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NEW PLACE TO EAT
Looking for some new eats? Check out the restaurant review for Texadelphia.

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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
The Horned Frog offensive line dishes on nicknames, hobbies and team chemistry.

TCU DAILY SKIFF
Serving Texas Christian University since 1902
www.skiff.tcu.edu | Tuesday, October 12, 2004 | Vol. 102 · Issue 27 · Fort Worth, Texas

Portal usage to make housing assignments easier

Portal system will be used for housing assignments.

By MORGAN MASSEY
Staff Reporter

Current students and incoming freshmen will be able to register their housing preferences though the TCU portal system this spring, university housing officials said.

Robin Williamson, associate director of Residential Services said the portal system is used campus-wide to disseminate all types of information.

"Since students are requested to use the portal more often, we felt the need to move forward with our processes to match campus requirements," Williamson said.

"The plans are for ResLife to be active on October 22nd. Students will receive an initial e-mail directing them to visit the TCU home Web site regularly for continued updates on Spring 2005 housing sign-up," Williamson said.

Students will be able to view their housing assignment via the portal and they will be able to request further changes, she said.

"However, everyone must understand that there are no guarantees made. Changes will be processed as space is available and by the time and date order of their request," Williamson said.

In the past, Residential Services has used TCU e-mail to facilitate the entire process, Williamson said.

"This will give students the flexibility to monitor their housing assignments without clogging their TCU inbox," she said.

Williamson said the portal system could also help alleviate overcrowding in the dorms.

"Students will be able to check their current housing information at their own leisure, not just Monday through Friday, 8 to 5 p.m.," Williamson said.

Williamson said all information concerning Residential Services will be posted on the portal system.

"I think it's a really good thing and it supports the whole effort of the university to use the portal for advising, housing, and financial things," said Barbara Hawkins, associate director of Residential Services. "It's like a one-stop shop for the student."

Becca Nordeen, a sophomore theater major, has lived on campus for two years.

"I think using the portal system will be a lot easier than doing everything by e-mail," Nordeen said. "By using the portal system, things will not get lost through the hundreds of e-mails."

Frog Flix slides into scene

Stephen Spillman / Photo Editor
Junior interior design major Lizzie Hyde checks out a movie from the Frog Flix machine inside the Student Center next to the reading room Monday night.

Students have a convenient way to rent movies on campus.

By PAMELA BAILEY
Staff Reporter

Senior finance major Scott Arnoldy is cashing in on a business idea aimed at students.

Arnoldy's Frog Flix is a movie-rental machine in the Student Center.

Students can choose from several recently released DVDs, which are dispensed from the machine right then and there, Arnoldy said.

Frog Flix's 48-hour rental price of $2.95 is competitive to that of Blockbuster Video, which has 48-hour new release movie rentals for about $4.

Arnoldy said the machine only accepts credit cards and check cards; however, the charge is not made until after the movie is returned in order to accommodate late fees. The machine charges in 48-hour increments, and if the movie is not returned within two weeks, the renter will be charged $35 for the movie, he said.

Arnoldy said he has not had any problems yet with students not return-

more on MOVIES page 2

Students gather to watch Moore's new film

Student groups come together to watch political documentary.

By NEELEY JACKSON
Staff Reporter

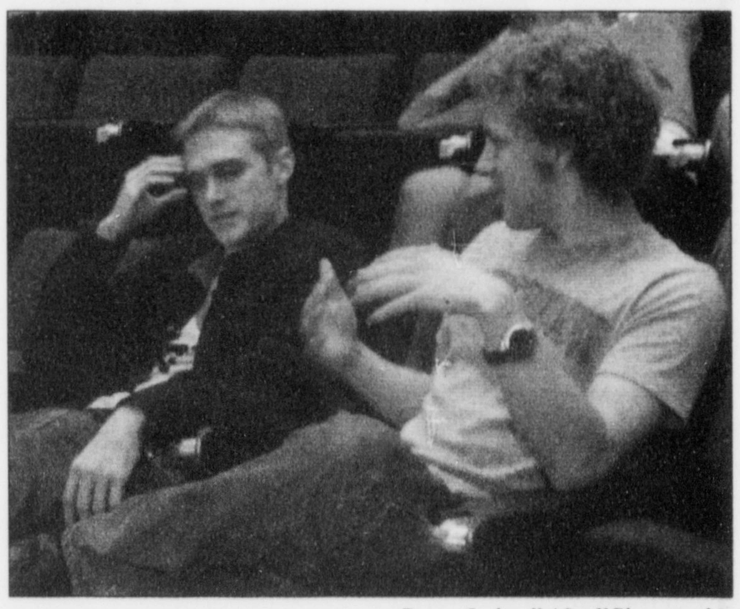
Young Democrats, Peace Action and Phi Alpha Theta hosted a screening of Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" Monday night.

According to the official Web site, "Fahrenheit 9/11" is one of the year's most controversial and proactive films that examines the Bush administration's actions in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11. According to (www.rottentomatoes.com), "Fahrenheit 9/11" grossed over $119 million in the box office.

Several students came to the Moudy auditorium to view the documentary. Tyler Brown, a sophomore English and history major, came to the screening because he wanted to see a movie he hadn't seen before and not pay for it.

Other students, such as Jacci Reeder, a freshman political science major, came

more on 9/11, page 2



Daron Cockerell / Staff Photographer
Sophomore international economics major Jason Ratigan and Sophomore English and history major Tyler Brown, attend the Young Democrats meeting in Moudy 141 Monday night to socialize and watch Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11."

presidential debates

Candidates rush back to campaigning after debate

By JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press

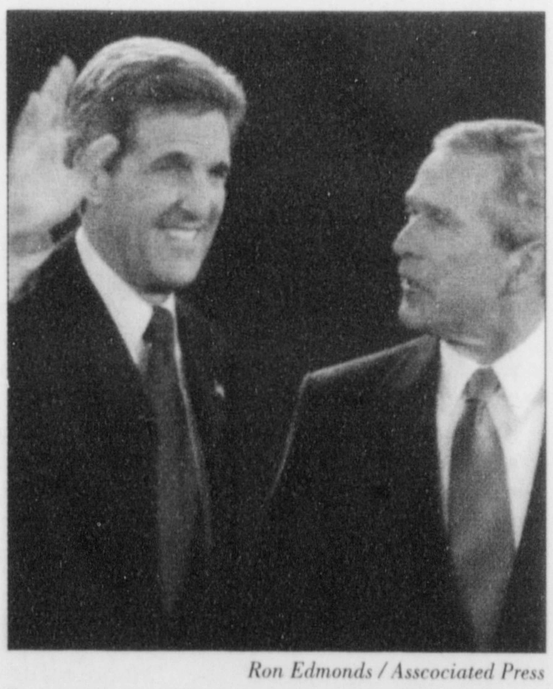
ST. LOUIS — President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry sprinted back to the campaign trail Saturday to carry on their debate over Iraq and taxes, an argument in which each claims the other lacks the ability to advance the war abroad and put more people to work at home.

"With a straight face, he said, 'I only had one position on Iraq,'" Bush said at a breakfast fund-raiser for Matt Blunt, the Missouri secretary of state who is running for governor. "He must think we've been on another planet."

Kerry has asserted that Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney might be the "last two people on the planet who won't face the truth about" ongoing violence and instability in Iraq.

"In the spring of 2003 as I ordered the invasion of Iraq, Sen. Kerry said it was the right decision," Bush said. "Now he says it's the wrong war. And he's trying to tell us he's

more on CAMPAIGN, page 2



Ron Edmonds / Associated Press
Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry waves as President Bush looks on at the start of the presidential debate in St. Louis, Friday.

Politics more prominent on campus

Students get more involved with politics during the election year.

By ASHLEY MOORE
Staff Reporter

The final presidential debate is Wednesday and students say they are gearing up to watch it on and off campus.

The Young Democrats and the College Republicans will be hosting watch parties for the debate. This will be College Republicans' second watch party to host for students.

Jay Zeidman, treasurer for College Republicans, said the last watching party was "like watching a football game, and when the president would nail a point down, people would stand up and cheer, giving each other high fives."

Delta Sigma Theta plans to host two watch parties beginning Oct. 19 to reshow the debates, said Pamela Bailey, Delta Sigma Theta's social action chairwoman. The goal is to educate young voters on the issues tackled during the debates before they go to the polls, she said. The second watch party will be Nov. 1, the day before the election, she said.

Students have had the opportunity to watch the presidential and vice presidential debates in various residential halls, said Courtney Bowles, a senior psychology major. Many students convened in common rooms and dorm rooms to watch them, she said.

Bowles, who is the head residential assistant for Foster Hall, said on the night of the vice presidential debate her residents, as well as non residents, gathered in the main office to see Vice President Dick Cheney and Sen. John Edwards tackle the issue of foreign policy in Iraq. However, she said she

more on DEBATE, page 2

QUICK FACTS

Party Information

Young Democrats
7 p.m. Ty Halasz home
For information contact Megan Brown: (817) 257-5234

College Republicans
Texadelphia on University Drive
For information e-mail Mike Boone: m.a.boone@tcu.edu

Delta Sigma Theta
Oct. 15 and Nov. 1
6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge
For information e-mail ioteeta_dst@yahoo.com

Campus Lines

Your bulletin board for campus events

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

- **Student Foundation** will be accepting applications for membership beginning Oct. 4. Students can pick up applications at the Kelly Alumni Center, Office of Admission or Student Center Information Desk. They will be due back to the Kelly Center or the Office of Admission by Friday, Oct. 29 at 4:00 p.m. For questions, please contact Tara Sherwin at 257-5030 or t.sherwin@tcu.edu.

- **December 2004** degree candidates should file their Intent to Graduate forms promptly in the office of their academic dean. Each academic dean's office has a deadline for filing and requires time to process the intent. All names of degree candidates must be submitted to the Registrar by Oct. 8, 2004.

- **Students** with at least a 2.5 GPA and in the process of completing their lower division requirements can apply to the Neeley School of Business. Visit (http://www.neeley.tcu.edu/nsrc/onlineapplinfo.asp) for more information, or contact Leigh Holland at (817) 257-5220.

Correction

The information box accompanying the core curriculum story Wednesday included some incorrect numbers. The written communication section of the proposed curriculum will require six credits. Also three credits of mathematics will be required. The total essential competencies will be 18.

TCU Daily Skiff

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MOVIES

From page 1

ing the movies.

He said he came across the idea for Frog Flix while doing research for a business class project last semester. He found the company which distributes the machines and DVDs on the Internet.

The idea was then approved by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Don Mills and Student Center Director Larry Markley, Arnoldy said.

Arnoldy said he owns the machine and came up with the name Frog Flix so renters will associate the name with TCU.

"When I stayed in Milton (Daniel Hall), I thought it would be cool to be able to rent movies on campus," Arnoldy said. "So many students go to the Student Center everyday. So, I thought the Student Center would be a good place to put it."

Markley said he had been searching for suitable retail-oriented facilities to put in the Student Center.

Markley said he checked the validity of the distribution company Arnoldy found on the Internet and contacted other schools using the service before approving the proposal.

"The machine takes up little space and we hope the students have a need for the machine," Markley said.

Raveen Bhasin, a junior electrical engineering major, said he has rented a movie from the machine.

"It is better to be able to go to the Student Center and use it than have to go down the street to rent a movie," Bhasin said.

Arnoldy said it was hard to get an exact monetary amount of how much he had earned, but there have been about 85 rentals since the machine was installed for use in mid-September.

"Once students find out it's there, more students will want to rent movies," Arnoldy said.

DEBATE

From page 1

thinks there was more of an interest in the first presidential debate.

Fifty to 60 percent of the people she has talked with over the past three weeks watched the debates, Bowles said.

"People here know what they think about the two candidates, and they watch the debates to strengthen their views on the subjects and the candidates," she said.

Young Democrats' President Megan Brown said students are very charged this year because of the election, which has motivated and mobilized them to not only want to vote, but to be conscious of the political issues at large, she said.

"Across the nation there is a strong polarization; it is either Kerry or Bush and that has trickled down to the TCU community," Brown said.

Zeidman said the theme semester, "Politics and Principles," is also encouraging students to seek more in an election year.

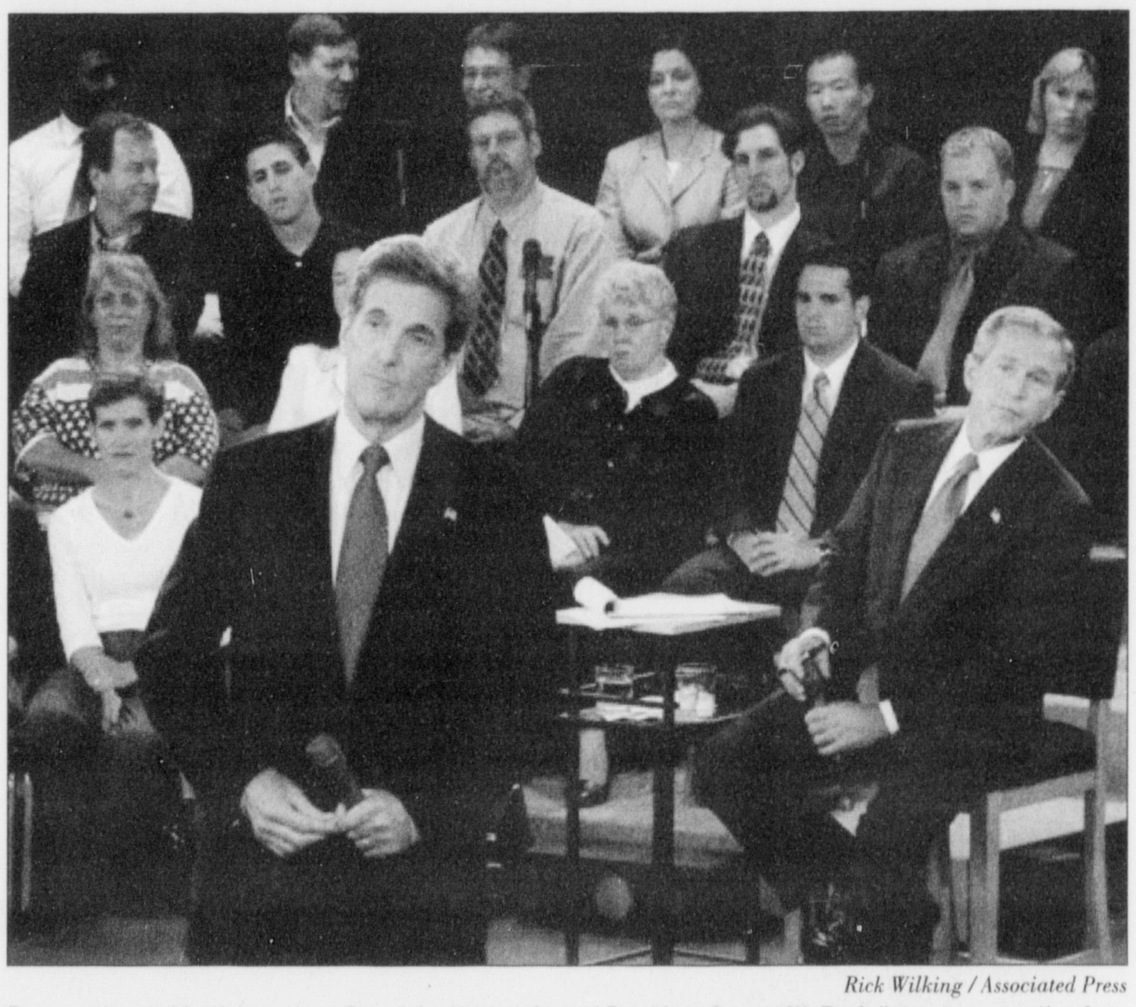
"Students have gotten a bad rep for being apathetic," said Barbara Herman, associate vice chancellor and dean of student development. "I think young people are concerned and committed to the future of this country. The interest and support from students about the upcoming election is absolutely amazing."

More than 200 people attended the College Republicans' and Young Democrats' debate, Herman said.

"I was very excited to see students engaged on campus," she said.

Also, more than 450 students registered to vote during TCU's Rock the Vote week, said Melissa Boyd, assistant director for the Leadership Center.

This set a new precedent for the university, she said, and hopefully students will make it to the polls.



Rick Wilking / Associated Press

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, left, and President George W. Bush listen to a question from the audience during the town hall format debate at Washington University in St. Louis on Friday.

CAMPAIGN

From page 1

had only one position. Who is he trying to kid?"

Bush was visiting Iowa and Minnesota on Saturday and Kerry both Ohio and Florida, all battleground states critical to victory on Election Day. Their 90-minute debate Friday night featured testy exchanges as they argued over the war, jobs, education, health care, abortion, the environment and prescription drugs.

Bush said that if Kerry were president, Saddam Hussein "would still be in power." The senator replied: "Not necessarily be in power ..."

Bush said tax increases would be inevitable if the Democrat took power.

Kerry responded without hesitation that he would pledge not to raise taxes on people making less than $200,000. "Absolutely yes, right into the camera. Yes – I am not going to raise taxes."

Bush scoffed at the answer. "Of course he's going to raise your taxes." The president said Kerry would raise taxes on middle-class Americans to pay for campaign promises that he tagged at $2.2 trillion, while labeling his opponent one of the country's most liberal senators.

The president dampened the scowling expressions of the first debate, but several questions brought his emotions bubbling up as he moved aggressively to counter the Massachusetts Democrat. He overtook one of moderator Charles Gibson's questions as he attacked Kerry's statement that the United States went alone into war in Iraq.

"I've got to answer this," Bush said as he cut off the moderator. "There are 30 countries there. It denigrates an alliance to say we're going alone, to discount their sacrifices."

Kerry showed a cooler and wordier bearing to the participants and television viewers, but he was no less argumentative than the more heated president. The Republican campaign said Kerry looked haughty, and Bush aides counted the Democrat's negative facial expressions.

An instant ABC News poll suggested that the voters who tuned in for the Friday night debate picked Kerry the winner by a narrower margin than the first debate. This time, the quick poll showed 44 percent of voters saying Kerry won, 41 percent favoring Bush and 13 percent declaring a tie. The two men fared about equally in a poll of debate viewers by CNN-USA Today-Gallup. Asked who did a better job, 47 percent said Kerry and 45 percent said Bush.

In some cases, the candidates used the forum to patch their weak spots.

The first question invited Kerry to bat down a reputation for being "wishy-washy." He turned it into an attack on Bush, saying the president "didn't find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, so he's really turned his campaign into a weapon of mass deception" by claiming that the four-term Massachusetts senator had changed his mind when he had not.

Bush also set to lay to rest persistent rumors that the war in Iraq would require the nation to return to a military draft. "We're not going to have a draft. Period," the president said.

The third and final debate will be held Wednesday in Tempe, Ariz., with the focus on domestic issues.

9/11

From page 1

to the screening because "everyone was talking about it and I still haven't seen it so I decided to watch it with the Young Democrats."

Jason Ratigan, a sophomore history major, had already seen the film five times and wanted his roommate to experience the movie as well. "I've already seen it, but I wanted to see it again before the election ... I hope a lot of undecided voters come out here."

Megan Brown, president of Young Democrats, said it is important to bring "Fahrenheit 9/11" to campus because it's really important to share both opinions.

"It exposes the inherent weakness in the Bush administration. In so many ways, Bush has used the English language to convolute issues; I believe Michael Moore brings this to the forefront," Brown said.

Jared Fuller, senior anthropology and English major, said the documentary needed to be screened at TCU "because it is such a conservative campus. If we didn't put it on, who would?"

"It's important because it's continuous and more provocative, and TCU needs more of this on its campus," Ratigan said.

The Young Democrats will be hosting a debate-watching party on Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Vice President Ty Halasz' house. For more information, contact Halasz at w.t.halasz@tcu.edu.

TCU Campus Recreation

Intramural Sports

Indoor Volleyball
Entries DUE TODAY by 6pm

Outdoor Soccer Registration
Begins today thru Oct. 26

www.CampusRec.TCU.edu.

UPCOMING SPORTS CLUB EVENTS

- The Ultimate Frisbee club will travel to College Station to participate in the Texas A&M Del Sol Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 16.
- The Cycling Club will travel to Austin to ride the "Ride for the Roses" benefitting the Lance Armstrong foundation on Saturday, Oct. 16.

JUST A REMINDER!

You must **present a valid TCU ID card** each time you enter the University Recreation Center. All guests must pay a guest fee and be registered at the front desk.

EVERYBODY GET A BUDDY!

October 18-24 is Get Fit with a Friend week at the URC

- Rippit program members - Bring a friend to try out the program and receive a coupon good for $5 off your next Rippit Pass!
- Climbing wall fans - Bring a friend to try the wall and receive a coupon for 50% discount on a spring semester climbing pass.
- Student special ONLY! One FREE guest pass to the Rec Center for a family member or friend. All guests must be at least 18 years of age, register at the front desk and be accompanied by the student at all times. Offer valid October 18-24 only.
- Personal Training Buddy discounts - Special pricing for you and a friend to train together! Appointment necessary. Call (817) 257-PLAY for pricing and scheduling info.

Skiff View

Change is good, the time it takes is not

New additions of little help to current students

Vision In Action is doing a great job at planning changes for this campus. Who wouldn't want a new student center or a parking garage or even better, a freshman village in Worth Hills? The University Recreation Center was a wonderful addition, but it was only the beginning of a series of projects. With these changes in place, the university will have even more to offer incoming freshmen. Addressing problems such as lack of parking spaces and overcrowding in dorms has long been a request from students. However, it's not just problems that the proposed Master Plan seeks to change. Remodeling Frog Fountain, removing the street in front of the Student Center and renovating Clark Hall with extensive changes to others.

It's too bad most current students will not be around to use the new facilities. Initial changes, such as the new student center and parking expansions, are expected to be completed within the next five years. Instead, we have to look forward to inconveniences like construction. In 20 years when our children are looking at colleges, we may not recognize our alma mater.

Your View

Letters to the Editor

Give prisoners what they deserve

I am in full agreement with Tyler Fultz in regards to his column in opposition of the death penalty published Aug. 31. However, I do not believe the substitute punishment should consist of only a life term in prison without parole. I am all for making perpetrators suffer, but nowadays prisoners are treated better than our country's elderly.

Prisoners are free to enjoy cable television, physical activity in gym areas (provided by taxpayers) and even earn educational degrees. This is all conspiring without paying rent and while they are being "punished." Convicted felons get the royal treatment while senior citizens in the community cannot afford necessary medications and are forced to live in less than adequate homes, even being neglected by those paid to look after them. The elderly have committed no crimes and yet are the ones being punished. We do not need to kill convicts, but we also do not need to send them on an all-expenses paid vacation. Honestly, do you think that prisoners are thinking about the offenses and victims while watching HBO? I am not saying we need to start caning criminals, we have no need to go to that extreme, but there needs to be a suitable medium where justice is actually served and punishment is finally passed on the guilty.

— Genie Skipper is a freshman pre-health major

Nice guys, look at nice girls too

I'm a nice girl and it really sucks. When I read Drew Irwin's article about how nice guys always get screwed over in terms of dating, I had to respond. For guys, the phrase "you're such a good friend" really is a killer. But what guys never remember is that for girls the phrase "you have such a nice personality" is just as bad.

See, when Irwin said "If you want a nice guy, find one" I had to laugh. Nice guys don't like nice girls. Nice girls have "good personalities," which makes us utterly unattractive. So what does this tell girls? Act mean, dumb, or heartless so that we'll be considered more attractive. And nice guys are hard to find. They are all either gay, engaged, married or in love with another girl.

The worst part is that we nice girls are the ones guys call when the mean girls turn them down. They complain about how complicated girls are, but can't see the girl right in front of them who would never play games.

Also, guys have a bad habit of making nice girls feel as though we are second best. There's this horribly prevalent attitude of "well she has a nice personality, and it's not like I can get any other girls, so why not?" I'll tell you why not, we won't put up with being treated like leftovers. Even girls with low self-confidence will not date a guy who makes it clear that she's a last resort.

Girls don't like bad boys because they are jerks, girls like bad boys because they treat all girls the same. It may be terrible, but they also have the sense of confidence that nice guys do not. Because most girls are not confident, confidence in guys is very appealing.

The moral of my story is this: Guys, before you complain about being overlooked, make sure that you aren't overlooking someone else. Be confident in yourselves no matter how a girl treats you, and treat all girls well instead of just the sexually appealing ones.

—Talia Sampson is a freshman news-editorial journalism major

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Debates little more than show

COMMENTARY
Jeremy Beecher

Does anyone remember when presidential debates were debates?

The forums were originally designed so voters could get to know the men hoping to lead their country. Their words, of course, meant much, but so did their poise, posture and innumerable other qualities for which preparation was difficult to impossible. In the candidates' parries and jousts, voters determined whom they really believed in and whom they could trust.

This year's debate offers much of what we've seen all campaign season and little chance for spontaneity. Just look at the ground rules.

Candidates were set 10 feet apart and not permitted to stray from their 50-inch podium. A George W. Bush campaign insider told news sources that the team wanted to minimize John Kerry's longtime tactic of moving toward his opponent, bringing his tall stature into play. The rules also said the cameras would not be allowed to show anything other than the debater's face during his answer.

This may have come about with Bush trying to avoid his father's re-election miscues. He was famously caught on camera uninterestedly staring at his watch while Bill Clinton spoke. However, luckily, this was one rule that was not followed and viewers could see some of each candidates smirks and smiles.

None of the 32 pages of inane regulations should be surprising: our voting process has long been focus-grouped to death, choreographed to the minutest detail.

But the incredible attention devoted to minimizing any sort of real discourse is disheartening. From approved pens and notebook paper to lighting and makeup, nothing has been left to chance.

A Bush campaign spokesperson said the campaign hoped "to create an even playing field for the president who has far less experience debating than his opponent, who is essentially a career debater."

And the Kerry camp, desperate for a chance for Kerry to show America his prowess on stage, had no choice but to comply.

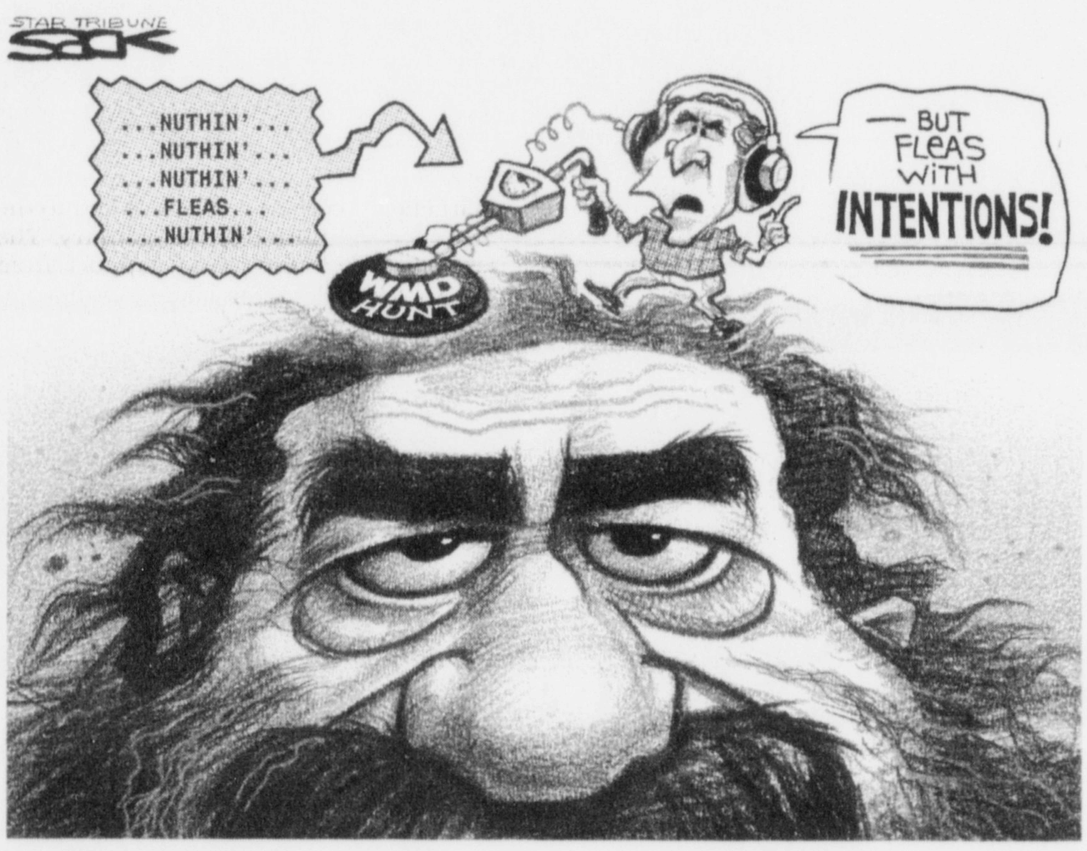
Apparently, evening the playing field for the president includes heating the hall to the point where Kerry will sweat. The Massachusetts senator is, apparently, a well-known "sweater." The Bush campaign quickly rejected a proposal to keep the hall cooled to 70 degrees because voters, studies show, don't like "a sweater."

And while the president harps on Kerry's long-windedness, podiums were, for the first time, indicated to the television audience when a candidate's time elapsed. Voters, apparently, saw that John Kerry has enough to say to fill his two minutes of time and should eschew him for it.

The Republicans also insisted on leveling the field by prohibiting debaters from asking each othe questions. The result is that the candidates will hear only questions for which they've rehearsed the answers hundreds of times.

It shouldn't be surprising that, as the election season becomes less an exchange of ideas and more sanitized than ever before, the presidential debates are being dumbed down to the point that little of substance might emerge. But it is a shame. As with so much else over the last four years, the president has failed to realize that Americans deserve more.

Jeremy Beecher is a columnist at the Daily Trojan at the University of Southern California. This column was distributed by U-Wire.



Educate yourself before voting

COMMENTARY
Moni Wood

So, you did it. You registered to vote. Congratulations! Now all you have to do is make your choice and go to your designated polling place Nov. 2. Sounds easy enough. Just turn on the TV or radio and you will be bombarded by countless ads telling you how you should vote. However, be forewarned! These 30-second clips of campaign advertising are just that — paid announcements designed to attract public attention and patronage to whomever offers the most money.

Until recently, many of the candidates were not even aware of what their own ads were saying about them — thus the newest tag "I'm such-and-such and I approved this message" became required by law. If the politicians running for office don't even trust their own ads, how can we?

It's easy to be fooled by these well-orchestrated commercials. Some years ago, I was watching the political commercials, proudly thinking I was going to make educated decisions about my vote. I happened to take notice of a very well-done ad from Republican candidate Betty Montgomery. She talked about fairness in the justice system, how we need to protect the citizens of Ohio by actively deterring crime and sustaining a fair justice system with higher taxes. How could I argue with that? So I voted for her.

Well, imagine my surprise when I discovered that Betty Montgomery's nickname was "Bloody Betty," so named for her steadfast guarantee that executions would begin again after a 35-year hiatus to "protect" our citizens. However, after the election, Montgomery publicly conceded that the death penalty does not deter crime and is more costly than life in prison. Huh? This wasn't mentioned in any of her ads! I had been duped. In essence, I voted for "Bloody Betty" to hurry up and make sure Ohio killed off someone who was locked up for life so we could protect our community, but actually it wouldn't really dissuade crime but it would cost me a lot more in tax dollars.

The ad company succeeded in their goal, cashed their check and moved on to make new ads — this time to persuade me that I will never get another date if I don't change my brand of shampoo or toothpaste.

Don't let some slick advertising agency or disgruntled news writer tell you what you should think. Know the truth. Vote from your mind and your heart. Take some time before Nov. 2 to educate yourself.

Be confident in your vote. By not knowing who or what you are actually voting for, you are doing more harm than those who choose not to vote at all. By casting an uneducated vote, you are giving the green light to let any political figure do what he or she feels is right for your life — no matter what the cost. Isn't that the type of dictatorship that we have spent well over two years fighting against in the Middle East?

Besides, with all this newfound knowledge, think about how much you will be able to impress your family with intelligent, educated political conversation over Thanksgiving dinner. Your mom will be so proud.

Moni Wood is a columnist for The Lantern at Ohio State University. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

Long-distance can be overcome

COMMENTARY

Tova McGahee

Absence. Does it really make the heart grow fonder? Because we are college students, many of us from other states or towns may have left behind a significant other when we arrived here. If we remained with that person, then we are now facing the battle of surviving a long-distance relationship.

Most people believe long-distance relationships eventually fade away or break apart, but is this true? It all depends on you, your partner and your relationship.

Any relationship can work if there is the commitment, trust and understanding of both people. While it may become harder to be away from that person once you begin meeting new people and engaging in activities, the status of your relationship has to do with loyalty and the amount of time that one is willing to spend on a successful relationship.

Ultimately, feelings for that person will change, but whether they grow weaker or stronger cannot happen unless you allow it to happen. When things fall apart in a long-distance relationship, it's usually because of miscommunication or lack thereof. Communication is key, especially when the person is away.

When I came here I didn't really know how my relationship with my boyfriend would work out. It hasn't been easy, but we love each other and have done all we can to make the best of our relationship. We talk on the phone and share pretty much everything with each other.

It's wonderful when I do get to see him because we can play catch-up and enjoy each other's presence. We remain truthful to each other and try to resolve any issues that may come up.

I have some advice for anyone who is willing to take it. Express yourself! These types of relationships can be stressful, but they can also help to build a stronger bond of unity between the two people involved. It not only allows for space, which at times can cause you to become lonely, but it allows for struggles which, when overcome, can bring more understanding. Upon seeing someone after a long while of being apart, times together may be better spent and more treasured than they may have been before. It really is not all that bad. Of course, it is something that has to be worked at, just like anything else, and any other relationship.

You can't plant a seed and just expect it to grow on its own; you have to water it and tend to it. In the same way, we should take special care in our relationships, especially long distance ones, because they tend to be a little more of a struggle. It will be just fine as long as we manage our time and commit ourselves to making the best out of the situation.

Tova McGahee is a freshman public relations major from Lawton, Okla.

National/International Roundup

Your link to news outside Fort Worth

NEW YORK

'Superman' Reeve dies at 52

MOUNT KISCO — "Superman" actor Christopher Reeve, who turned personal tragedy into a public crusade and from his wheelchair became the nation's most recognizable spokesman for spinal cord research, has died. He was 52.

Reeve died Sunday of complications from an infection caused by a bedsore. He went into cardiac arrest Saturday, while at his Pound Ridge home, then fell into a coma and died Sunday at a hospital surrounded by his family, his publicist said.

His advocacy for stem cell research helped it emerge as a major campaign issue between President Bush and Sen. John Kerry. His name was even mentioned by Kerry during the second presidential debate Friday.

In the last week, Reeve had developed a serious systemic infection, a common problem for people living with paralysis who develop bedsores and depend on tubes and other medical devices needed for their care. He entered the hospital Saturday.

Dana Reeve thanked her husband's personal staff of nurses and aides, "as well as the millions of fans from around the world."

TEXAS

Girl accused of shooting mom

DALLAS — A 12-year-old girl upset over being grounded is accused of shooting her mother to death early Sunday in her bed.

The girl's 10-year-old brother called police at about 1 a.m. after finding his mother, 48-year-old Elvira Marion Walton, shot.

The 12-year-old is being detained at the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center.

"Apparently the motive is because the daughter was upset that the mother disciplined her," Dallas police Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick, homicide unit supervisor, said in Monday editions of The Dallas Morning News.

Walton had six children and lived in a converted garage used as the family home. An older daughter, 22-year-old Thanica Derrick, said her mother had been having trouble with the 12-year-old.

"She is your average 12-year-old, hormones and everything," Derrick said. "There's nothing that bad to make her do that to my mama. She had been breaking out of the house and not going to school."

Neighbor Lashonda Washington said the 12-year-old regularly stayed out late with neighborhood boys.

IRAQ

Troops may leave in January

AL ASAD AIR BASE — The United States may be able to reduce troop levels in Iraq after the January elections if security and Iraqi government forces continue to improve, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said.

In a question-and-answer session Sunday with hundreds of Marines assembled in a concrete-line aircraft hangar at this desert air base in western Iraq, Rumsfeld was asked what the future holds for the length and frequency of troop deployments.

Rumsfeld said the insurgent violence is likely to get worse in the weeks ahead, so troop reductions are almost out of the question. The United States now has about 135,000 troops in Iraq.

"Our hope is that as we build up Iraqi forces, we will be able to relieve the stress on our forces and see a reduction in coalition forces over some period of time, probably post-Iraqi elections," Rumsfeld said.

Later, Rumsfeld flew to Kirkuk and received a briefing from the top commander, Maj. Gen. John Batiste, and other American officers, who told him that insurgent attacks had decreased in number since July.

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4MCA0027

Sophomore Week
TCU Class of '007
Monday, October 25
Cake Give Away
noon-1 p.m. Student Center
Tuesday, October 26
Sophomore Spotlight
5:30-8:30 p.m. Kelly Alumni Center
Register at UCS by 10/21
Wednesday, October 27
Major/Minor fair
9-2 p.m. SC Ballroom
Wednesday, October 27
TCU Faculty/Student Meet & Greet
2-4 p.m. SC Ballroom
Remarks by the Chancellor 2:30 p.m.
Questions? classof2007info@tcu.edu

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Afghanees turn out for first election

Ballots pour into counting centers; electoral experts will probe allegations of fraud

By AMIR SHAH
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Ballot boxes poured into counting centers Monday for a tally of the disputed presidential election in Afghanistan amid signs an opposition boycott was wavering after at least two candidates agreed to accept the ruling of an independent panel's inquiry.

Organizers hope the establishment of a panel of foreign election experts to investigate the balloting will end the boycott.

A senior official who met with some of the candidates said many had decided to back down and support the investigative team.

Election observers, the U.S. Embassy and U.S.-backed interim President Hamid Karzai have all sought to put the best face possible on Saturday's vote, noting that Taliban rebels were silent and that turnout was high in a nation that has never before tasted democracy.

"The numbers and enthusiasm both were very, very great. It was unbelievable. A day of celebration for the Afghan people," Karzai said Monday on NBC's "Today." "People braved attacks by terrorists and went to the election. ... This is really a victory of the Afghan people over terrorism."

Karzai added the election should be a slap in the face to Osama bin Laden and his followers.

"This election ... is a strong reminder to him that people don't want them, that the people want a different life," Karzai said.

Ballot counting may not start until Wednesday or Thursday, said electoral spokesman Sultan Baheen. Results were not expected until the end of October.

"The counting will be done in full view of cameras," Karzai told NBC. "Afghan television will telecast it direct from the counting stations. I am confident enough the count will be conducted properly."

Emilio Morenatti / Associated Press

Afghan presidential candidate Yunus Qanooni speaks to a journalist in Kabul Monday. The main opposition candidate in Afghanistan's first-ever presidential election says he would accept the formation of a commission to look into alleged cheating.

Weapons hand-over begins

Shiite militia fighters begin disarmament in Baghdad, car bomb targets U.S. convoy in Mosul

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Shiite fighters in track suits and sneakers unloaded cars full of machine guns, mortars and land mines Monday as a five-day, weapons-for-cash disarmament program kicked off in Baghdad's Sadr City district — a sign of progress in the center of Shiite resistance in Iraq.

Followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr promised the government they would hand over medium and heavy weapons for cash in a deal considered a step toward ending weeks of fighting with U.S. and Iraqi forces. Iraqi police and National Guardsmen will then assume security responsibility for the district, home to more than 2 million people.

In return, the government has pledged to start releasing al-Sadr followers who have not committed crimes, suspend raids and rebuild the war-ravaged slum.

Members of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army started showing up at police stations early Monday morning, carting bags full of guns and explosives. Many appeared old and rusted, but government officials expressed satisfaction with the first day's haul.

"Sadr City residents were very responsive, and the process went without any incidents," Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said. "We hope this will be completed in a comprehensive manner so that reconstruction can start in the city."

Security was tight, with numerous checkpoints set up along the way and Iraqi troops deployed on the rooftops. U.S. soldiers also watched from a distance.

Militia fighters started arriving in larger numbers once officials turned up with cash to pay them. Rates ranged from $5 for a hand grenade to $1,000 for a heavy-caliber machine gun.

"We are fed up with fighting," said Hassan Kadhim, 31, as he unloaded guns and mortar rounds from a pickup truck.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities hope the weapons surrender will be the first step toward restoring peace in Sadr City.

If disarmament is successful in Sadr City, officials hope to replicate the process in other insurgent enclaves so they can curb resistance by nationwide elections in January.

"We made sure this time that all weapons should be surrendered," Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said on a visit to another former insurgent stronghold, Samarra. U.S. and Iraqi forces reclaimed that city by force, and Allawi hinted the same would happen in Sadr City if negotiations fail.

"We are going to prevail against the forces of evil here in Iraq," he told reporters. "Whatever it takes, we'll do."

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YOU'VE FLOWN THE FLAG. NOW WHAT?

Since September 11th, 2001, we have all witnessed a powerful resurgence of the American spirit. But patriotism alone is not enough. We must protect ourselves and our families by learning how to be safe and calm in the event of a terrorist attack.

First, make an emergency supply kit. Set aside the supplies you'll need to survive three days at home. You'll need clothes, sleeping bags, nonperishable food and a gallon of water per person, per day. You'll find other items will be helpful too, for example a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, a first-aid kit and toilet articles.

Second, make a family communications plan. Make sure family members know how to contact each other in an emergency. It may be smart to have everyone call an out-of-state friend or relative. Keep a list of emergency numbers near the phone. Plan how you will evacuate if you are asked to do so.

Third, be informed. In emergencies, planning pays off. If your family knows what to expect, all of you will be calmer in the aftermath of a terrorist event. For details on emergency preparedness, visit our website at www.ready.gov. Or get a free brochure by calling 1-800-BE-READY (1-800-237-3239).

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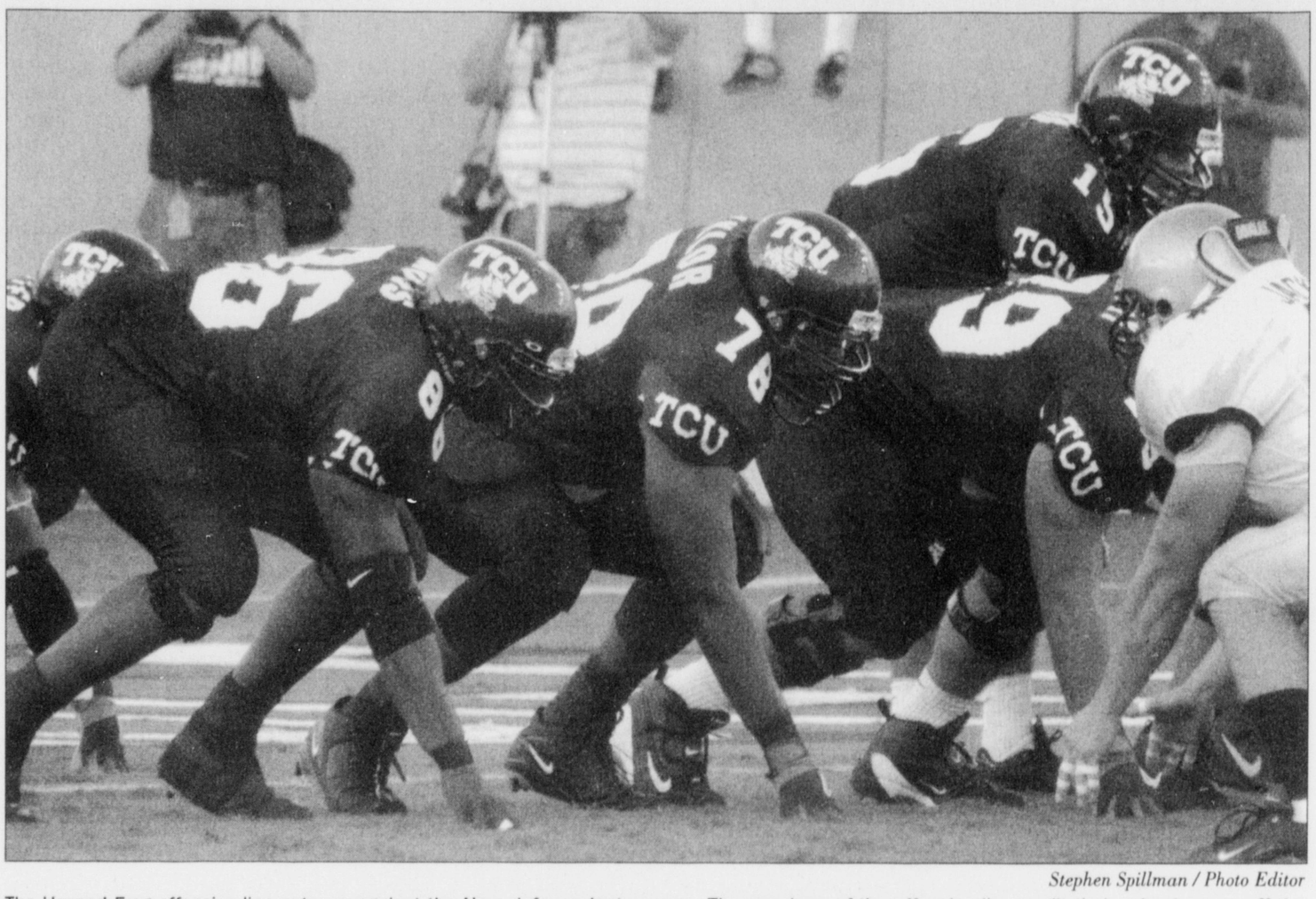
Offensive line provides unified front

The Horned Frog offensive line's team chemistry off the field makes the group a stronger force.

By LIDDY SERIO
Staff Writer



Stephen Spillman / Photo Editor

The Horned Frog offensive line sets up against the Navy defense last season. The members of the offensive line credit their cohesiveness off the field as being a helpful tool during gameplay.

On the surface, they're an intimidating group. Not one of them weighs less than 280 pounds or is under 6 feet tall. But what one might not know about the offensive linemen is that they enjoy movies, salads, hunting and hanging out with each other.

They are a closely-knit group that goes everywhere, does everything and knows practically everything about each other. And senior offensive lineman Anthony Alabi said group cohesiveness off the field affects performance on the field.

"If one person messes up, the whole line messes up," Alabi said.

Alabi, a liberal arts graduate student who maintains a 3.4 GPA, is the oldest member of the line at23. A self-professed movie buff, Alabi, or "Daddy" as he calls himself, said he doesn't always eat meals one would expect him to, given the fact that he weighs over 300 pounds.

"I'm the most disappointing when I eat," said Alabi, who likes salads.

Alabi also sees himself as the best dresser of the linemen, but the rest of the linemen suspect that may have to do with the fact his fiancee helps dress him.

Alabi's easygoing nature is not what one would expect, given his superior playing and chance to become a top 2005 NFL draft pick.

"You'd never guess from how Alabi acts that he has a chance to play in the pros," said junior lineman Stephen Culp, or "Culpepper" as Alabi calls him.

Junior lineman Ben Angley, is a "math whiz" who wants to teach math or coach high school when he graduates.

Then there's Chase Johnson; fellow players say he is intense on the field and will occasionally give the coaches a piece of his mind.

"He's the leader on the field," Alabi said.

Johnson puts it differently.

"I get people krunk," Johnson said.

Part of the offensive line's success lies in the fact that they don't all joke around. Shane Sims, a junior lineman, is quiet and laid back.

"I don't say much because I'm always thinking," he said.

Sims and senior lineman Michael Toudouze identify themselves as the "Hunters" of the group: Sims likes to fish while Toudouze prefers hunting deer. Toudouze, who also likes to make sausage, added strategy is an important aspect of the game.

"We have to be calm and collected before the game," he said.

Senior lineman Zach Bray said he also considers himself one of the "Hunters," and has a chocolate labrador retriever named Hunter. Zach is also known as "Snack" Bray, for his inclination to eat. Maybe that helps explain why he owns the school record 635-pound bench press.

The "Baby" of the group is Herb Taylor, a 20-year-old junior lineman. However, at 282 pounds, he is anything but a baby. Even so, the other linemen insist he dresses like a 12-year-old.

Don't let their kidding fool you. The teasing is just a sign of how close and intensely loyal the group is. If you mess with any of the offensive linemen, you will have to answer to all of them.

Alabi said they all would fight to defend the other in a minute.

"If someone ever messed with any one of us, they wouldn't survive," Alabi said.

University of Alabama at Birmingham would do well to take that advice: you mess with the offensive line, you won't survive.

Golf season coming to end for women's team

Women's golf team closes out fall season on high point.

By BRIAN ALLEN
Staff Writer

The women's golf team will look to end the fall season on a positive note at the Lady Paladin Invitational in Greenville, S.C. this weekend after a valiant tournament effort this past week.

Last week, the Frogs finished 10th out of 18 teams in the Price's Give 'Em Five in Las Cruces, N.M.

Sophomore Catherine Matranga shot a three-day total of 227, which was the highest individual score on the team. Senior D'Rae Ward shot a three-day total 231, which placed her second on the team for the tournament.

"Catherine has played good in the past few tournaments and keeps showing improvement," Ward said. "The field in this past tournament was strong, but we should have done better as a team."

TCU has played the fall season with mostly freshmen and sophomores in their arsenal.

Head Coach Angie Larkin said she is a little disappointed in how the team is playing this fall because the team has good players but the scores don't reflect the talent.

"We are making too many simple mistakes that make it hard for us to compete competitively in each tournament," Larkin said.

Larkin said making mistakes was a chief reason why the Frogs did not place in better position. Also, she said there were mental lapses that hurt the team on the course.

Sophomore Catherine Matranga has been one of the most consistent golfers for the Horned Frogs this year. Her 12th-place finish at Price's Give 'Em Five was top for any TCU golfer this year. The Jeannie McHaney Invitational proved to be another good tournament for Matranga because she tied for 26th overall individually.

Sophomore Camellia Blackerby is another Horned Frog golfer that has shown consistent play this fall. Her best showing was at the University of New Mexico Dick McGuire Invitational, where she tied for 22nd, which was good enough for 6-over-par for the three-day tournament.

Senior D'Rae Ward was placed in every tournament so far this season. Her best finish was in the Price's Give 'Em Five, where she tied for 25th in the three-day tournament.

"This fall, we were just feeling things out," Ward said. "Hopefully we have built momentum going into the spring."

The Horned Frogs have competed with many tough teams this season from conferences, which rank in some top national statistical categories. Some of the teams include Texas Tech, Baylor, Arizona State and Arkansas.

Two golfers from Texas Tech rank in the top ten in fairways hit and another player ranks in greens in regulation. Baylor University ranks in the top ten in par 3, par 5 scoring and fairways hit.

Arizona has two golfers in the top 10 in par 3 scoring and Arkansas has two golfers, who rank in the top 10 in par 3 scoring and fairways hit.

"There are so many great teams and players in women's golf," Larkin said. "Our focus is on playing the course and not concentrating on who our competition is."

Furman and Georgia are just a few of the teams that will be competing against the Horned Frogs at the Lady Paladin Invitational this weekend.

Three ruggers make all-state

Players tried out for an all-star team in a two-stage selection process.

By OLGA BOGRAD
Copy Desk Chief

Three TCU Rugby players made a Texas all-star team last week, said Mike Kwedar, head coach of the Texas Collegiate Select Side squad.

The Select Side is "the best squad of rugby players that (Texas) can possibly muster," according to (www.texasrugbyunion.com).

Kwedar confirmed freshmen Clayton Payne, Jack Woolnough and junior Robert Reintjes made the final cut of 24 players.

Payne, a premajor, said he was on the under-19 select squad in high school with Kwedar as head coach.

Two TCU players have previously made the select squad, but that was six or seven years ago, Kwedar said.

"It surprises me not more players try out," he said. "TCU has an extraordinary competent coaching staff, and success breeds success."

Head TCU Rugby coach Keith Dalton said he has told players about Select Side tryouts in the past, but often a cup match was scheduled for the same time. Last year some players expressed interest in trying out so he made sure there was no game scheduled for the weekend of the tryouts, he said.

Dalton said he didn't encourage any particular players to try out.

"It was a matter of the guys that had the fire in their belly," Dalton said.

Four players took the trip down to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville for the first cuts Sept. 18-19, said junior Mike Dwyer, TCU Rugby team president. Dwyer, Payne, Woolnough and Reintjes spent the first day doing drills and the second day scrimmaging, Dwyer said.

Soon after, they received e-mails informing them they made the first cut, he said.

The final cut for the select squad was made Oct. 2 at a rugby tournament in Fort Worth, Kwedar said. The next step for the squad is to play in the Western Territorial Select Side Championship, which will include eight squads from Wyoming to Louisiana, Kwedar said.

Astros seize 1st postseason series

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — It took 43 years, but the Houston Astros are finally postseason winners.

Carlos Beltran hit two more homers and drove in five runs, while original Killer B's Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell chipped in during a five-run seventh inning that carried the Astros to a 12-3 rout of the Atlanta Braves on Monday night in the deciding Game 5 of their first-round NL playoff series.

The Astros snapped an 0-for-7 record of futility in the playoffs against their longtime nemesis. The Braves eliminated Houston in 1997, '99 and '01, but they couldn't escape their own postseason demons this time.

This one was especially dismal, equaling the worst postseason loss in franchise history.

Bagwell and Biggio, who took much of the blame for Houston's futility, finally silenced their critics.

The Astros underachieved much of the season. In a poignant note, the record was formerly held by Ken Caminiti, who hit three in an opening-round loss to the Braves in 1999. Caminiti, who spent 10 seasons with the Astros, died Sunday of an apparent heart attack at age 41.

The news hit Caminiti's former teammates – Biggio and Bagwell – especially hard. "I guess the best thing we can do today for him is just go out and play well," Biggio said before the game.

Mission accomplished.

Furcal had a huge series for the Braves, with eight hits and two homers. He had plenty of incentive, facing a 21-day jail sentence after being arrested for the second time on DUI charges.

The judge set the sentence to begin the day after the Braves' season ended.

Furcal will have to report to jail on Tuesday.

commentary

Boston, New York rivalry has local effect

The football team took a week off, so I'm going to take a week off from talking about college sports. I'll get back to the old routine next week.

COMMENTARY

Drew Irwin

If I live that long.

Starting today, I'm going to be caught in the crossfire of a massive battle that could leave me as collateral damage — a battle between the Red Sox and the Yankees.

Born and raised in Texas, I know nothing of this historic rivalry other than the fact that Boston has come up on the short end of the stick since, well, forever.

But for two of my roommates (one a Yankees fan and the other a Red Sox fan), it's quite different.

Every year, the Red Sox fan invests everything he has into their playoff run, and every year his hopes and dreams are crushed.

And its all Babe Ruth's fault.

In 1920 the Red Sox traded the Great Bambino for $100,000 so that the Red Sox owner could finance a play entitled "No, No, Nanette." Wait, what?

I started wondering what possible reason the owner of the Red Sox would have to trade George Herman Ruth to the New York Yankees, creating the biggest dynasty in sports history.

Maybe they didn't know he was good? Yeah, no. Not only was Ruth a good hitter when he was traded, he was a great pitcher, posting a 89-46 record in his 6-year span with Boston.

Maybe the team wasn't any good at the time, and they needed to ship off Ruth to clear money for other players? Nope. The Red Sox won three World Series with Ruth.

Maybe they had a "budding Ruth" that took over his powerful stats? Not so much. Babe Ruth hit 54 home runs in 1920, his first year in New York. The entire Red Sox team hit 22.

The whole team hit less than half as many home runs as Ruth hit by himself.

Did the play do well, at least, so that the move was economically sound? Yes... in 1924. The year after the Yankees won their first World Series with Ruth.

Since the trade, the Yankees have won 26 World Series. And thanks to Bill Buckner, Aaron Boone and a handful of others, the Red Sox have quite a few less.

So you can understand the frustration in Red Sox fans and the overconfidence in their Yankee counterparts.

And that's just based on loyalty. If my roommates bet on the game, its going to get much worse for me.

Let's just say that last year's Yankee win made my Red Sox fan roommate wear an oversized, pink Yankees hat to class every day for a week.

So let the games begin.

In a couple of weeks, either the Yankees or Red Sox will win the series and move on to the real Series.

And both sides better get their pink hats ready, just in case.

News Editor Drew Irwin is a broadcast journalism and economics major from Dallas.

Purple Poll

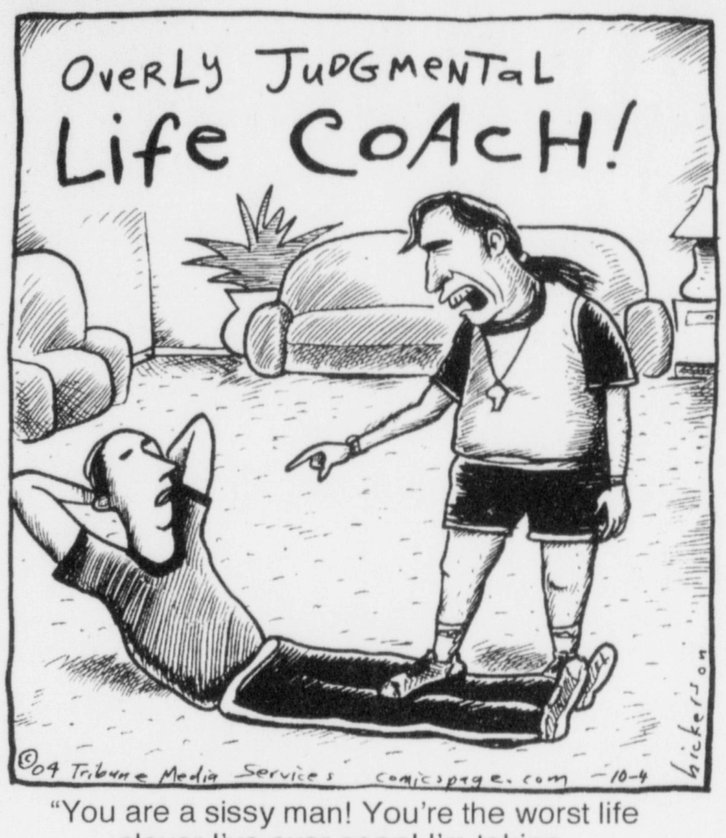
Do you think President Bush was wired during the debates?

Yes 8 No 66 Huh? 26

Data collected from an informal poll conducted in TCU's Main Cafeteria. This poll is not a scientific sampling and should not be regarded as representative of campus public opinion.

Quigman's

by Buddy Hickerson



"You are a sissy man! You're the worst life player I've ever seen! I'm taking you out of the GAME!"

HaHaHa HaHaHa heehee HaHaHa HaHaHa Hardy Har Har HaHaHa HaHaHa

Ha!

HaHaHa HaHaHa heehee heehee heehee Hardy Har Har HaHaHa HaHaHa heehee

Funnier than the rest?

Make Us Laugh!

The Skiff is looking for the best student comics to enter the "Make Us Laugh!" contest.

- Comics must contain 100 percent original material
- They may be hand-drawn or computer generated
- They must follow size guidelines: 3.75 inches x 4.75 inches for vertical comics and 7.75 inches x 3.3 inches for horizontal ones
- They must be traced in black ink
- They must be submitted on paper

Slimbone

by Mike Maydak

Today's Crossword

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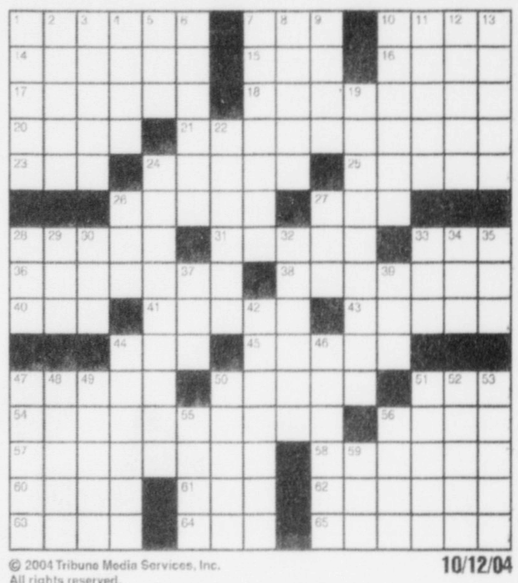

ACROSS
1 Cocktail crustacean
7 Got together
10 Truth known by observation
14 Roman ruler
15 __ had it!
16 Traditional knowledge
17 Unpigmented
18 Reflected
20 Asset
21 Begat
23 Double curve
24 Brutal person
25 Neighbor of Austria
26 Lively dance
27 Ave. crossers
28 Giant
31 Magazine edition
33 Grievous distress
36 Develops gradually
38 Irrefutable
40 Sailor's assent
41 Different one
43 Confuse
44 LIRR terminus
45 Itemizations
47 "As You Like It" role
50 Conical dwelling
51 Short swim
54 Overstate
56 Actress Garr
57 Protestant denomination
58 Soderbergh or Spielberg
60 Revise a manuscript
61 Fuss
62 Feeling ill
63 Affleck and Gazzara
64 Sun. talk
65 "Citizen Kane" director

DOWN
1 End of land or sea?
2 Passageways
3 Picture puzzle
4 Goddess of fertility
5 Irish Sea isle
6 Drive forward
7 Champagne cocktails
8 Eject from the premises
9 Sales rep's region
10 Exhibits buoyancy
11 Main artery
12 Angler's basket
13 One Roosevelt
19 Repeat, often tediously
22 Dissolute
24 Have a nice trip!
26 Chum
27 Take to court
28 Pekoe or hyson
29 Harvard league
30 __ the line
32 Play text
33 Roll of money
34 Lubricate
35 Wind dir.
37 & so on
39 NFL scores
42 Actress Powell
44 Dark periods
46 Up-and-down motion
47 Show-biz notable
48 Ooze out
49 Ovid's tongue
50 Exchange
51 Beelzebub
52 Rich or Castle
53 Sonar sounds
55 Periods
56 Spill the beans
59 Deadlock

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10/12/04

Thursday's Solutions

S	U	M	O		P	A	A	R		D	E	L	L	A
I	S	A	R		R	U	N	E		O	R	A	L	S
F	E	R	N		E	D	G	E		O	L	I	O	S
T	R	E	A	D	M	I	L	L		R	E	D	Y	E
			T	O	I		O	I	L	S		E	D	S
S	E	V	E	N	U	P		N	A	T	T	Y		
O	M	A	N		M	A	E		B	E	H	E	S	T
F	I	R	F	D		I	T	D		P	F	S	T	O
A	R	I	S	E	S		C	A	B		G	O	A	T
		E	S	S	E	N		B	E	L	O	N	G	S
B	O	G		C	A	U	L		H	A	L			
O	H	A	R	E		B	O	D	I	D	D	L	E	Y
O	A	T	E	N		B	U	R	N		B	Y	T	E
T	R	E	N	D		L	I	E	D		U	R	A	L
H	A	D	E	S		Y	E	W	S		G	A	L	L

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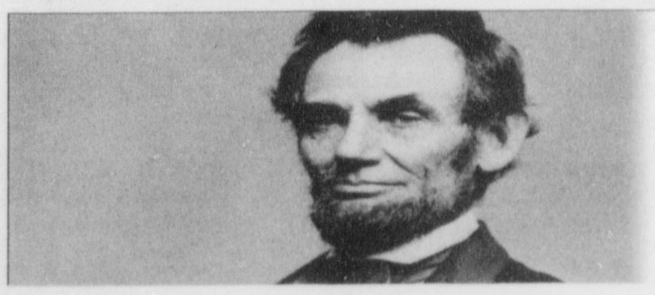
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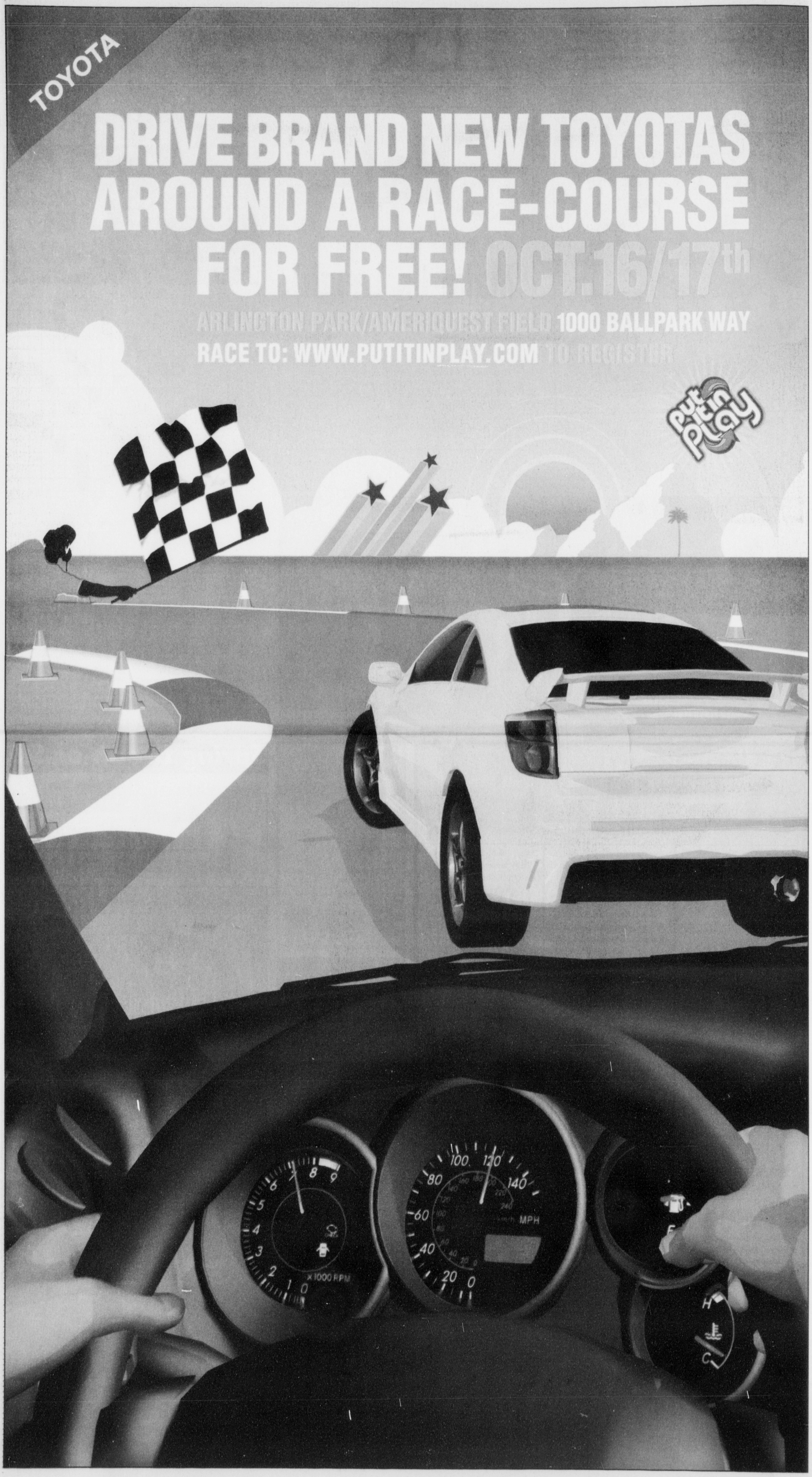
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