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**NEWS**  
See who won the vacant seats in the SGA House of Representatives.  
**DAILYSKIFF.COM**



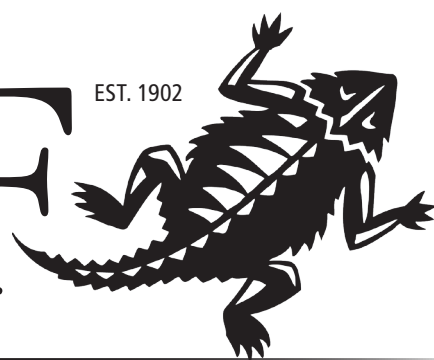
**FEATURES**  
Find out if the new meal plan is nutritionally sound.  
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**SPORTS**  
The men's swimming and diving team loses to SMU.  
**PAGE 6**

TCU

# DAILY SKIFF



TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008  
Vol. 105 Issue 63 www.dailyskiff.com

## After protests at UDLA, scholarships reinstated

By JULIETA CHIQUILLO  
Staff Reporter

More than 500 scholarships canceled by the administration at Mexican sister school Universidad de Las Americas-Puebla are being reinstated, ending three days of student protests, a student representative at UDLA said.

Susana Riestra, a fourth-year international relations major and member of the UDLA student council, said UDLA interim leader Arturo

Langdon signed a document Monday restoring 571 scholarships following a two-hour negotiation meeting with a group of three UDLA student council members, two student protesters and two parents.

Maria Lopez Aguilar, sub-director of communication at UDLA and university spokeswoman, did not return phone calls seeking comment about the agreement.

Riestra, who was present at the meeting, said Langdon

also confirmed in the letter that no academic programs will close at the university, relieving those students who thought they wouldn't be able to complete a degree in their major. The UDLA administration announced last week that it was going to review its scholarship program by suspending 571 need-based scholarships.

Students affected by the suspension have either a departmental scholarship or

a "fraternitas" scholarship. According to the university's Web site, "fraternitas" scholarships are awarded to incoming students, and departmental scholarships are awarded to current students. Departmental scholarships require students to work on scholarly projects at any of the university's academic departments.

Yunuen Castellanos, a fifth-year international relations major who was also at the

meeting, said departmental scholarships will be reviewed because some students are assigned office tasks instead of working on an academic project. She said students with departmental scholarships whose job is not appropriate for the department will receive another scholarship that will cover the same percentage of expenses as their previous one.

"People are more at ease," Castellanos said. "We feel it

was an important achievement, but we cannot say the university is doing really well."

According to Castellanos, Langdon said he expected the See **UDLA**, page 2

**DAILYSKIFF.COM**



To see video and photos of the protests, visit the Daily Skiff's Web site.

## DRUMROLL PLEASE



ANNIE COOPER / Staff Photographer

Members of the Steel Drum Band play in the lobby of the TCU Bookstore as part of the grand opening festivities. Other events will take place through Friday. Today the bookstore will open from 6 to 9 p.m. for an alumni reception. Neighbors are invited for a daylong celebration Thursday, and faculty and staff will get a discount Friday.

## New dining plan may give students off-campus dollars

By DAVID HALL  
Staff Reporter

Students may be able to pay with their student ID cards at off-campus restaurants beginning next semester, a university official said.

Emily Burgwyn, director of Student Affairs and Information Services, said the university is outsourcing the project to Off-Campus Advantage, a company which, according to its Web site, is based in Ithaca, N.Y., and specializes in building off-campus

payment networks channeled through student IDs.

Off-Campus Advantage staff members did not return phone calls about the program.

Burgwyn said the restaurants where students will be able to use their ID cards depends on which merchants decide to participate.

The operation will most likely start at restaurants

within walking distance of campus, but could eventually reach as far as Hulen Street, Burgwyn said.

Students would be able to pay for their meals at participating off-campus restaurants with "points," which will be given to students as part of the new dining plan, Burgwyn said.

The points would be built into the plan and come at no extra cost to students, said Craig Allen, director of Residential Services. Students will

have the option to add more points to their plan at \$1 per point, Allen said.

Students would receive anywhere from 100 to 450 points depending on which level of the dining plan is purchased, Allen said.

Allen said the ability to use dining plan dollars off campus will be one of the first in the country, as off-campus points at most other universities must be

See **PLAN**, page 2

"I don't know of any other schools that have a program like this."  
**Craig Allen**  
director of residential services

**CORRECTION**

A headline in Wednesday's Skiff incorrectly said the Student House of Representatives upheld a veto of a bill requesting the return of jazz programming to KTCU. It was a resolution, which is a non-binding recommendation.

## Library to be open 24 hours on weekdays

By HILARY WHITTIER  
Staff Reporter

After years of asking, students will have 24-hour library access on weekdays next semester, a library administrator said.

June Koelker, dean of the library, said the new hours for the library will benefit

students, especially because more of the student body is living on campus.

"Students have been talking about this for the last three or four years," said Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs. "In the last year the usage in the library has escalated because

more students are living on campus, and the library is offering many resources students need and want."

Students such as senior biology major Kim Hawthorne who often study in the library until they are asked to leave at closing time say the campus

has been overdue for this change.

"I think it's a good idea for people who function better with studying at odd hours," Hawthorne said.

Although Hawthorne is graduating in May, she said it is good to see the campus

See **LIBRARY**, page 2

## Democratic politicians focus on health care, education, war in Iraq

By SHALEY SANDERS  
Staff Reporter

State and national Democratic candidates campaigned and met TCU students and Tarrant County voters Saturday, encouraging participation in this year's election process.

State Rep. Rick Noriega, candidate for U.S. Senate and keynote speaker at the rally,

focused on making health care more available for families and soldiers returning home from Iraq, making a college education affordable and attainable for all families, bringing home the troops in Iraq safely and lowering national debt.

Noriega said of all the free countries in the world, the United States is the largest

debtor nation.

Roy C. Brooks, a candidate for first precinct of the Tarrant County Commission, said change has to start with the county courthouses. He said together Democrats can continue to make Tarrant County the kind of place that leads the nation in Democratic values.

"I will proudly stand with whoever is a Democratic nominee, because we have nothing to be ashamed of anymore," said Tracey Smith, a candidate for Congressional District 12. "We cannot outspend the Republicans, but we can outwork them."

State Rep. Dan Barrett, up for re-election to the Tex-

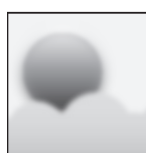
as House District 97 in Fort Worth, said Republicans have the money and Democrats have the votes, but people are the ones that matter.

Chris Turner, a speaker and candidate for Texas House District 96, said it is important to get involved, all political affiliations aside.

"Pick a candidate that you

like, that you support and get involved, volunteer and — most importantly — vote," Turner said. "The issues in this election year are going to effect your generation for a long, long time, so it is important to get involved."

Noriega said he is encouraged by the increase of stu- See **RALLY**, page 2



**WEATHER**

**TODAY:** Partly Cloud/Wind, 63/31  
**WEDNESDAY:** Sunny, 59/40  
**TOMORROW:** Cloudy, 55/31

**PECULIAR FACT**

NEW YORK — A man broke his own world record by standing in ice for 72 minutes.  
— Associated Press

**TODAY'S HEADLINES**

**FEATURES:** Check out a quick ab workout, page 8  
**OPINION:** Education reform needs support, page 3  
**SPORTS:** Athletics gear gains popularity, page 6

**CONTACT US**

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

UDLA

From page 1

university to have a new rector in about four months. Former rector Pedro Angel Palou resigned in November.

Riestra said student protesters rallied at the university's front gate at 8 a.m. Monday. She said about 200 protesters gathered outside the rector's office while

100 protesters remained at the gate. Langdon met with students at noon, and the results of the negotiation were announced two hours later at a rally by the water fountain at the center of the university, she said.

"For now the demonstration has ended," Riestra said. "But there are still many things to solve and many things to improve."

PLAN

From page 1

purchased separately and are not included in dining plans.

"I don't know of any other schools that have a program like this," Allen said.

Students will receive special discounts in restaurants, such as discounts on certain days of the week, but no permanent

discounts, Burgwyn said.

Student Government Association President Thomas Pressly, who led the initiative to allow students to use their ID cards off campus, said he is pleased that it may become a reality.

"It shows that the administration is willing to work with the students," Pressly said. "And that's the way it should be."

LIBRARY

From page 1

taking steps to give students a safe place to study late at night.

Students may also see the University Recreation Center gain additional hours, and the Brown-Lupton Student Center is scheduled to be open until 3 a.m. next semester, Mills said.

Although students have wanted these changes for more than three years, Mills said the university did not have the money to budget additional hours in the library until now.

Darron Turner, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and chair of staff assembly, is working with Mills to see how these changes might affect faculty and staff members.

Turner said the library is the first step in making the campus more student-friendly at night, and the process of hiring more employees for night shifts will begin soon.

In addition to hiring new employees Koelker said, a security desk near the front entrance will be installed. Koelker said she will be working directly with Steve McGee, TCU Police chief, to determine exactly what needs to be purchased in terms of security equipment.

Koelker said the library will provide a quality learning environment that is safe and secure.

"We have had a very high percentage of TCU students in the library on a regular basis," Koelker said. "The library has been open 24 hours for exam week for a number of years and with the current patterns, it is logical to expect that some of the building usage will shift to the new hours."

RALLY

From page 1

dent participation in the election process and in the Democratic Party across the country.

Students are beginning to realize how significant their opinions and influences are in the political process, he said.

About five members of the TCU Democrats were present as well as about five TCU students, some of which are involved in the Barak Obama campaign and were recruited by Doreen Geiger, founder of the New Democrats of Southwest Tarrant County.

"I know a very sad, staggering amount of the TCU student population remain largely apathetic, and I find that extremely depressing, because they complain that we don't have a say anymore, but they don't do a thing about it," said Megan O'Brien, junior art history major and member of TCU Democrats. "I'm one of the few that really

cares."

The civics available through today's media, whether it's Facebook, MySpace, the Daily Show with John Stewart or the Colbert Report, allow for a greater ability to communicate, Noriega said.

"I witnessed the first election ever held in Afghanistan," Noriega said. "Women

in burqas were standing in line after line with their children in 100-degree heat for the opportunity to vote. And here in our country we get frustrated if we are inconvenienced, the polling places change or we have to wait in line for 10 minutes."

Brian Young, a volunteer for the Barack Obama campaign, said the messages at the event were relevant to all groups.

"There was a lot of energy," said Young, a junior political science major. "I thought there were some great things that were said pertaining to people in the city, in the county, in the state and then of course in the country. It got me excited."

"Pick a candidate that you like, that you support and get involved, volunteer and - most importantly - vote."

Chris Turner Democratic Texas House candidate



The "I'll Just Have One More" Martini
3 oz. gin or vodka
1/2 oz. dry vermouth
3 olives
1 automobile
1 long day
1 diminishing attention span
1 too many
Combine ingredients. Drink. Repeat.
Mix with sharp turn, telephone pole.
Never underestimate 'just a few.'
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.

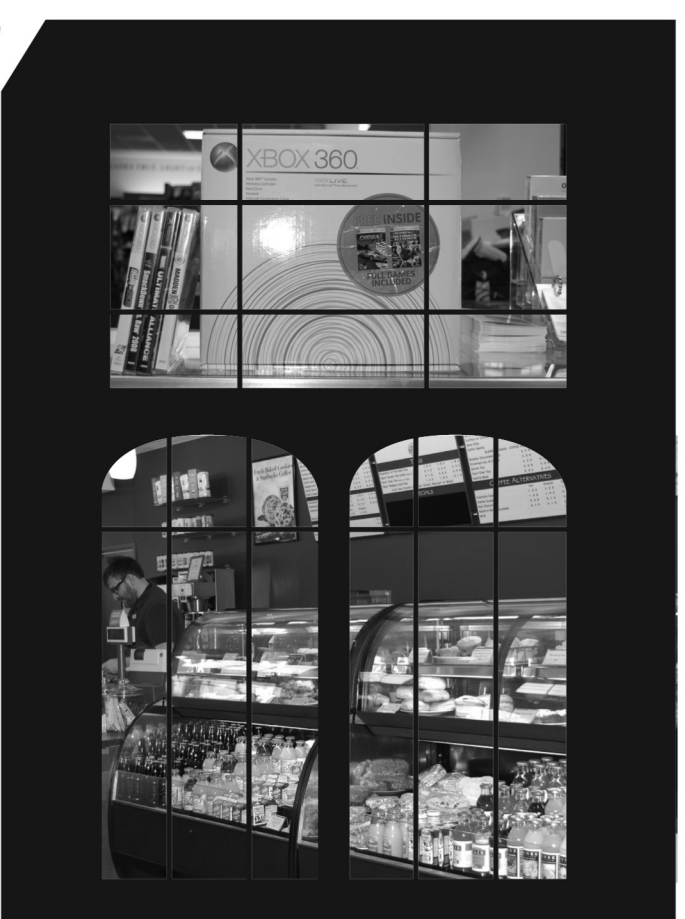
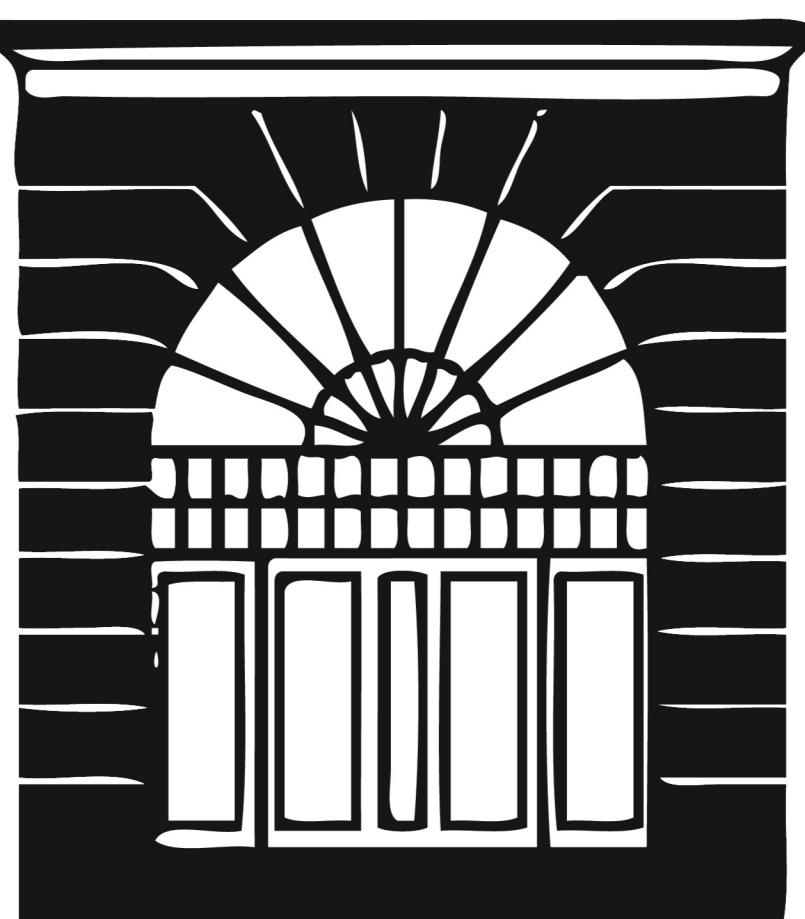
e-Z Bill. No more nasty paper cuts.

It's convenient. It saves trees. And it might even get you a free iPod Touch.
TCU student billing is going online. Grant your parent or other responsible parties access to e-Z Bill by Feb.15 and you'll automatically be entered for a chance to win an iPod Touch.\* Go to my.tcu.edu and let your fingers fly. It's e-z!

\*Person granted access to e-Z Bill must be a parent or other party responsible for paying student account charges.

TCU BOOKSTORE

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



THURSDAY JANUARY 31

TCU Neighbors & friends of community invited to a day-long celebration
SPECIAL EVENTS AND CHILDREN'S HOURS
COME SEE "TCU's GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY"

Hours: Cafe' Mon-Fri 7:30AM-9:00PM • Sat 9:00AM-6:00PM • Sun 11:00AM-6:00PM
Bookstore Mon-Fri 8:00AM-9:00PM • Sat 10:00AM-9:00PM • Sun 11:00AM-6:00PM



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things."

— John Burroughs

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

**Off-campus dollars not enough**

Dining Services has been working to appease students' complaints about the new dining plan, but it seems they are still coming up short.

In the works is an update to the almost \$2,000 meal plan required of students living on campus that would allow a certain number of off-campus dining points to be given to students when they purchase the plan.

Although this is something that has been much requested and anticipated by students, it seems that it's short.

With the purchase of a meal plan, students will receive anywhere from 100 to 450 points, valued at \$1 per point. These points will come at no extra cost to students, making it appear that they are getting free money.

But when putting it all into perspective, every dollar spent off campus is a dol-

lar not spent on campus. And when paying close to \$2,000 for a meal plan, \$100 doesn't seem like much of a prize.

Dining Services should be applauded for its efforts, because students have been requesting this for years. But it also needs to realize that this appeal to students only makes a dent in the nightmare that is the new meal plan. For a plan that is notably more expensive and doesn't allow students to take food to go, a \$100 distraction just doesn't seem like enough.

If Dining Services really is listening to students' complaints, they should understand that it's going to take a lot more than this to distract students from their complaints.

Keep listening, Dining Services. The students' voices haven't quite been heard yet.

*Managing editor Bailey Shiffler for the editorial board.*

**BY NATE ARNOLD**



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

**Internet media coverage outshines other outlets**

It amazes me how many hours I devote to TV.

Out of those hours, it amazes me even more how little time I spend watching newscasts.

In one of my journalism classes, I found that a majority of my peers do not watch news on TV.

My generation as a whole has grown accustomed to the Internet, and this trend continues to grow.

Norms change, and people change with them.

In our society, we have more opportunities to access news than our forefathers did. Our primary access to news comes from the Internet. The Internet overshadows almost every other branch of journalism.

Newspapers, magazines and newscasts continue to suffer because of online news and entertainment.

According to a March 2007 study, Mainetoday.com found that half its readers increased their Internet consumption. Other mediums have lost their popularity, such as TV, radio and newspapers.

However, TV and radio are far from extinct.

TV newscasts and newspapers now use the Internet to their advantage as well. Online newspapers allow readers to watch videos on their latest stories. It's a good idea, but is it working?

Honestly, I know I seldom click on links to watch video on the stories.

I usually check the stories that interest me and go on with my day.

I wonder if most people feel that way.

As a society, we have little patience, and most of us simply don't have the time to thumb through newspapers every morning or watch broadcasts on TV every evening.

The Internet consumes so

much of our time, so it's only natural that we use it as our news avenue.

The Internet is fast and quick enough to keep up with the pace of our society.

The Internet continues to lead us in the world of communication, but will other media industries eventually catch up?

Only time will tell.

*Krystal Upshaw is a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Houston.*



*Krystal Upshaw*



*SXC.HU*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Vegan eating good choice for all**

In response to your article "Vegans have it rough in Cowtown," it was encouraging to see it is getting easier and easier to find vegetarian and vegan options, as the demand for these products increases.

As the author mentions, almost a quarter of college students consider vegan options to be important to them, which is a clear sign of the growing trend toward healthier, more humane cuisine.

To correct one error from the article, though, vitamin B-12 can be found from a wide

variety of sources in a vegan diet. In fact, many products, such as soy milk and cereal, are fortified with it. Also, Jonathan Combs will be pleased to discover that Oreos actually are, in fact, vegan (go ahead, check for yourself).

As Stephanie Dickerson notes in the article, though, the more that students become aware of the horrific abuses standard in modern day meat production, it's understandable why they wouldn't want to support it anymore. Chickens, for example,

often have their beaks sliced off with a hot blade, and cows and pigs are skinned and disemboweled, often while still fully conscious. If these kinds of abuses were inflicted upon cats or dogs, it would result in criminal charges.

Thankfully, with delicious and animal-free dishes, such as vegetarian BBQ "riblets" and vegan pizza widely available, it's never been a better time to be vegan in Cowtown.

*Ryan Huling is a college campaign coordinator for peta2.com.*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Meat-free diets humane to animals**

Thank you for Alex Zobel's informative article exploring the many reasons why a growing number of people from coast to coast — even in Cowtown — are choosing to eat vegan foods.

No matter how you slice it, eating meat contributes to a variety of ailments (such as heart disease, vari-

ous cancers and diabetes), environmental degradation and animal suffering.

While consumers increasingly discover the benefits of vegan eating, restaurants, grocery stores and campus cafeterias everywhere are responding by offering more meat, egg and dairy-free options. It's unfortunate, how-

ever, that Dining Services at TCU is lagging behind.

Thankfully, restaurants like the all-vegan Spiral Diner and Bakery are making it easier for people to eat healthier and more humanely.

*Erica Meier is the executive director of Compassion Over Killing.*

**New ideas for education reform needed by candidates**

Now that we're moving to the end of the Bush years, I worry that the cause of education reform could slip by the wayside. Since the day he started running for governor in 1994, and throughout his presidency, George W. Bush has talked about improving schools.

No one in either party appears eager to take up this banner. Although Ted Kennedy is one of the biggest champions of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Democrats run-

ning for president are sticking a fork in the federal law. And, except for Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney occasionally talking about it, most Republicans seem to have little interest.

So, to keep the cause of education alive, what needs to happen next?

I hope the candidates start seeing education reform as a civil rights issue as much as a school issue. The focus these days on assessing school performance is really about determining whether kids are prepared for the demands of a sophisticated economy.

If they aren't, the unprepared can forget cracking into the middle class. Competition from

around the world will eat them alive.

That's one reason the National Council of La Raza and some other civil rights organizations don't want to see Capitol Hill retreat on measuring schools. They know poor and minority kids will suffer the most if they are left behind.

Now, which of these presidential contenders is going to join them? Obama? Hillary? Rudy?

There's a special need to connect Latino parents with their children's schooling, especially when it comes to getting them thinking about college.

Principals I talk to almost always say that their first-generation parents want their kids to go further than many of them did in school. But they are often working two jobs or come from Mexico, where there's not the same demand for

parental involvement.

We need everyone from political leaders to superintendents to principals talking about this challenge. America's future is Latino, so it pays to make sure all Latino children are getting advice about basics like how to apply for college.

The reform agenda needs a special focus on Mexico's schools. Yes, Mexico.

You go into schools in cities like Dallas today, and you'll find kids who came in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades from Mexico. And you'll hear educators talk about the differences in their grasp of subjects like math.

The next president's Mexico agenda ought to include a dialogue with our southern neighbor about its schools. Mexicans I've interviewed understand what this is about and would welcome a chance to

get at this issue.

Churches, synagogues and other religious organizations could play a bigger role in stopping so many students from dropping out. For example, what if churches in Dallas and other cities decided to track every one of their eighth-graders? Or, what if every church or synagogue offered a Saturday school for struggling students?

Fifth, community colleges are an increasingly important entree into four-year universities and good jobs. Who's going to talk about locating more of these in poor neighborhoods, like the Dallas Community College District is doing? More kids will see that college is for them, not for others, as Wright Lassiter, the district's chief, says.

Sixth, we need to remain firm about measuring schools but give campus-

es some flexibility about how they do it. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings smartly has been giving states new room to run, such as measuring how much a student's knowledge of a subject grows over a year.

Al Gore succeeded on the environmental front because he made climate change part of the public consciousness. More than any policy change, he made Americans — and the rest of the world — think about how the way we live today affects the world we pass on to tomorrow.

That's what I'm interested in seeing happen on the education front. How do we make reform part of our consciousness?

George W. Bush got things started. Who's next?

*William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News.*



*SXC.HU*

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# Younger crowd embracing stationery, paper products

By PATRICK KAMPERT  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — When she walked into the Paper Doll store in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood last weekend, Lisa Peloquin, 28, had her cell phone out and was using the key pad to tap out a text message.

With electronic gadgets that allow her to be connected at all times to friends and family, it might seem curious that she's a regular customer of the stationery shop, one of many such merchants that are thriving as purveyors of paper and ink, a medium some thought had perished with the dawn of the Internet.

"It's more personal," Peloquin, of Chicago, said of handwritten notes. "It's a different level of communication."

If the survival of the handwritten word is mildly surprising, it's eye-opening to learn who's manning the lifeboat: 25- to 34-year-olds who, like Peloquin, have adapted quickly and easily to instant messaging, Bluetooths and BlackBerrys.

They're the ones who buy most of the stationery products in this country (51 percent), according to a 2007 study by Unity Marketing.

"It's a little more romantic to write something I've been feeling rather than just say it on a phone or in an e-mail," added Tom Rothery, 33, who was looking for a blank anniversary card in which to jot down a message. "I think people are more appreciative too."

It's also just plain different from the bytes, beeps and ring-tones that wallpaper daily life.

"Every day, you get like 100 e-mails," said Paper Doll's Stacy Swett, who owns the store with her sister Kelly Swett Riordan. "So it's kind of become boring. You want something to come in the mail."

The fact that people really don't need paper to communicate these days actually enhances its appeal, says Unity Marketing President Pam Danziger.

"What's happening is that paper is becoming a luxury.

Twenty years ago, it wasn't a luxury. But it's no longer a necessity. It's for people who are in the know, who enjoy the finer things."

In this aspect, Danziger said, it's similar to how everything from wine to pet food has developed a high-end niche market. "All these commodities have been elevated in certain segments for more of a luxury market. It takes knowledge, a special kind of person to appreciate it. It's a very affordable luxury — a piece of paper — in the grand scheme of things."

Shops such as Paper Doll, situated in a fashionable neighborhood with bright decor, upbeat music and neighbors that sell "natural" bakery goods and "organic lager," certainly fit that profile.

"Everybody appreciates design even if they aren't a designer, and so people seek that out in all realms," said Swett. "Designer beer, designer cupcakes, I guess I have designer paper," she said, laughing.

Paper Doll opened eight years ago. In 2006, the shop moved a few blocks down Division Street and tripled its space. Its story is not unique in the world of stationery.

On the historic square in far northwest suburban Woodstock, Ill., Catherine Cox has customers coming from as far away as Beloit, Wis., for the products and services she offers at Paper and Plume. (Forty percent of her customers are men.)

"When I first opened the store, so many people were like, 'Oh, good luck. Woodstock's out in the middle of nowhere to begin with,'" she said. "If any-



DAVID BANKS / Chicago Tribune via MCT  
Stacy Swett, Kelly Riordan and Maude, a dog, help Tom Rothery find an anniversary card at Paper Doll on Jan. 12 in Chicago. A recent study found young people are buying more and more stationery products.

thing, more and more people are finding out I'm here, so my business has increased."

Paula Young, 36, of Woodstock got to know Cox when she came to Paper and Plume to pick out her wedding invitations. Now, she and her children have personalized stationery from the shop.

"It makes them appreciate what they have when they take a second and say thank you," Young said of her kids. Although she calls herself a "big e-mailer," she often sends handwritten notes, whether she's enclosing kids' school photos or just thanking a friend for inviting her to dinner.

"I just like to send somebody a note: 'We had fun. Thanks again.'"

If the customers are young, some of the craftsmanship is old. Letter-press cards are especially popular.

"I think people love knowing that someone was on their 100-year-old letter press run-

ning each individual piece of paper through it three times to get three different colors," Swett said. "It's combining old-school methods with modern design. It's interesting. It's cool. We have people who are loyal to particular designers — it's like you would be with fashion: 'Oh, what do you have that's new from Snow & Graham? What do you have new from Hammer Press?'"

Snow & Graham is a Chicago company founded 10 years ago by Ebony Snow Chafey, 33, and a friend who has since left the business. Chafey started designing wedding invitations and baby announcements for friends. Now, she's president and CEO of a firm that has six full-time employees and a full line of products carried in about 1,500 gift and stationery shops across the United States and 25 other countries. Her business grows 30 percent each year, she says.

"Our generation — as much

as we grew up with e-mails and text messages — we're also a much more visually and aesthetically minded group of people, because we spent a lot of time on the Internet," she said. "So much of our experience of the world is a graphic experience."

Besides the interesting artwork, it doesn't hurt that a lot of the modern stationery products are "snarky" or "funny without being gross," according to Swett.

One best-selling card for baby congratulations reads, "I'm glad you're having a baby and I'm not."

Amanda Norman, a neighborhood resident in her early 30s, stopped in with 10-month-old son Henry. She chose a card for her brother that offered a profanity-laced birthday greeting.

"(It's) my favorite birthday card," said the frequent shopper. "I think it's funny. He's turning 30 and he's not so happy about it."



DAVID BANKS / Chicago Tribune / MCT  
Lisa Peloquin looks for a birthday card for her father at Paper Doll on Jan. 12 in Chicago.



## GENEROUSLY GOURMET.

 **Chipotle**  
MEXICAN GRILL

BELLAIRE & HULEN

**DEMAND**

From page 6

time a team went undefeated in the history of the MWC and the first time a team went 8-0.

This consistent success has put TCU in the spotlight, Byrne said.

"Just last spring, TCU was selected to be a part of a college retail company called College Vault Vintage," he said. "Universities were selected based on their popularity and school history."

The program is a unique opportunity for the universities involved to have vintage merchandise created, Byrne said.

"The university can have the opportunity to create merchandise that has a more distinctive look," he said. "(It is) a chance to put together historical images and the trademarks of the university, to give fans a different choice."

In addition to success on the field and in the retail market, TCU is also making its mark in the virtual world.

On Jan. 14, a 1994 TCU Football Southwest Conference Championship Ring

was purchased on eBay for \$521.99 by a college sports memorabilia collector, 41-year-old Jason Steele, of Arkansas. After 27 bids, the ring's seller, 33-year-old Victor Ortega of Houston and owner of Diamond Jewelry and Loan, found his buyer.

"The TCU ring that I sold on eBay was one that I actually bought from someone who came in my store and sold it to me," Ortega said. "It was the first time I had put this particular ring on eBay. It sold in a little over a week, not bad," he said.

Steele, a University of Texas at Austin alumnus, said the newly acquired ring is one of his many sports memorabilia items. He also has the first Big-12 Championship Ring, a rare Southwest Conference clock and a 1999 UT championship ring from the Cotton Bowl.

He said he was a fan of the majority of the other teams that used to be in the SWC.

"I love TCU," Steele said. "The campus and the stadium always look good, and they had some of the nicest fans."

**FUNDING**

From page 6

Texas State University System Board of Regents approved increasing the athletic service fee by \$2 in fall 2008. However, Reagan Pugh, student government president, said more funding is needed in order to make the changes.

"We are having a referendum to increase the fee by \$2 every year," Pugh said. "So it will increase by \$12 by the end of (the five years). It is going to give us the money to build our stadium up. Also, we have to add a new women's sport to qualify for (Subdivision 1); we have to add several more scholarships and hire some more coaches."

If students vote in favor of the increase at the proposed referendum in February, the athletic budget will go from approximately \$5.5 million to \$13 million by 2013.

Students pay \$8 per semester credit hour in athletic service fees, and by the end of the five

years, students will pay \$20 per semester credit hour if the increase is approved.

"We are Division-1 in every sport except football. It is a matter of stepping up our football team. It is essentially power by association because the people we are playing with in football are not up to our level academically or in athletics," Pugh said.

The decision made by the student referendum is not final. The Board of Regents will consider approving the fee increase based on how the student body votes. The Board of Regents will meet Feb. 21 and 22.

Pugh said the move to Subdivision 1 will increase ticket sales as well as the quality of athletes and coaches that come to the university.

"It's our school, our athletic program and our money, so it is our decision what its future will be," Dabney said. "I hope the students see what a big deal this is for Texas State and the positive impact it would have."

**SEASON**

From page 6

Freshman Britney Martinez took first place in the 200-meter backstroke and had a runner-up-finish to Alvarez in the 200-meter freestyle.

TCU had a 39-16 lead following consecutive first place finishes in the 1000-meter and 200-meter freestyle, but its lead started to slip.

The Frogs had a four event stretch without a win, letting the Lobos back into the meet.

A one-two finish from Martinez and junior freestyle Cheryl Townsend in the 200-meter backstroke keyed a four-event winning streak for the Frogs, sealing the meet.

The team has been struggling in conference meets this season and recently went 0-3 in a conference road trip against BYU, Utah and San Diego State University.

"We really needed a win in the worst way," head coach Richard Sybesma said. "It's a really good way to finish out

their dual-meet season."

Walker said this was a great meet for the team, and her teammates did a great job helping seal the win.

Martinez said it was exciting to see everyone swim so well in such a competitive atmosphere.

Alvarez, a freshman from Colombia, has shone flashes of greatness, but this meet was her real coming out party with two first-place finishes, both of which were season best times.

"She had it in her, but we just hadn't seen it yet," Sybesma said.

Next up for the H2O Lady Frogs is the University of North Texas.

Sybesma said the team has not seen North Texas yet, but it should be a good last test before the team heads to the Conference Championships.

Walker said the team is mentally and physically prepared, and it is always good to head into the championships with a win.

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**MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING**

# H2O Frogs defeated by rival

By BAILEY SHIFFLER  
Managing Editor

The men's swimming and diving team came up short against SMU Friday, but several individuals made a splash against the Mustangs.

The cross-town rivals beat the Frogs 143-101, but head coach Richard Sybesma said he is happy with how his team performed against the No. 24-ranked Mustangs.

"We had some individuals really shine," Sybesma said.

Sophomore Ben Biefnes placed first in the 400-yard IM, Cameron Allred, a senior, placed first in the 150-yard breaststroke and Trevor Woods, a freshman, came out on top in the 1650-yard freestyle event.

Also, junior R.J. Hesselberg placed first in the 3-meter springboard event with 345.22 points.

Sybesma said this meet prepared the team for the conference season, which starts in four weeks.

"For some guys it gave



BAILEY SHIFFLER / Managing Editor  
Freshman Edgar Peyro swims the breaststroke in a meet against SMU on Friday. Peyro placed fourth in the 50-yard breaststroke.

them a gage against some really good swimmers," Sybesma said. "It showed us what we need to do in the next four weeks."

Allred said he was excited about how the team performed against SMU and that the meet set them up well for the upcoming conference season.

"For the next few weeks we'll keep training pretty hard," Allred said. "Then we'll rest and get ready to

race fast."

Biefnes said he thinks the team is where it needs to be. He said the next four weeks will allow the team to get mentally prepared before the start of the season.

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Check out a slideshow online with photos from the meet.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

# FROGS DOWN



LINDSEY BEVER / Web Editor

Senior point guard Adrienne Ross attempts a layup against Utah on Saturday, but it was not enough for the Lady Frogs who lost 60-50 falling to 3-2 in Mountain West Conference play. The loss dropped the Frogs to third in the Mountain West Conference and 10-9 overall. The team now begins a two game road trip starting off against UNLV in Las Vegas today. The Frogs have an all-time series record of 7-1 against the Rebels.

**DAILYSKIFF.COM**

To see more photos from the game, check out the slideshow online.

**WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING**

# Weekend meet results in win

By BRETT LARSON  
Sports Editor

In its last regular season meet, the H2O Frogs women's swim and dive team took a stroke forward in the Mountain West Conference as seniors and freshmen shined.

TCU beat the University of New Mexico Lobos 124.5-116.5 to close out the team's regular conference season.

The team had a fast start and jumped to the lead

behind first place finishes from distance swimmers senior Keilah Walker and freshman Maria Alvarez.

Celebrating senior night, Walker started her day with a first place finish in the 1000-meter freestyle with a time of 10:34.33, beating the next closest swimmer by five seconds.

Walker also finished in second place in the 500-meter freestyle behind Alvarez to round out the

distance events.

Supporting the seniors on their night were the freshmen who helped contribute to the win.

Alvarez followed Walker's first place finish with a win in the 200-meter freestyle, finishing in 1:55, a season best. In the 500-meter freestyle, Alvarez swam a season best 5:06.01 beating Walker's second place time by seven seconds.

See **SEASON**, page 5

**FOOTBALL**

# Texas State aspires for bowl games

By AMANDA VENABLE  
The (Texas State) University Star

SAN MARCOS — Emergency legislation to be voted on at the Jan. 28 Associated Student Government meeting proposes holding a student referendum on increasing the athletic service fee to help fund a move to NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision.

"The athletic service fee referendum is on a tight schedule," said Alexis Dabney, student government vice president. "A senator that votes yes to this legislation will be voting that ASG will hold a referendum on Feb. 12 and 13 where the student body will vote whether or not to increase this fee."

Texas State is in the Football Championship Series, formerly known as Division-1 AA. The fee increase is needed to accommodate necessary changes for the move to Subdivision 1. The transition is set up in a five-year plan outlined by the Athletic Strategic Planning Committee's final report.

See **FUNDING**, page 5

**ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION**

# Success of programs equals popularity in merchandising

By JOHN BOLLER  
Staff Writer

Whether it's a collector, graduate, current student or just a fan, people want their piece of TCU.

The success of TCU athletics in recent years has resulted in TCU paraphernalia becoming higher in demand in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and a popular choice among college sports

fans outside of Cowtown.

"The success of TCU athletics has led to an increase in popularity in TCU merchandise on a local, regional and national level," said Jason Byrne, director of marketing for TCU athletics. "Both Nike and Under Armour have grown their product line of TCU merchandise."

Several TCU teams having recent success are the football,

baseball and women's basketball programs, all of which have reached the postseason every year since 2005.

In 2005, TCU athletics switched to the Mountain West Conference. In the football team's first two seasons in the league, it went 16-2, along with a perfect 8-0 record in conference and the conference title in 2005. It was the third

See **DEMAND**, page 5

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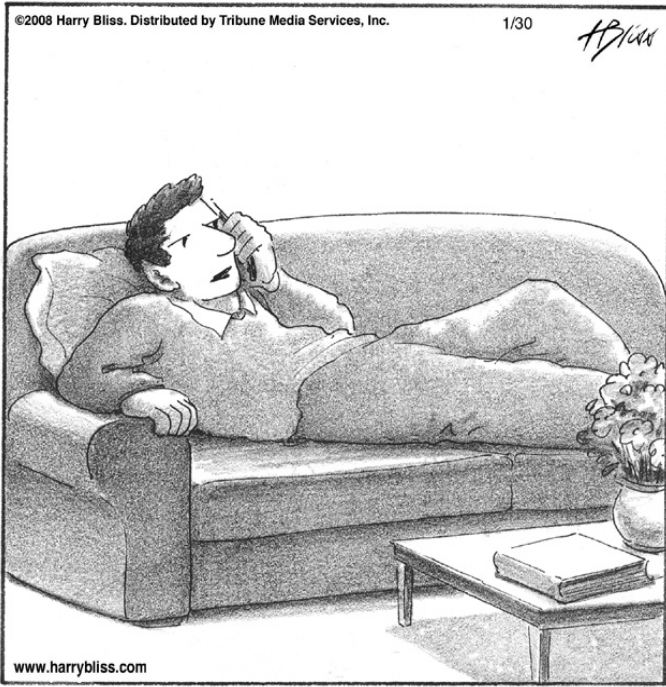
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		9		5				4	3
	5				9				
1	3		5	2		7	9		
9			3				8	5	

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

**Friday's Solutions**

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

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

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- Place for pumpkins
- Stuff to the gills
- Posters
- Waikiki greeting
- Sole
- Farmland parcel
- Himalayan kingdom
- Grimm beast
- Branch of Islam
- Do the utmost
- Prickly-topped plant
- Potash
- Braggart's problem
- Winding curve
- Scatterbrained
- Kitchen cover-up
- Marshal Dillon
- Nurse a drink
- Botanist Gray
- Faunt boundaries
- August sign
- since (as of)
- Tropical plant with brilliant flowers
- Massive amounts
- Musical sensitivity
- N.A. country
- Mushroom top
- Periods of readiness
- Find a scapegoat
- Driving expense
- Your majesty
- Reluctant
- Sandwich cookie
- M.I.T. grad
- Web-footed mammal
- Nothing more than
- Nerve fiber
- Tablelands

**DOWN**

- Moving shot
- Tankard fill
- Schooner features
- Wild disorder
- Cut in two
- Latch (onto)
- Brand symbol
- Rambunctious
- Itsy-bitsy
- Spaceflight org.
- More sore
- Foreigner, in Latin America
- Old herbs
- Old Testament prophet
- Try to get one's goat
- Interim worker
- Jacob's twin
- Deadlock
- Magical incantation
- Bleached out
- In the past
- Profession
- Leaflet handout
- Hillary Clinton, Rodham
- Pigs out
- Bog fuel
- Misses the mark
- Tradition
- On land
- Carpenter, at times
- Man-lion figure
- Tack on snow
- Bewildered
- Play the ham
- Floating ice
- Therefore
- European capital
- Kind of pot or bag
- 60 min. multiples

By Diane C. Baldwin  
Columbia, MD

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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

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