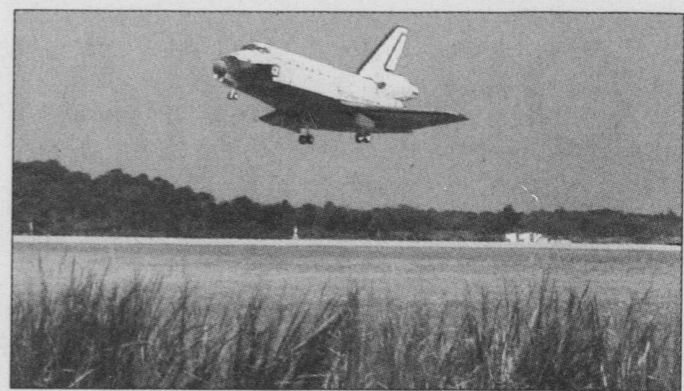
The NAB released three new public service advertisements to stations Friday and plans a 30-minute informational show, Ingram said.

"We did not want to get into messaging on converter boxes when there were no converter boxes available for shoppers," Ingram said.

The digital transition, experts agree, could be bumpy. Consumers will have to choose a converter box and install it.

Other issues could develop. Centris, a market-research firm with offices in Los Angeles and Fort Washington, said last week in a new study that millions of TV households may need to upgrade their roof-top and rabbit-ear antennas to receive digital signals.

"You got a lot of holes," said Barry Goodstadt, a Centris senior vice president. "Not only may you have to get a converter box, you may also have to buy an antenna for this."



Red Huber / Orlando Sentinel via MCT
The space shuttle Atlantis prepares to land Wednesday at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida after completing a 13-day mission.

Shuttle's safe return home starts year in space travel

By PHIL LONG
McClatchy Newspapers

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — These are busy times in space.

The space shuttle Atlantis glided to a safe landing at the Kennedy Space Center on Wednesday, even as crews were busy on the launchpad a few miles away preparing for the next of about a dozen flights scheduled for this year.

Preceded by the famed sound of twin sonic booms, the gleaming shuttle sloped through chilly blue skies punctuated with white puffy clouds, bringing seven crew members home from their construction mission to the International Space Station. Next is the March 11 launch of the Endeavour shuttle that will transport a Japanese logistics module to the station.

Space officials are excited about getting so many launches off the ground this year.

"I don't consider this a hectic pace or any kind of pressure on us," said Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA associate administrator for space operations.

"It feels really good to be having missions back-to-back like this again. It almost feels like the mid-'90s again," said Mike

Leinbach, shuttle launch director.

The Atlantis crew blasted off Feb. 7 carrying the European Space Agency's Columbus Laboratory, a 23-foot-long module for science research.

Besides commander Steve Frick and pilot Alan Poindexter, the Atlantis crew included American mission specialists Stanley Love, Leland Melvin and Rex Walheim. The crew also included German astronaut Hans Schlegel and French astronaut Leopold Eyharts.

Eyharts stayed behind to serve a stint on the space station, and Atlantis brought back U.S. astronaut Daniel Tani, whose mother was killed in a Dec. 19 car accident while he was serving an extended tour aboard the orbiting laboratory.

With Atlantis' safe return, the Navy can begin trying to shoot down a failed spy satellite that has started to fall out of orbit.

The Department of Defense did not want to fire a missile at the satellite while the shuttle was in space because of the slim chance that the shuttle might encounter debris from the destroyed satellite during its return to earth.

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TOMORROW NIGHT

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LINDSEY



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A friend is one before whom I may think aloud."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE SKIFF VIEW

With March 4 looming on horizon, youth votes becoming more vital

Young voters are expected to have a substantial impact in determining who will be the next U.S. president, and as candidates are visiting the Lone Star State seeking votes in the March 4 primary, they have a chance to become educated voters for a better future.

The March 4 primaries are crucial for both Democrats and Republicans as Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont and Texas vote for 370 Democratic and 256 Republican delegates.

A March 2007 youth vote study by the Kennedy School of Government's Institute of Politics said 85 percent of college students and 71 percent of non-college young adults are registered to vote.

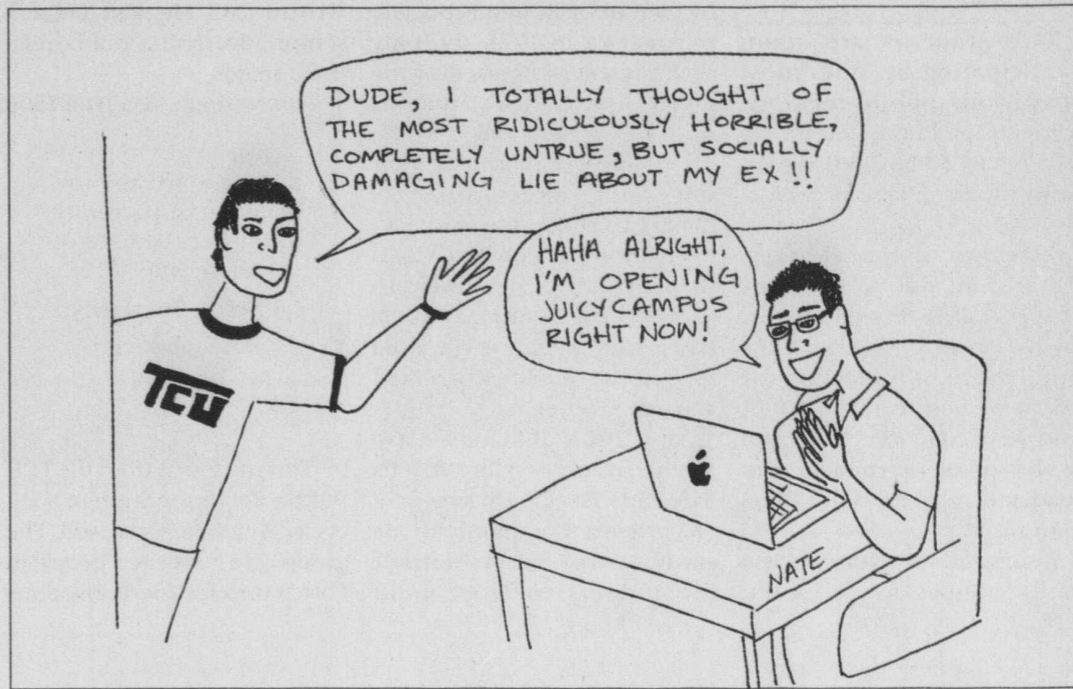
The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Con-

stitution gave 18-year-olds the right to vote in 1971 in response to protests of the Vietnam War. The following year, 52 percent of voters ages 18 to 24 exercised that right. The 1972 election received the highest young voter turnout to date. After that, the turnout dropped significantly but has increased with each election since the late 1990s, according to a 2008 youth vote study by The Century Foundation.

The young voters of today have a chance to make history in the 2008 presidential elections by simply showing up to vote. More importantly, they have a chance to impact the future of America by being actively involved in the matters of today.

Associate editor Ashleigh Whaley for the editorial board.

BY NATE ARNOLD



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

Weapons, kittens don't mesh; real guns don't need disguises

A man in Baraboo, Wis., is custom painting weapons with the Hello Kitty character on them. From handguns

to semi-automatics, he will paint it if the price is right — at least \$100 for one color painting.

There are lots of ways to decorate a machine, but having a pink gun with a cat design on the handle is the most dangerous thing anyone could do.

A video on CNN.com features Jim's Gun Supply, where painted guns are sold with all kinds of designs.

Bryan Soller, president of the Arizona fraternal order of police, said in the CNN video that owning a gun like this could be dangerous because it could make a police officer hesitate, making him or her vulnerable to an attack.

Or a child could easily pick up a gun like this thinking it was just a toy and pull it on an officer. The police officer might think it was real and shoot the child with the gun.

I'm all about the Second Amendment. If the forefathers thought it was important enough to put it in the Bill of Rights, people who pass background checks

should be allowed to own a gun. But to paint a gun and make it look like a toy is not smart.

A reporter in the video interviewed a woman on the street who looked at a picture of the gun.

She said, "It's Hello Kitty." When she was told it was a weapon people use, she abruptly said it wasn't funny.

With the recent news at Northern Illinois University, guns have become a sensitive issue, and making guns resemble a toy makes weapons an even bigger hazard.

Some might remember "Home Alone 4," where the little boy tricks the thieves by painting his toy gun black. Granted there are more differences to a real gun and a toy gun than the color, but the point is, it could be easily confused if it had a Hello Kitty design on it.

Hello Kitty is a character created by Sanrio and hit the market in 1960. Sanrio was created by Shintaro Tsuji, according to the Sanrio Web site.

The characters of Sanrio have become a worldwide hit.

The philosophy of the company is to spread the Sanrio magic and make a "small gift, big smile." I don't think Tsuji had Hello Kitty being painted on a gun as a part of his marketing plan.

Hello Kitty was in Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in November and celebrities have also been seen supporting the character. Hello Kitty guitars were signed for charity by the cast of "High School Musical," including Vanessa Hudgens and Zach Efron. Miley Cyrus was also seen wearing a Hello Kitty necklace at the 2007 Teen Choice Awards.

Consumers can see the Hello Kitty character on other merchandise like toasters, purses and notebooks, but surely a gun is a first.

Jim Astle, the owner of Jim's Gun Supply, said in the video that 75 percent of the customers who send him guns are in law enforcement and are buying them for their wives.

A hot pink gun doesn't disguise what it is — a gun is a gun.

But, according to the video, the law is on their side. The reporter said this gun design was legal and Jim's Gun Supply is legitimate.

However, when legitimately decorating a gun, people should think about the repercussions painting a cute little cat on their gun could have.

It could cost them more than a couple hundred bucks.

Opinion editor Ana Bak is a junior news-editorial journalism and political science major from Quito, Ecuador.

Juno's poke at adoption part of Hollywood fiction

Movies are meant to entertain.

That's the bottom line — the entire purpose of the industry.

With the Academy Awards on Sunday, movies are becoming a hot topic. Who's been nominated? Who hasn't been nominated? Who will not be attending?

And apparently, who's been stirring up controversy? "Juno," the movie that seems to be this year's "Little Miss Sunshine," was nominated for four Oscars, including best picture and best actress.

People became more riled up about the issue because the scene was shown at the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild awards, it is an easy clip to find online and from a video on the movie's Web page showing Page talking about how those are her favorite lines in the movie.

Some people have even notified the Academy about the issue, saying they do not want that particular clip to be shown Sunday, according to an article in

the San Francisco Chronicle. When did people get so nitpicky about movies?

Most movies and TV shows could probably offend some group of people in some way, no matter what race, gender or social class. You've just got to let it go. Lighten up a bit.

In an e-mail statement to the Chronicle, Diablo Cody, screen writer of "Juno," said: "Juno's remark is meant to be casually insensitive in that wince-inducing, quintessentially teenage way."

Juno is supposed to be a know-it-all, abrasive character. And that's what she is: a character. It's a fictional movie with a fictional wisecrack teenage girl spouting off lines that are supposed to at least cause a few people to squirm in their seats.

If viewers are worried about children seeing the scene and being affected by it, the movie is rated PG-13, and children probably shouldn't be watching a movie about a pregnant teen anyway. I'm curious as to whether the academy shows the clip Sunday, or if they pick a new one. Either way, it's only a matter of time before the next movie brings up yet another controversy.

Liz Davidson is a junior news-editorial major from Austin.

Tainted meat shows need for USDA to beef up regulations

The Department of Agriculture says not to worry about the largest recall of beef in U.S. history because — get this — you and your kids already ate most of it.

Talk about closing the door after the sick cow has left the barn. This episode shows the need for stricter enforcement of food-safety regulations and more government inspectors.

The USDA announced on Sunday the recall of 143 million pounds of ground beef from a California slaughterhouse that supplies burgers, meatballs and taco meat to school lunch programs. The action calls into question the

safety of beef dating back to February 2006.

Most of that meat has already been eaten, including by children in at least 150 school districts around the nation. The slaughterhouse, Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. of Chino, Calif., delivered 37 million pounds of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program and other government nutrition programs. Some of the meat was sold to fast-food chains.

Officials at the USDA don't think the meat was tainted, but they really don't know for certain. That's because government inspectors didn't

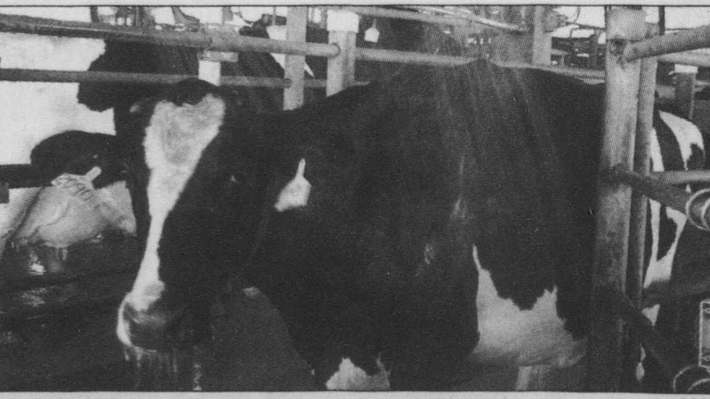
catch this problem. The violations were exposed in a video by the Humane Society of the U.S., which secretly filmed a horror show at Hallmark.

The video shows two slaughterhouse employees using forklifts and electric prods to move cows that are too sick or too weak to walk. Cows that can't walk, also called "downer cows," are banned from use in food because they pose a much greater risk of mad-cow disease. Because they often wallow in feces, these cows also raise the risk of E. coli contamination.

The USDA says it has

about 7,800 inspectors to examine 6,200 slaughterhouses and food processors nationwide. But after an E. coli outbreak in 2007 that was traced to a meat-packing plant in Elizabeth, N.J., some federal inspectors complained about 1,000 vacancies in their ranks. They said the USDA wasn't replacing retiring inspectors, and those employees who remain must inspect as many as five plants per day.

The risk of mad-cow disease spreading in the food supply is very low. The animals' brains and spinal cords, where the disease is most often found, would not



have been used in food for humans.

Even so, the violations that occurred under the noses of USDA inspectors raise serious concerns about whether the government is up to the

job of protecting the public health. It's time to, ah, beef up the number of inspectors and the scrutiny at slaughterhouses.

This editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Tuesday.

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Students develop car safety campaign for competition

By KRISTIN BUTLER
Staff Reporter

TCU students are again participating in the most prestigious public relations competition in the country to win up to \$2,500, an advertising/public relations professor said.

Cowtown Communications, a student public relations group that is competing in the Bateman public relations competition, is promoting car safety to children this year, said Amiso George, associate professor of journalism and academic adviser to the Bateman team.

Bateman is a national case study competition of about

100 universities established by the Public Relations Society of America in 1973, the only such contest recognized by the group, George said. Students have been preparing for the competition since last fall after the client information was mailed to them, she said.

The competition gives participants an opportunity to exercise the analytical skills and mature judgment required for public relations problem solving, George said.

The 2008 Bateman case study involves Chevrolet's Safe Kids Buckle Up program. Cowtown Communications set up a free safety belt fair for students and parents of

Stripling Middle School in Fort Worth, said Meghan Orga, a senior advertising/public relations major.

The students received \$300

"We are excited to have the opportunity to impact the lives of these kids ..."

Taylor Pashley
Bateman team member

to plan the event from the TCU Public Relations Student Society of America, Orga said. The group also contacted people in Fort Worth for food donations

and speakers for the event, she said.

Car safety experts from General Motors, State Farm Insurance and Safe Kids Tarrant County led by Cook Children's Hospital will be at Stripling Middle School on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. to educate parents about the importance of car safety. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to view safety features on Chevrolet's new SUV, the hybrid Tahoe, Orga said.

Students will be able to meet TCU athletes, see a local comedy troupe called "Curtis Needs a Ride" and talk with Monika Diaz, a reporter at WFAA Channel 8, Orga said.

"We're expecting a great turnout," Taylor Pashley, a junior advertising/public relations major, said. "We are excited to have the opportunity to impact the lives of these kids and hopefully improve car safety standards and statistics among children in our area."

George said: "I am very impressed with our Bateman team members. They are performing professional quality work. Any agency or PR department would be lucky to have them join their team by the time they are through with this competition."

The team competed in 1993, took a 14-year hiatus,

and rejoined Bateman in 2007, George said.

"We re-entered because we want to continue to position the Schieffer School as a program whose graduates can compete professionally at the highest level," George said.

About 100 universities officially declared their intent to compete this year, George said.

The results of the top three teams will be announced in April, and the winning teams are invited to present their campaign at the Public Relations Student Society of America's annual international conference in Detroit, George said.

Scrutinized drug gains buzz as hip, but may be dangerous

By JIM SANDERS
McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California kids legally can tune in, turn on and freak out these days with a potent, mind-altering drug that is readily available but targeted for a crackdown by police and lawmakers.

Typically smoked or chewed, Salvia divinorum has become increasingly known on the Internet the past few years through sales on eBay and through YouTube videos of users tripping with it.

The drug is produced from a Mexican plant used by Mazatec Indians for healing and ritual prophecy. Users in the United States have reported effects ranging from relaxation and sensual pleasure to out-of-body experiences and frightening hallucinations.

"This is the first really new illicit drug in a long time," said Dr. John Mendelson, a researcher at California Pacific Medical Center who is preparing to study how much salvia users must consume to become intoxicated.

San Bernardino County Sher-

iff Lt. Jerry Davis, who is pushing legislation to ban sales to minors, said one woman who used salvia — sometimes called "Sally D" or "magic mint" — claimed her miniblinds suddenly began beating her.

"She had a burrito on the table," he said, reporting her hallucination. "It grew legs and teeth and started to attack her."

A Delaware woman, Kathy Chidester, is pushing to outlaw salvia nationwide after her 17-year-old son Brett Chidester committed suicide two years ago — a death that a medical examiner ruled stemmed, in part, from the teen's use of the drug.

Chidester said her son, a straight-A student, balked at her appeals to stop smoking salvia, which he purchased from a Web site. "He said, 'Mom, it's legal,'" Chidester recalled. "He said, 'If there was something really, really wrong with it, it would not be legal.'"

Daniel Siebert, a Malibu herbalist, counters that media coverage of salvia has been unfair. It

is not a party drug, does not produce a euphoric high, is not addictive, and can be used responsibly for introspection, he said.

"It's kind of like a tool for gaining greater understanding," said Siebert, who has used the drug many times, sells it via the Internet and has written a user's guide that describes its effects as "divine inebriation."

Siebert said users will experience varying degrees of impact, depending partly on dosage and how the drug is consumed. Salvia, whose active component is "salvinorin A," is an herb in the mint family.

"Salvia has much to offer: fascinating psychoactive effects, sensual enhancement, magical journeys, enchantment, apparent time travel, philosophical insights, spiritual experiences and perhaps even healing and divination," Siebert says in his user's guide.

The manual warns that salvia should be used only by adults in a "thoughtful, intelligent manner," and that a companion should be present if a user is taking doses high enough that he or she might "freak out, become confused, injure (himself), fall, or do anything that might harm others."

Siebert said salvia's visionary effects typically resemble a dream, with users not feeling like they are under the influence of a drug.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse characterizes salvia's effects as "intense but short-lived," beginning less than a minute after consumption and lasting less than 30 minutes.

Federal drug agencies note that salvia is not approved for medical use. But Mendelson said researchers are interested

in studying its potential for treating bipolar mental conditions or slowing the transmission of HIV.

Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Spain and Sweden have restricted sale or use of the drug, as have a handful of U.S. states, including Delaware, Missouri and Louisiana, according to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

The DEA has listed salvia as a "drug of concern" and is evaluating it — addressing issues ranging from potential abuse to medicinal possibilities — to determine whether it should be banned like marijuana and LSD, spokeswoman Rogene Waite said.

"What we say, and cannot emphasize too much, is that just because something isn't currently a controlled substance doesn't mean it's not dangerous," Waite said. "It doesn't mean you should be experimenting with it."

Assemblyman Anthony Adams has proposed legislation, Assembly Bill 259, to make it a misdemeanor to sell salvia to minors. The bill passed the Assembly, 76-0, and is pending in the Senate.

Adams said public safety is endangered when teenagers can use salvia and hallucinate, perhaps behind the wheel of a car.

"You're encouraging people to be in a place in their mental state where they lose the capacity to make informed decisions," he said.

AB 259 is opposed by California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, representing defense lawyers, who argue that there is no evidence that salvia causes physical harm and that legislators know too little about the drug to take action.

"As a matter of public policy, we should not simply criminalize behavior without sufficient scientific information,"



BRIAN BAER / Sacramento Bee via MCT
A \$20 package of Salvia divinorum is available at a California smoke shop Friday.

the group wrote to lawmakers.

No statistics are kept on how widely salvia is used statewide. The drug is marketed in various sizes, shapes and containers — as leaves, extracts and tinctures. It even comes in flavored varieties, such as cherry or peach.

At a Sacramento smoke shop, Twisted, a \$40 package of salvia labels the substance as incense but describes it as "a tool for self exploration" and advises not to use it if pregnant, mentally ill or operating heavy machinery.

The downtown Twisted store does not sell to minors — a policy stated on salvia's packaging.

Sacramento County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Curran said officers cannot recall any emergencies or misbehavior tied to salvia, suggesting its use locally might not be widespread.

But Howard C. Samuels, executive director of Wonderland Center, a Los Angeles drug and alcohol facility, said dozens of salvia users have sought help from his staff.

Samuels supports banning sales to minors.

"Unfortunately, we have a generation that wants to change their minds, that want to get high," he said. "It's part of our responsibility as professionals, fathers, mothers, parents, to protect our children."

FOR YOUR INFO Salvia at a glance

What: Salvia divinorum is a psychedelic plant found primarily in the Mazateca region of Mexico.

How it's used: Salvia is typically chewed or smoked.

Traditional use: The Mazatec Indians used salvia for healing and ritual prophecy.

Modern use: Users in the United States have reported effects ranging from relaxation and sensual pleasure to out-of-body experiences and frightening hallucinations.

How it's sold: Salvia is marketed in various sizes, shapes and containers — as leaves, extracts and tinctures.

Legality: The DEA has listed salvia as a "drug of concern" and it is considered a controlled substance in several states, including Delaware, Louisiana and Missouri. Many other states are considering regulating its use.

California proposal: Assembly Bill 259 would make it a misdemeanor to sell salvia to minors.

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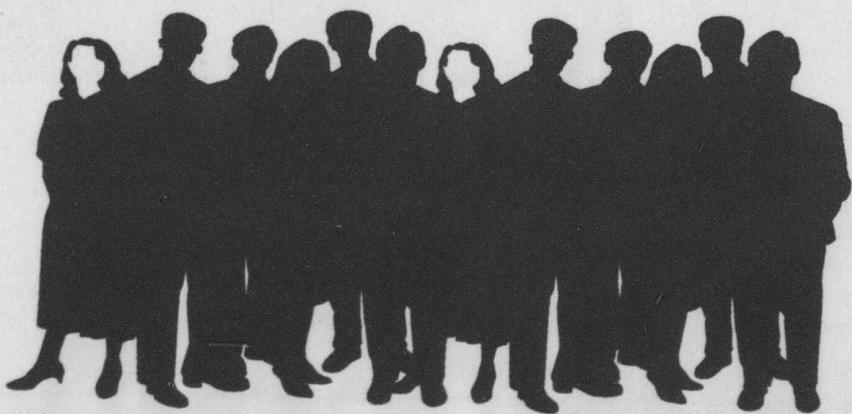
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Most TCU Students drink 4 or fewer alcoholic drinks if they drink at all

76% of TCU Students reported that they consumed 4 or fewer alcoholic drinks per week within the past year*



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TODAY IN HISTORY
1965: Malcolm X, an African American nationalist and religious leader, is assassinated in New York City.

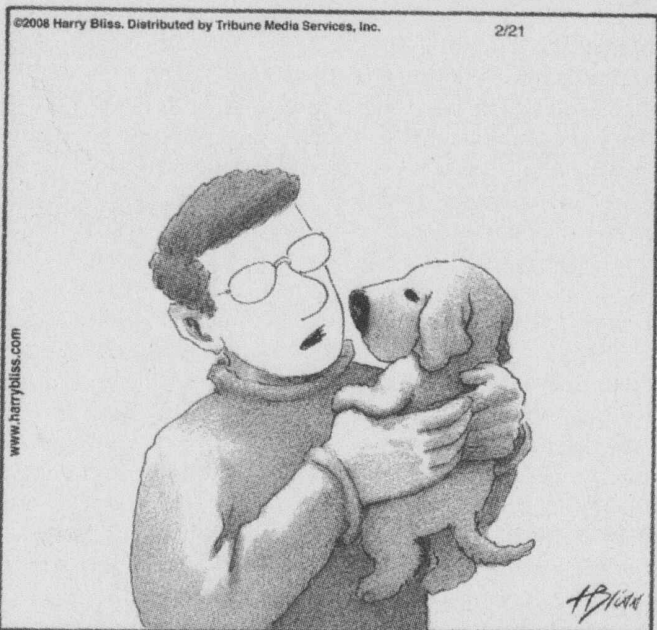
WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE
Q: How did the ghost patch his sheet?
A: With a pumpkin patch.

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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

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

Wednesday's Solutions

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

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

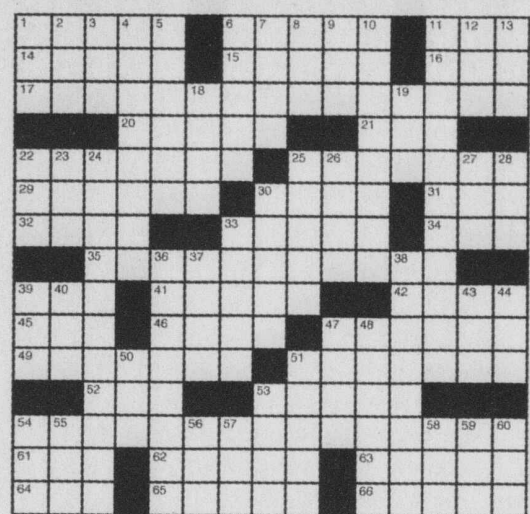
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6 Abraham's son
11 AARP group
14 Noble title
15 "Jurassic Park" star Sam
16 Tiger's peg
17 Start of quip
20 Part 2 of quip
21 Morse unit
22 Weapons stockpile
25 Rainy day racetrack favorites
29 Considered 30 Anderson of "WKRP"
31 Bodybuilder Ferrigno
32 Finished
33 Short skirts
34 Charged particle
35 Part 3 of quip
39 Suitable
41 Third rock
42 Burn a bit
43 Zodiac cat
46 Takes a chair
47 Grapevine transmission
49 Swaps
51 Gigantic statues
52 Knight's title
53 Part 4 of quip
54 End of quip
61 Onassis, to pals
62 Barcelata's "Maria"
63 Lukewarm talk
64 Kind of rally or
65 Philly pro
66 Utopias



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

2/21/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

COMB	ABETS	HALT
APIA	RERUN	ALEE
BALL	ALIBI	NOME
HALF	BAKED	IDEAS
ELS	ELM	
RASTA	MSG	LARVA
ESP	CHAPEL	DEAN
CHICKEN	NORTHEEG	
TETE	WEIRDO	DUE
ONERS	SLY	MISER
ERA	BEN	
FORBIDDEN	FRUIT	
EMIR	ARTEL	ROOT
MATA	MARIA	ENOS
ARAL	SMELT	DANE

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DOWN
1 Slugger's stat
2 Occupation indicator
3 April 15 addressee
4 Aristocrats
5 Certain tie score
6 Chip maker
7 Ranked player
8 Expose to public scrutiny
9 PC key
10 Klutzy
11 Grandeur
12 Gun it in neutral
13 Get it?
18 Scoob tube spot
19 Covered up
22 Put two and two together
23 Old Olds' auto
24 Office of a legislator
25 May or June
26 One condo
27 Kanga's kid
28 Daystar
30 Itemized accounts
33 Sahl and Drucker
36 Warrants
37 Cougar's den
38 Miscellaneous
39 Clerical vestment
40 Veggie sphere
43 Some sloths
44 Upstate NY school
47 Political syst.
48 Soap ingredient
50 Barcelona aurt
51 Actor Romero
53 Nary a one
54 Spigot
55 Mining product
56 Actor Wallach
57 Latin law
58 Bonzo or Clyde
59 "Little Red Book" compiler Biao
60 Mormon letters

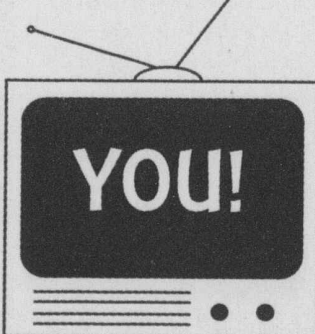
See Friday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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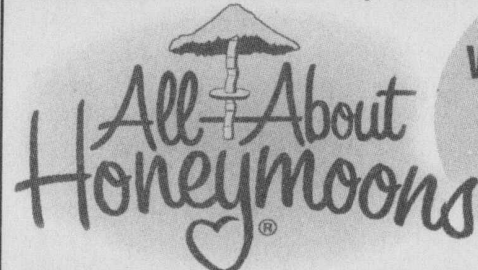
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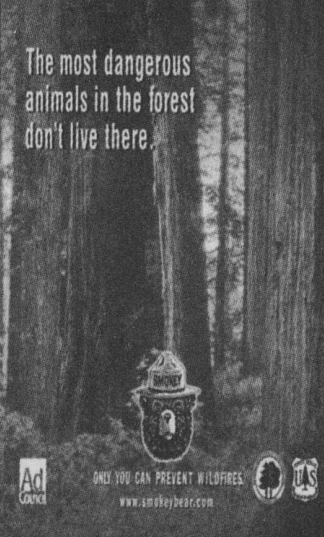


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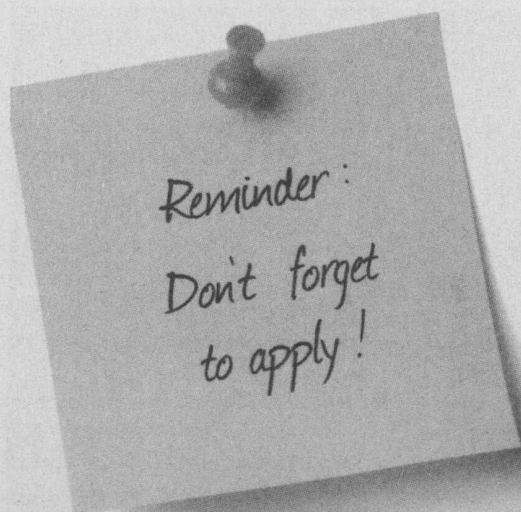
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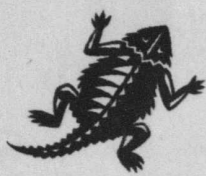
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HOME LIVING

Horned Frogs top worst conference foe

By KYLE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Four free throws and a rebound in the final minute of the game sealed the Horned Frogs' 13th victory of the season, and ended the two-game skid when the team edged out the Colorado State Rams 66-64 last night in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

Senior guard Brent Hackett sunk four shots from the charity stripe and picked up a rebound with about 20 seconds left on the clock, leaving the Rams 3-pointer at the buzzer a non-factor in a game that was close from start to finish.

Hackett was perfect from the free-throw line, going 11-11. He said he has been in these situations, and he did not try to do anything special.

"I didn't feel any pressure on my shoulders, I just tried to make the shots," Hackett said.

The Horned Frogs were 27-28 from the free-throw line, and head coach Neil Dougherty said the near perfection was a first for him.

"I don't know if I have ever been in a college game where we shot that many and missed just one," Dougherty said.

The Horned Frogs came into this game ranked ninth in the nation in steals per game, with just under 10 per outing, Dougherty said this is in part because of the team's full-court press.

He said the press was effective against the Rams because it, "kept the physical wear and tear on them," and this led to the Rams becoming fatigued, which allowed the Horned Frogs to capitalize and create turnovers and steals.

"We are trying to get good at full-court pressures because it opens up the game a little more to our liking," Dougherty said.



Senior guard Brent Hackett goes up for a layup against the still-winless Colorado State Rams. TCU beat CSU 66-64, ending a two-game losing streak for the Horned Frogs. Hackett contributed a team-high 19 points.

Senior guard Neiman Owens said the team's high ranking in the theft department this season is all about hard defense.

"On defense we try to go as hard as possible, and if that happens, everything else will work itself out," Owens said.

A goose egg still lies in the win column for the Rams in the Mountain West Conference. At 6-19 overall, the Rams are 0-11 in conference, while the Horned Frogs have matched their win total from last season, improving to 13-12, and 5-7

in conference. Hackett led the team with 19 points, while one of the team's leading scorers, junior guard Henry Salter, was held scoreless on five attempts from the field.

The Horned Frogs swept the season series against their conference opponent, and their win in Fort Collins, Colo., earlier this year has been the only win for TCU away from home this season.

Dougherty said 13 wins is something the team hopes to build on to make

a solid push in the Mountain West Conference Tournament.

"Ultimately, the goal at this point is to get the team playing as well as possible for the rest of the season, so we can go into the conference tournament and win there," Dougherty said.

The Horned Frogs will try to add to this new winning streak, when they conclude their two-game home stand against the Utah Utes next Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

ATTENDANCE

Developing fan club focuses on baseball

By ROBERT BEMBER
Staff Reporter

In an effort to help the growing fan support for basketball season to continue into baseball season, the athletic marketing department gave a new student fan club a chance to meet the baseball team Wednesday evening.

A group of about 15 students was shuttled to Lupton Stadium where they met head coach Jim Schlossnagle and the team.

"Meeting with the coach kind of puts a name with a face," said John Festervand, the assistant director of athletic marketing. Support for the basketball team has grown since the group, led by sophomore marketing major Geoff Dice, began to organize the club for games, Festervand said. Meeting the baseball team will help the support carry over to baseball season, Festervand said.

The season opens Friday against Cal State Fullerton. Dice saw the meeting as an event to kickoff the new group and vote for a name, which is yet to be made official.

"It didn't have the turnout that we wanted, but it worked out well for the people who were there," Dice said. "It's a good foundation to start with."

Schlossnagle said even though the baseball team recently set attendance records, the fans don't know how to cheer, and he appreciates what the group is trying to accomplish.

"I want to have a packed ball park that's loud and is a raucous place to play," Schlossnagle said. "The kids appreciate

that, especially when it's support from their peers."

Festervand said he is pleased with what the group has accomplished so far and looks forward to continuing their relationship. He said the group will be a voice to help students communicate with the marketing department about changes they'd like to see at the games.

Dice wants to make an effort to create a more positive atmosphere at games by making cheers that are both fun and appropriate for the family environment, he said.

"I guess it goes with another long-term goal, which is to represent TCU well and in a positive manner while cheering on the athletics," Dice said.

"We don't want to be affiliated with the schools that yell profanity," Festervand said. "It's not a very good representation of our student body. We're a classy organization, we're a classy school and that kind of stuff doesn't need to be at a game."

Much of the organizing for events has been done through Facebook, and the group is open to all students.

Jason Byrne, the director of athletics marketing, said the group may reach out to other organizations and groups on campus to gain their support at games, as well.

They will likely choose leaders to work alongside Dice in the coming weeks.

Festervand said he's had good experiences working with Dice and expects the group to be a success.



A new TCU fan club meets with the Horned Frog baseball team and plans on supporting them this season.

NATIONAL

Campus shooting delays NIU spring sports season

By MICHELLE MUNOZ
The (Ohio University) Post

ATHENS, Ohio — Quintana Ward is from Park Forest, Ill., so the shooting on the campus of Northern Illinois struck close to home for her.

Her father called her Thursday afternoon and informed her. Ward later turned on CNN and couldn't believe what she saw.

"I have a lot of friends from high school that go to Northern," Ward said. "Fortunately, I didn't know anyone in the shooting."

As a result of the shooting, all Huskies athletics events through Feb. 24 are canceled. The game between the Bobcats and the Huskies that was to take place Saturday was one of those games.

Ward said though she and her team got rest Saturday, she would rather have taken a loss than have had those events take place.

"It was such a tragedy," Ward said. "Thank God that we weren't there. You just never know what could happen."

The events have far-reaching consequences as far as the athletics schedule goes for Northern Illinois and Ohio, which returns to the court for the first time in a week tonight at Akron.

Coach Sylvia Crawley said she called Northern Illinois coach Carol Owens, who was in practice at the time of shooting. Crawley had one big question for her team: What now?

"(Owens) was just kind of devastated, the players were devastated, they hadn't even thought about what happens," Crawley said.

The Bobcats (14-9, 7-3 Mid-American Conference) are a team that work well with change, Crawley said, so no matter what happens, she can see her team holding up well. The Huskies will miss three games total, which could potentially affect tournament seeding.

"If they don't make those games up, it's going to be crazy," Crawley said.

Because the event happened so late in the season, Crawley said, it is going to make things very difficult for the conference.

Ohio's regular season schedule ends with Miami on March 5, and the Mid-American Conference Tournament begins four days later, leaving three days open to reschedule a contest with the Huskies.

"We can't control the shooting at Northern," Crawley said. "All we can do is prepare ourselves for whatever can happen. It's about our attitude toward it."

PRO BASKETBALL

Mavericks trade for touted guard during massive eight-player deal

By JEFF CAPLAN
McClatchy Newspapers

DALLAS — Jason Kidd, one of the NBA's all-time sleight-of-hand playmakers, has a flair for the dramatic. Why else would he choose the No. 2?

This No. 2 has one meaning, as in two seasons, this one and the next — the remaining time on his contract — for Kidd to shotgun the franchise to its first NBA championship.

"People always talk about the window and, to me, the window is this year," Dirk Nowitzki said Tuesday evening after the team's first practice with their new point guard.

The arduous, sometimes torturous, weeklong trade negotiations finally became official Tuesday with the league's stamp of approval. Fourteen years after the Mavs drafted him and 12 since they traded him, a soft-spoken Kidd returned to Dallas, along with guard Antoine Wright and forward Malik Allen.

The Mavs sacrificed a chunk of their future to get Kidd now. At the forefront is point guard Devin

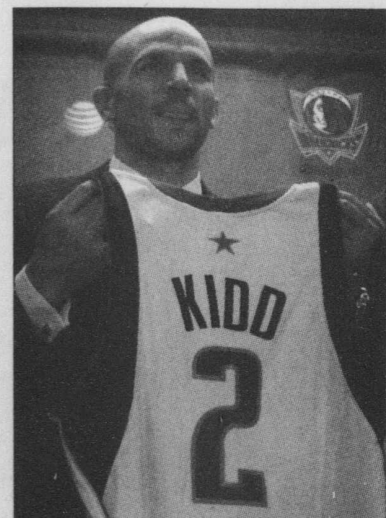
Harris, along with DeSagana Diop, Trenton Hassell and Maurice Ager. But it was Keith Van Horn, dusting off from semi-retirement, who cleared the way for the completion of the roller-coaster deal.

The Mavs also threw in \$3 million and first-round draft picks in 2008 and 2010. A heavy price, but one coach Avery Johnson believes bought the engine his team lacked.

"We haven't had a quarterback like this," Johnson said. "We've got somebody who, when you are in the red zone, can help you get touchdowns."

Nowitzki attended the news conference and smiled when Mavs owner Mark Cuban said he had been kept abreast of the trade and had approved it. Following practice, Nowitzki answered honestly what he believed the team was missing and why Kidd will bring it.

"With me playing with (Steve) Nash for so many years, some of the passes you just took for granted," Nowitzki said. "Over the last couple of years those looks just weren't there. This is going to be



RON JENKINS / Fort Worth Star-Telegram via MCT
New Dallas Mavericks player Jason Kidd is introduced at a press conference Tuesday.

great to catch the ball when you're open in the right situation. (Kidd's) one of the best at doing that."

Cuban, believing the team had reached a plateau and stalled, said it needed a spark.

"And the fact he's coming back to Dallas makes it all the more exciting," Cuban said.

"It's a little better basketball-wise (than the original deal), a little more painful checkbook-wise."

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