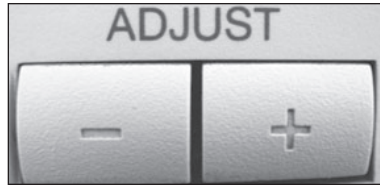




**NEWS**  
Congressional action puts a financial pinch on colleges.  
**TOMORROW**



**OPINION**  
The plus/minus system should be enforced for all students.  
**PAGE 3**



**SPORTS**  
The women's basketball team won its third straight conference game.  
**PAGE 6**

TCU

# DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008  
Vol. 105 Issue 68 www.dailyskiff.com

## Car burglary increase spurs heightened area police patrols

By JULIETA CHIQUILLO  
Staff Reporter

The Fort Worth Police Department has increased surveillance in the area surrounding campus in response to a recent surge in vehicle burglaries, TCU's neighborhood police officer said. Neighborhood Police Officer Mark Russell said nine off-campus vehicle burglaries have been reported in the area surrounding TCU since Jan. 1.

Russell said most stolen items, such as duffel bags and small electronics, were left in sight inside the vehicles. A special police unit, the Crime Response Team, has been patrolling the area since last week, Russell said. The team uses undercover officers and vehicles to offset the recent increase in crime. The team comprises 10 officers, one detective and one

sergeant, according to the Fort Worth Police Department Web site. Russell said he didn't know how long the team would remain in the area surrounding TCU. He said the team is dispatched to other areas depending on the police department's priorities. There are two male suspects in the burglaries, Russell said. The men were last seen Mon-

day cruising the 2700 block of Forest Park Blvd. in a forest green Toyota Camry, he said. Russell said he couldn't link the suspects to all the burglaries. The most recent victims of vehicle burglaries in the area were two TCU students whose cars were broken into Monday in the 3100 block of McPherson Ave., Russell said. A hole was punched under-

neath the keyhole on the cars' passenger side and the lock was manipulated, unlike the other seven incidents when windows were broken to gain access into the car, Russell said. According to TCU Police statistics, five on-campus vehicle burglaries were reported in January. TCU Police Detective Vicki Lawson said off-campus burglaries are more frequent

because it is easier to access vehicles parked along a street than those in campus parking lots. "All the fences and barriers that we have are a great asset to help prevent crime," Lawson said. Russell said students who see anyone suspicious around a vehicle should notify either the Fort Worth Police Department or TCU Police.

## Speaker: Understand gender differences

By PATTY ESPINOSA  
Staff Reporter

A man needs to know that when a woman asks him to go with her to find a black skirt, the trip to the mall is not just about a black skirt; it is about every possible black skirt out there. A woman, on the other hand, needs to know that when a man finds her a black skirt, it is not time to continue the search for another three hours; it is time to go home — mission accomplished. That is the message the audience heard Tuesday from Tammy Hughes,

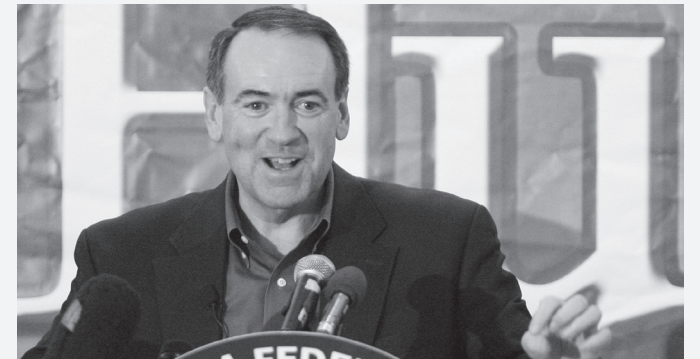
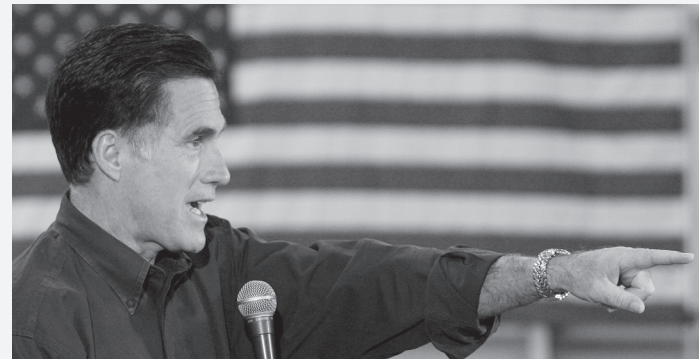
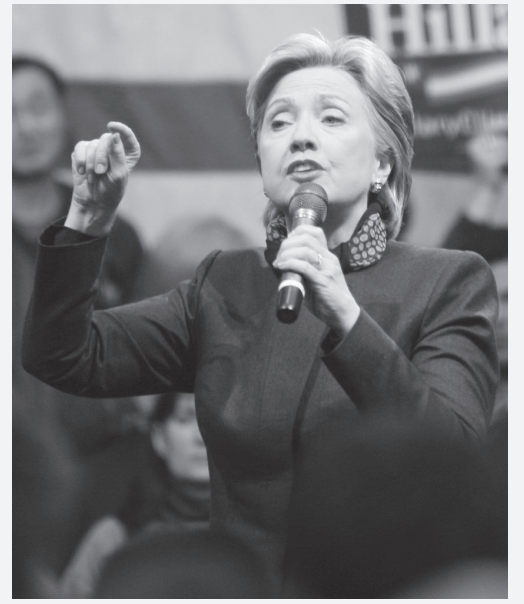
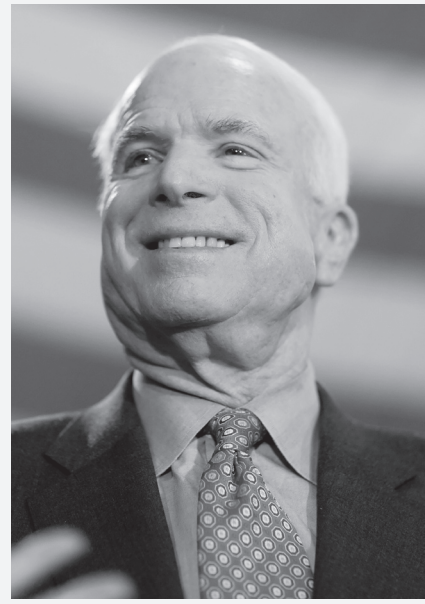
Many men and women think it is impossible to understand one another, but people just need to learn to read what others are saying and negotiate with one another, Hughes said. The differences people need to be aware of concern verbal language, body language and competition, Hughes said. Understanding these will help people adjust to the level of each gender in their workplace, she said. Hughes asked her listeners to participate in an activity which involved discussing favorite childhood toys with each other. After a few minutes of reminiscence, the audience was asked if any of the toys translated into someone's adulthood. Participants, majority of whom were women, raised their eyebrows and nodded in agreement. Hughes said boys who are put in a room with toys are attracted to speed, power and noise, while girls create relationships between their dolls, instead of just dressing them up. Studies show that women are process-focused while men are goal-focused, Hughes said. "Understanding the dif-

"Understanding the differences between men and women are little things that are usually overlooked."  
**Danielle Belanger**  
junior financing and accounting major

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## THE VOTES ARE IN



Sens. Hillary Clinton, above right, and John McCain, above center, both had big wins as voters in 24 states went to the polls Tuesday. Sen. Barack Obama, above left, Mitt Romney, below left, and Mike Huckabee, below right, still aren't out, though, according to faculty members in the political science department.

## Texas primaries may be critical, professor says

By MICHELLE ANDERSON, ANNA HODGES and KATIE WINTER  
Staff Reporters  
The big wins came for New York Sen. Hillary Clinton and Arizona Sen. John McCain in the Super Tuesday primaries, but they still have a long way to go before the nominees are set in stone. Former House Speaker Jim

Wright said Tuesday night that the process could be prolonged. "For one thing, the results of Super Tuesday tell us that the end is not here yet," said Wright, a political science faculty member. "The decision could go to August as it has in the past."

In the Democratic primaries, Hillary Clinton took New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona and Missouri, a key swing state. Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Georgia, Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, North Dakota, Kansas, Minnesota, Colorado, Utah,

Idaho and his home state. On the Republican side, See **PRIMARIES**, page 2

DAILYSKIFF.COM

See what students thought about Super Tuesday.

## Celebration of Asian New Year to help national organization

By BIBEK BHANDARI  
Staff Reporter

The Asian Student Association and the Asian/Asian-American interest sorority are celebrating the Asian New Year with a philanthropic purpose. The Asian New Year Bazaar showcases the dynamics of Asian culture and diversity within the ethnic group, said Mai Vu, a junior psychology and sociology major.

It is a fundraising event for ASA and Kappa Lambda Delta, and is a forum to promote their philanthropy for TCU UNICEF, a worldwide fund for educating and enhancing quality of life for children. TCU UNICEF is a campus initiative of U.S. Fund for UNICEF, a non-profit organization that works on behalf of UNICEF to generate funds in the U.S., said Thuytrinh Tran, a senior biology

major and member of Kappa Lambda Delta. Philip Truong, a junior economist, will be the emcee. See **BAZAAR**, page 2

**FOR YOUR INFO**  
**Asian New Year Bazaar**  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Today through Friday  
Student Center Lounge

## Chancellor to chair national group

By KATIE WINTER  
Staff Reporter

Chancellor Victor Boschini will be named chair of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities' board of directors today during a year of immense change, the association's vice president of public affairs said. With the changes a new president will bring to Congress this year, the association will be dealing with the different dynamics of a new administration, said Ronald King, the

association's vice president for public affairs. "This year, the (association) will have a year of incredible change and uncertainty," King said. Boschini is taking over when the association is dealing with a lot of major issues, King said. The organization serves as the unified national voice of almost 1,000 independent higher-education colleges, said Tony Pals, director of public information for the association. The National Association of Independent Colleges and

Universities represents private, non-profit colleges and universities on public policy issues with the federal government, Pals said. The group's mission is to ensure student aid programs promote tax policy to help families pay for college and to seek appropriate regulation of private colleges and universities, Pals said. Pals said the main goal of the board's chair is to set the organization's agenda and help guide the organization during See **BOSCHINI**, page 2

**WEATHER**  
TODAY: Sunny, 54/38  
TOMORROW: Sunny, 58/39  
FRIDAY: Sunny, 68/35

**PECULIAR FACT**  
Dover, Ohio — Firefighters had to use a metal cutter to slice into a washing machine to rescue a 4-year-old boy who had gotten stuck.  
— Associated Press

**TODAY'S HEADLINES**  
**NEWS:** College drinking trends changing, page 4  
**OPINION:** Book shows both sides of race issue, page 3  
**SPORTS:** Former player joins soccer staff, page 6

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



## GENDER

From page 1

ferences between men and women are little things that are usually overlooked," said Danielle Belanger, a junior finance and accounting major. Belanger introduced Hughes at the beginning of the event.

Hughes said coming to an understanding of one's own gender culture and opposite gender culture and valuing the differences between the two allows for productive and effective solutions to relational issues in the workplace.

Jaci Grainger, a freshman engineering major, said the speech was informative and will help her in school and in the future.

Hughes uses her GenderSpeak presentations to train employees for companies, such as McDonald's, Procter and Gamble, Sony Pictures Entertainment and TGI Friday's, all over the world, said Belanger. Hughes spearheaded the GenderSpeak presentations more than 18 years ago and is considered the master instructor.

For 10 years, Hughes has been the president of the Heim Group, a company that specializes in solving gender-related issues in the workplace.

The Neeley School of Business, in partnership with the Institute on Women and Gender, sponsored the event along with Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust and Extended Education, according to the TCU Web site.

## PRIMARIES

From page 1

John McCain won New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Illinois, Oklahoma and his home state of Arizona. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won his home state and Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee won West Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Arkansas.

"I'm not surprised by who is in the lead," Wright said. "I expected Hillary to be in the lead, and I expected McCain to be in the lead. I am surprised Huckabee has made so much gain on Romney."

Depending on the direction the Democratic nomination is taking as states continue to hold primaries, Texas could become a major influence, said Jim Riddlesperger,

a political science professor.

"The Texas primary could be important in the Democratic Party in a way that it has not been in years and years," Riddlesperger said.

Cathi Hoag, an alumna, said she thinks Texas will benefit from a later primary.

"Clinton and Obama are neck and neck, making Texas' March 4 primary extremely decisive," Hoag said.

On campus, students were also taking in the excitement of Super Tuesday. Chi Omega sorority and Pi Kappa Phi fraternity hosted a watching party in the Pi Kapp house, where about 30 students attended. Although there was one Huckabee supporter present, the majority of students seemed to be in favor of Obama.

Students for Obama, a campus group, took over Fuzzy's Taco Shop on Berry Street, covering

the walls with "Obama '08" posters and tuning every TV in to CNN or MSNBC. About 60 people came and went throughout the night, said Bryan Young, a coordinator for the Students for Obama party.

Melanie Harris, another alumna, said she attended the Students for Obama party because there were no Clinton-watching parties. She said Obama should be careful with his support from young people.

"Obama has a lot of support from young people but young people are notorious for not voting," Harris said.

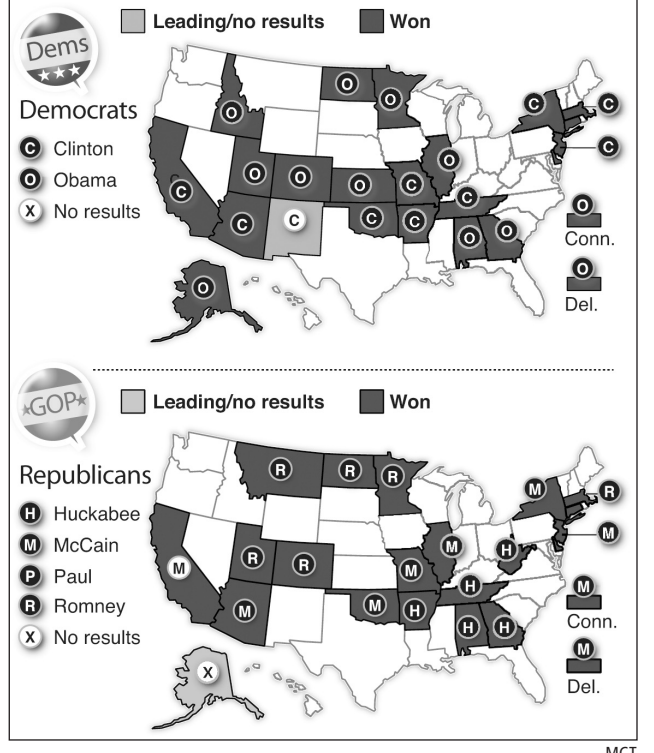
The key to this election has been the enthusiasm of the candidates, Wright said.

"Both parties are responding to the call for change and people are excited about it," Wright said.

McClatchy-Tribune News Service contributed to this story.

## Super Tuesday results

As of 1:30 a.m. ET



## BAZAAR

From page 1

nomics major and president of ASA, said Kappa Lambda Delta and ASA want to make people aware of the TCU UNICEF chapter, recruit members and also raise funds for Asian Pacific American Empowerment Conference and the Asian Olympics to be held at the University of Texas at Arlington in March.

The event will have a display of Asian imports reflecting its culture, such as slippers, necklaces and umbrellas, Truong said. He will also give a presentation on the Asian New Year's traditions compared to those in the West.

An egg-roll eating competition and a Vietnamese betting game played with dice, will

increase audience participation at the event, Truong said.

There is a \$5 entry fee for the competitions, which will be donated to TCU UNICEF. The winner of the egg-roll eating competition will receive a \$15 gift certificate to Pei Wei and Bau Cua Tom Ca players can collect points to redeem for a Horned Frog accessory at the event.

Vu said ASA wants to involve the TCU community in a culturally unique atmosphere to promote diversity and make them aware of TCU UNICEF and work toward UNICEF's mission of raising funds to help children in underdeveloped countries.

"The promotion of TCU UNICEF is important to both of our organizations," Vu said. "We would like to see it grow as our philanthropy at TCU."

## BOSCHINI

From page 1

the next year.

"This is a really important and critical time in higher education and I'm proud to be a part of it," Boschini said.

The group works with Congress to help promote laws that will benefit students at private colleges and universities, he said.

Recently, the group worked on the congressional debates about Pell Grants, which resulted in Congress putting more money into need-based grants to promote access to postsecondary education, Boschini said.

Pals said the board of directors meets twice a year to dis-

cuss and evaluate the state of the organization's agenda. A four-day meeting ends today in Washington, D.C.

Pals said members of the association will meet with top policy makers, leading public opinion and political analysts, respected national thinkers and fellow higher-education decision makers. A variety of higher-education issues, including opportunities and challenges facing private higher education, students and the nation, are being discussed, Pals said.

King said Boschini has been highly regarded as an involved and knowledgeable leader, and the organization is confident and looking forward to working with him during the next year.

Boschini was elected by his peers to serve two three-year terms on the association's board of directors. Out of the 44 members on the board, he was elected to serve as chair of the board of directors for one year, Pals said.

After his one-year term, Boschini will still stay on the board with title of past president, Pals said.

"As title of past president, he will help ensure continuity and maintain stability even after his term is up," Pals said.

Pals said the association wanted the chair to be someone with wide and deep knowledge of issues and have strategic planning and leadership abilities.

# Suicide prevention effort positive for deaf students

By SCOTT WILLIAMS  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

DELAVAN, Wis. — They live in a world of silence and sometimes isolation. It can be aggravating, maddening and even tormenting.

Courtney Gunville knows well the frustrations of being deaf.

The cheerful 19-year-old college freshman was born deaf. She has experienced the anxiety of feeling alone in a roomful of people.

In 2003, Gunville watched a deaf friend slip into such despair that the friend committed suicide.

Both were students at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. So when Gunville learned that the school was launching a suicide prevention program, she was eager to help.

The Walworth County, Wis., school is using a federal grant to help finance a groundbreaking program that will teach students, their parents and mental health professionals how to recognize and cope with deaf people who are suicidal.

"I know there are deaf people who feel that way," Gunville said through an interpreter. "You don't want to see anyone else go down that road."

Deborah Tillman saw early warning signs in her son, Joshua, who also attended the Wisconsin School for the Deaf.

As a young child, Joshua began acting paranoid because he saw people talking and laughing, and he worried that they were talking about him. Temper

tantrums soon followed.

Tillman not only found a mental health professional who was able to help, she also learned sign language so she could stay connected with her son.

If families lack communication with their deaf children,

"Just imagine never being able to have a conversation with your family. That's why they need mental health services — their souls are broken."

**Deborah Tillman**  
mother of student at Wisconsin School for the Deaf

she said, the problems can get much worse.

"Just imagine never being able to have a conversation with your family," she said. "That's why they need mental health services — their souls are broken."

Officials at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf are confronting the problem in many ways, using money from a federal grant that is targeting youth suicide throughout Wisconsin.

School officials have developed a six-hour course to teach mental health counselors and other professionals how to understand — and help — deaf people.

Next up is a video instructing deaf students to watch for signs of mental illness. And the school is considering another video to show parents how to be stronger advocates

for deaf children who need mental health treatment.

Christina Dean, who is coordinating the school's efforts, said administrators have been shocked to see mental health counselors who never exchange a word with their deaf patients, either because the counselors do not know sign language or because they have no translator.

"It blows us away," Dean said.

Although there is little scientific research on whether deafness contributes to an increased risk of mental illness, advocates are certain that deaf people have a harder time than other people getting treatment because of the communication difficulties.

Mental health experts say they believe the Wisconsin School for the Deaf is engaged in groundbreaking work on educational tools that could be used nationally. Founded in the 1850s, the Delavan, Wis., school serves about 140 preschool to high school students, most of whom live in dormitories on campus. The school has sports teams and other extracurricular activities, as well as many kinds of therapy and other programs.

Screening for Mental Health Inc., an East Coast-based nonprofit organization, plans to promote the school's curriculum and videos to other deaf schools throughout the country.

"I thought it was an important project. We're thrilled to be a part of it," said Sharon Pigeon, the organization's director of planning and development.

# 2005 West Texas incident still hot immigration issue

By JASON GEORGE  
Chicago Tribune

FABENS — With its pecan groves and dusty cotton fields, the calm surrounding this stretch of the U.S.-Mexican border belies its role in one of the country's fiercest immigration dramas, one that has led to congressional hearings, impassioned protests and outrage from conservative media.

It all began three years ago, when U.S. Border Patrol agents Ignacio "Nacho" Ramos and Jose Compean chased a van driven by Osvaldo Aldrete Davila, a Mexican national. Davila ditched the van about 100 yards from the border and sprinted across the Rio Grande toward Mexico, but not before Compean fired his gun at him and missed, and Ramos hit Davila with a single shot that sliced his buttocks and urethra.

As Davila disappeared across the border, agents found nearly 800 pounds of marijuana in the van he was driving.

On other points, the narrative diverges: Ramos and Compean say they fired their weapons only because they believed Davila had flashed a gun at them, and they insist they informed their supervisor about the shooting.

Other agents disputed this claim during a federal trial, saying Ramos and Compean shot an unarmed man in the back, tried to cover it up and failed to report it properly. A jury in El Paso convicted the two agents of assault, obstruction of justice and civil rights violations, and

each received lengthy federal prison sentences: 11 years for Ramos, 12 for Compean.

Even before the trial began, conservative media took up the cause, portraying Ramos and Compean as martyrs to an immigration policy out of control. Ann Coulter wrote about the incident, and talk radio has filled hours with the subject. CNN's Lou Dobbs has featured the story, calling the agents' imprisonment an "outrage" and "warrantless."

And as can be expected in a presidential campaign season in which immigration is a hotly discussed issue, several candidates have weighed in.

Mitt Romney, who issued no pardons as governor of Massachusetts, told conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham that "if there is prosecutorial indiscretion" in this case — and he suspects there is — "these cases

deserve a very careful look and potentially a pardon." At a "Meet Mike Huckabee" event last month in Iowa, the former Arkansas governor said, "Of course I would review their case," adding that he hoped the agents would be back home by Valentine's Day 2009, just after a new president takes office.

Bush has so far declined to pardon Ramos and Compean, with spokeswoman Dana Perino noting that the men's

case is on appeal. Neither has applied for a pardon, which requires admitting guilt.

"He will not sign that paperwork," said Monica Ramos, Ignacio's wife. "He's not going to beg for a pardon."

Democrats, too, have gotten in on the debate.

Last summer, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California held hearings on the case, saying the agents' sentences were too harsh and their case should be reviewed.

Johnny Sutton, the U.S. attorney who prosecuted, said that Ramos and Compean are far from heroes and that the conservative media glosses over many of the facts, forgetting that a jury unanimously convicted them.

"They shot 15 times at

"He will not sign that paperwork. He's not going to beg for a pardon."

**Monica Ramos**  
wife of Ignacia Ramos

an unarmed man who was running away from them and posed no threat," Sutton said in a statement. "They

lied about what happened, covered up the shooting, conspired to destroy evidence and then proceeded to write up and file a false report."

Davila, the man who was shot, got immunity for the drugs in his van in exchange for testifying against the agents, but he is now in a west Texas jail on unrelated smuggling charges. He has pleaded not guilty and has filed a \$5 million claim against the Border Patrol for violating his civil rights in the shooting.





**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

**THE SKIFF VIEW**

# Campus taking safety seriously

During campus tours, incoming students are told "Blue Light" safety phones can be seen from any point on campus.

It makes sense considering 70 of them are strategically located around campus. Safety has always been a priority at the university and it is evident from services like Froggie-Five-O.

Increasing surveillance by the Fort Worth Police Department since the rise of car burglaries shows the tremendous effort put forth by the community to ensure everyone's safety.

Since Jan. 1, there have been nine off-campus car burglaries, and according to TCU Police statistics, five on-campus car burglaries.

The Crime Response Team, a Fort Worth police special unit, has been patrolling the neighborhood since last week. It is relieving to see something being done about the recent vehicle burglaries in the area.

This specific type of crime affects students parking on and off campus. TCU Police Detective Vicki Lawson said off-campus burglaries are more frequent because vehicles are easier to access. Those fences, constructed by TCU, can be a deterrent to burglary, Lawson said.

Kudos to the university for working to further ensure the safety of its students and their property.

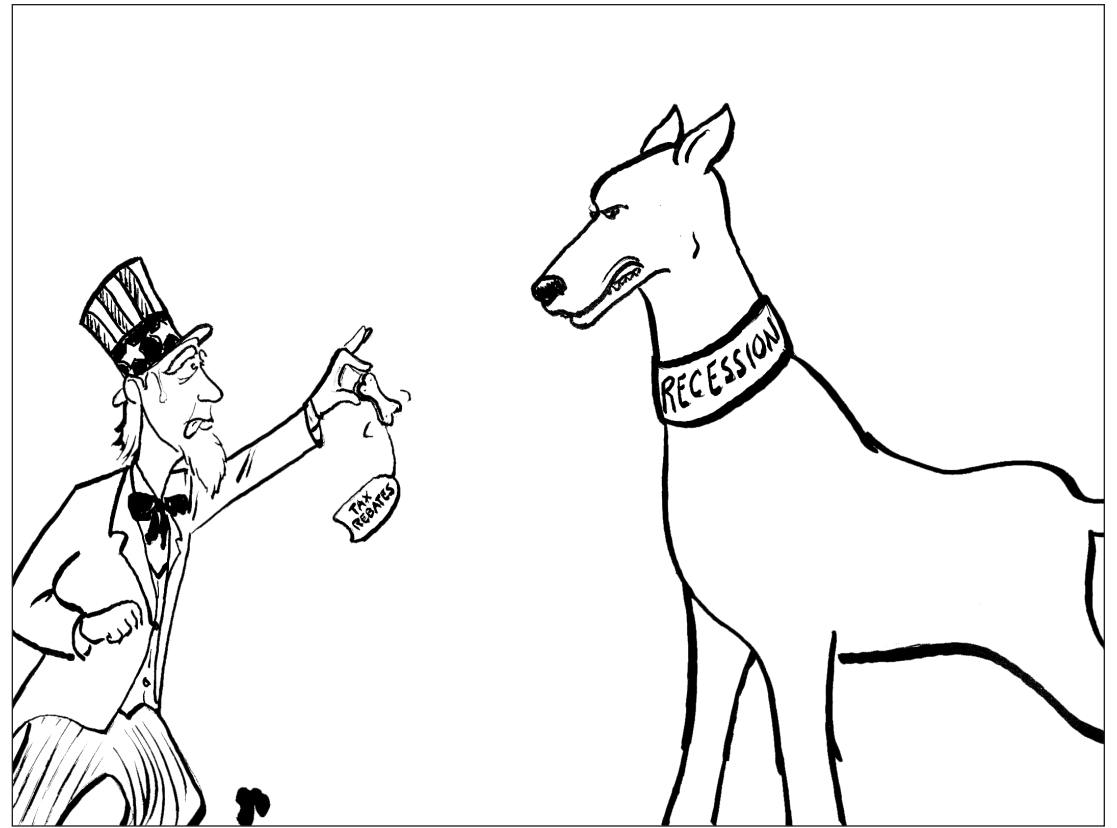
But students also must take it upon themselves to protect their own property, even in the fenced lots.

A recent e-mail from TCU Police recommended that students hide all valuables in their cars because most robberies occur when they are left in plain sight.

Warnings and awareness can only go so far. Students need to take the time to make sure they do all they can to prevent burglary of their vehicles.

*Opinion editor Ana Bak for the editorial board.*

**BY JACOB BRAHCE**



*Jacob Brahce is a freshman criminal justice and political science major from Cedar Park.*

# Book teaches lesson of nondiscrimination

I highly recommend the "Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini.

I wanted to read the book before I even knew they were making a movie because

**COMMENTARY**



*Marissa Warmis*

my brother had to read it for one of his classes and raved about it. And when he likes a book, it is generally a classic in the making.

The "Kite Runner" centers on a young boy, Amir, who flees Afghanistan with his father to escape almost certain poverty and death.

As I began reading, I was a little concerned as to how I would feel about it because of our country's current state with Afghanistan.

I didn't know what to expect, but as the book progressed it taught me a lot more than I expected. Mostly though, as the cliché goes, there are definitely two sides to every story.

Before Amir left Afghanistan, he lived a privileged life. He attended school, his dad had one of the nicest cars in the neighborhood and they had hired help. He grew up with the son of the hired help, Hassan.

Throughout his childhood, he and Hassan did everything together, but when it came down to standing up for his friend in his moment of need, Amir failed.

Once in America, Amir and his father lived less than a nice life to say the least, and Amir was continually haunted by his failure to stand up for Hassan all those years ago. It's true that guilt can eat at you until it's resolved.

The best part about this book wasn't what I read as much as it was what I learned about myself through reading about Amir's life. Sometimes it's easier to learn something when you can stand on the outside and

look in — when you can be the critic and you can see fault in a character in a book, rather than in yourself.

I mentioned earlier that one of the biggest lessons I learned from reading this book was that there are always two sides to every story. When you look in the eyes of a person of a different color, what are your first thoughts?

If they are dressed differently from you or have a long dark beard and appear as though they are from the Middle East, do you get nervous?

After reading this book I can honestly say that if there were any part of me that felt differently about a person with this description, I won't anymore.

To know that some of the people I might be judging could have barely escaped with their life from their home country, have probably lost everything they had and began here with nothing, and more than likely have lost any family member who is not present with them, is tragic.

Amir had everything he could have dreamed of, but the Taliban ripped it from him. It stole his right to a nice life. It has stolen the rights to a lot of people's lives.

So next time, just remember: There are two sides to every story. Every face we see has a story. Every person we come in contact with daily has a story. Are you willing to listen?

*Marissa Warmis is a senior advertising/public relations major from Irving.*

# Plus/minus system brings more accurate grading

This past fall marked the first semester for undergraduates to be graded on the plus/minus grading system.

Although students have always expressed mixed

**COMMENTARY**



*Maddie Tasker*

feelings about this system, the scale was designed to be more accurate and ultimately more fair.

With the first semester behind us, complaints are still present.

Whether students like the new GPA scale is based largely on how it affects each grade we make. The same system that doesn't count your 92 as a 4.0 will award that hard-earned 89 with more than the standard 3.0. In other words, we like the system when we make a high B, but think it's awful when we make an A that is not quite high enough to receive a 4.0.

In reality, you cannot base your decision to like or dislike the scale on each individual grade.

The scale was not designed to help us have a better GPA — it was designed to be accurate. Yeah, it makes a 4.0 more difficult to obtain, but once we get acclimated to the change our perception of grades will adjust.

It takes time to adjust to any major structural change.



*SXC.HU*

When The College Board changed the SAT scale to a 2400 scale instead of 1600, it took some time to get used to. At first it was hard to accept that getting a 1400 no longer means you're a genius. The same is true here — with time, students will appreciate a 70 not being clumped together with a 79.

Students' motivation to succeed in school rests largely on GPA. The plus/minus grading system pushes students to work harder and will certainly make that 4.0 even more impressive.

In reality, the problem is not the system itself — it's that the scale is not consistently used in every department, with every teacher. Teachers having the freedom to accept or reject the plus/minus scale creates an inconsistency.

Last semester, Spanish professor Teresa Blackwell chose to use the new scale for freshmen, but she opted to use the pluses only. She

realized the inconsistency within the school and said, "If TCU decides to adopt the plus and minus system it needs to be campus wide, or it will not be fair."

You cannot accurately compare the height of two people if one person is measured in inches and the other in centimeters. Likewise, you cannot accurately compare the performance of two students by GPAs calculated with different scales.

All personal circumstances aside, the new scale is undoubtedly a more accurate depiction of grades. With this first semester passed, I have realized the accuracy and fairness of the scale cannot be denied. The plus/minus system gives a more precise portrayal of exactly what grade a student makes.

It should be applied to all classes in every field at all times.

*Maddie Tasker is a freshman news-editorial journalism major from The Woodlands.*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# New Honors Program symposium excellent opportunity for students

I think the adage, don't judge a book — or in this case a symposium — by its cover, is especially apt in light of the recent article and Skiff View published in regard to the Contemporary Reading Symposium.

As a student who graduated from the Honors Program last spring with both university and departmental honors, I am a bit jealous of this year's Contemporary Reading Symposium participants but not for the reason you might expect.

I do not view reading and analyzing contemporary

texts like Tom Stoppard's "Rock'N'Roll," a play that discusses academic themes like the communist regime in Prague and Marxist philosophy in Cambridge, England, as a cop out for second-year students looking to complete lower-division honors requirements.

In fact, reading and analyzing the nuances, subtleties and complex themes of "Arcadia," with Linda Hughes in my Intellectual Traditions class proved to be one of the most challenging and stimulating intellectual experiences I had

as a lower-division honors student at TCU.

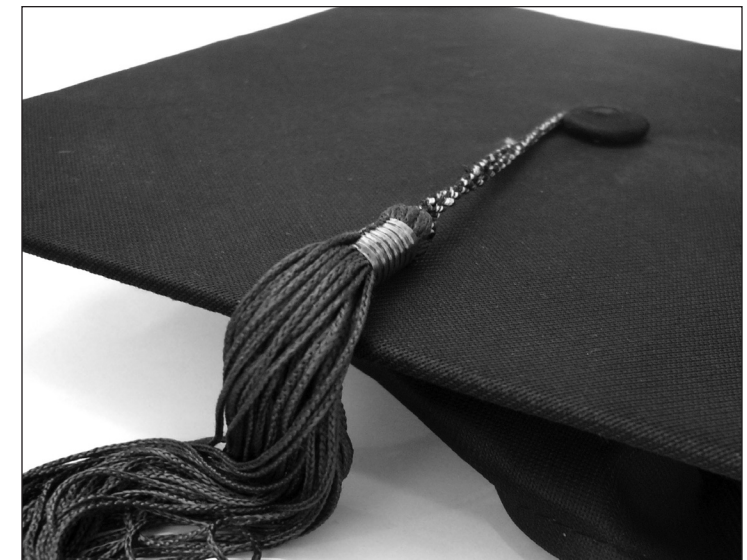
I envy this year's Contemporary Reading Symposium participants, because all honors students regardless of classification will have the opportunity to interact with Hughes and other top TCU professors in setting that resembles first year seminar classes.

Offering students the opportunity to participate in the Contemporary Reading Symposium for an in-house non-university lower-division honors credit, is not devaluing the prestige of my degree or

sacrificing the academic integrity of a program I am proud to say I was a part of.

It is merely a new way the Honors Program can continue its mission of stimulating and encouraging academic activity at the highest level. The program's creativity and commitment to continuing to help its students should be applauded rather than criticized. I hope to see the Honors Program develop even more unique learning opportunities for honors students in the future.

*Tiffany Wang is a communication studies graduate student from Arlington.*



*SXC.HU*

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## EBay seller targeted for \$10 million fine

By BOB FERNANDEZ  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

WALNUTPORT, Pa. — Mary Jo Pletz was really, really good at eBay. But now the former stay-at-home mother and gonzo Internet retailer fears a maximum \$10 million fine for selling 10,000 toys, antiques, videos, sports memorabilia, books, tools and infant clothes on eBay without an auctioneer's license.

An official from the Department of State visited Pletz's white-brick ranch north of Allentown, Pa., in late December 2006 and said her Internet business was being investigated for violating state laws.

"I was dumbfounded," said Pletz, who led the dark-suited investigator to a side patio area, where he grilled her. "I told him I would just shut down," she said.

The Pletz case has unleashed a political storm in Harrisburg, Pa., over what should be done about Internet auctions.

Two bills have been introduced. One would require Internet sellers to get an electronic auctioneer's license that would cost about \$100 per year. The other would leave Internet auctions as the Wild West of retail.

There are 400 so-called Internet retail drop-off stores in Pennsylvania, according to state officials, and 14,000 state residents who earn most of their annual income selling on Internet auctions.

EBay opposes state regulatory action on Internet auctions around the nation and warns that it could threaten the liveli-

hood of an estimated 430,000 people who "earn a substantial portion or all of their incomes selling on eBay."

Some Pennsylvania officials now acknowledge that Pletz, with her heart-tugging story, was not the best person with whom to make a legal point.

The 33-year-old opened her Internet business in 2004 so she could stay home with her 6-month-old daughter, Julia, who was diagnosed with a hypothalamic hamartoma brain tumor.

She cooperated when told it was illegal and works at dental offices in Allentown, Bethlehem and Lehigh, Pa., as a hygienist to help pay the bills at home. Julia, whose health stabilized on medication, is enrolled in day care. Pletz also has a son, Douglas, 7.

But the state has not dropped prosecution. It sent Pletz a complaint in April and an amended complaint in December. The complaint says she could be fined \$1,000 for each violation of the state law. The April complaint noted 10,000 sales. Pletz and her attorney, Joseph V. Sebelin Jr. of Palmerton, did the math — \$10 million in possible fines.

In an e-mail last week, a Department of State spokeswoman said Pletz faced a \$2,000 maximum fine because of two counts listed in the complaint.

Because of the complaint, Pletz worries the state also could revoke her dental hygienist's license, which she earned by attending community college for seven years at night.

## Survey: College drinking trends changing

By JOSEPHINE MARCOTTY  
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — This spring, students at the University of Minnesota are going to get a postcard in the mail telling them that Fred is Dead. Who's Fred?

Fred is anyone who dies from acute alcohol poisoning because no one around him called 911 after he passed out.

A small campus survey last year proved that simple message got the point across: Students who saw the postcard said they would be more likely to call for help if someone passed out. Now the university's Boynton Health Service plans to use Fred to spread the message further.

The Fred is Dead campaign is just one example of growing evidence — often hidden behind relentless headlines about binge drinking and alcohol-related deaths on campuses — that trends are quietly changing for the better. Or at least they're not getting worse.

Both drinking and binge drinking rates are flat among college students and declining among adolescents. Laws are stiffer. Brain researchers now know that alcohol affects young brains differently than older ones. Health officials say there's more going on to minimize the harm from drinking — like that stupid-simple message to call 911 for Fred.

"Slowly the culture is changing, like turning a massive battleship," said David Golden, director of marketing and communications for Boynton. "My



JOE KOSHOLLEK / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel via MCT  
Wisconsin fans drink their beer bongs after a round of "Drinko" before the Wisconsin football game in 2006. The drinking game is based on The Price is Right's "Plinko," only this time you don't win a car - you win a number of beers in a beer bong. According to a recent study, binge drinking on college campuses is decreasing.

hope is that sometime students themselves will turn on the alcohol industry the same way they turned on the tobacco industry."

The good news is that underage drinking and binge drinking are no worse than they used to be.

"There is no evidence we are seeing a big spike in heavy drinking behavior," said Toben Nelson, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Minnesota who studies drinking trends. "If anything, it's flat."

In 1980, 90 percent of college students said they had used alcohol in the previous year. In 2006, the rate was 82 percent, according to the annual national survey of drinking and drug use habits by the Monitoring the Future Project at the University of Michigan.

Binge drinking trends were similar. In 1980, 44 percent of college students said they'd had five or more drinks at one sitting in the previous two weeks, compared to 38.3 percent in 1996 — the low-

est rate — and 40.2 percent in 2006.

A 15-year tracking study at the University of Minnesota shows much the same: Binge drinking peaked at nearly 50 percent of students in 1993, dropped to a low of 39.6 percent in 2004, and rose slightly to 41.6 percent last year.

But experts say those numbers may mask a problem that is getting worse. Evidence shows that among the minority who binge drink is a smaller group of super binge drinkers.

"There's a polarization," said Aaron White, an assistant research professor at Duke University who studies student alcohol use. "There are more and more students not drinking. And more and more students drinking heavily."

Among students who say that sometimes they have at least five drinks at a sitting are some who have 15 or 20, he said.

"Those are the kids who are dying," he said.

They may also be the kids

who started young. Research shows those who start drinking at age 14 are far more likely to become dependent.

Brain researchers are providing mounting evidence about why that happens.

Although much of that research is in rats, not teenagers, it shows that drinking can cause significant neurological injury in young brains, far more than in adult brains. In fact, it suggests that early heavy drinking may undermine the brain's ability to protect itself from alcoholism.

It does the most harm to the forebrain, the area used for reasoning and judgment, which does not fully mature until sometime in early adulthood. It also affects the area used for learning and memory.

Alcoholic teenagers perform poorly on tests of verbal and nonverbal memory, researchers say. And they have trouble focusing their attention and using spatial skills needed for things such as reading a map.

White said his research on Duke students found that half of those who drank reported having memory blackouts.

"That means waking up in the morning not able to remember places you went or things that you did," he said. "That can range from brushing your teeth to having sex. A lot of sexual assaults occur during a blackout."

While the drinking culture may be entrenched, enforcement has been ramping up — though students say it has a ways to go.

Drinking is "a part of college life," said Chloe Schrab, 22, a University of Minnesota senior from Hartford, Wis., who worked on the Fred is Dead campaign. "It's dangerous behavior, but it's not going to change."



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**TODAY IN HISTORY**  
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**WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE**

Q: What do penguins wear on their heads?

A: Ice caps.

The K Chronicles

by Keith Knight

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#4516: DISCOVERING A MOVING TRUCK IN FRONT OF THE PROBLEM NEIGHBORS PLACE!!

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**THE K CHRONICLES**

BRavo TO THE NHL FOR STAGING A NEW YEARS DAY GAME OUTDOORS, BETWEEN THE PENGUINS & THE SABRES.

OVER 70,000 FOLKS SAID IT WAS (BRRR!) & THE TV RATINGS WERE HIGHER COMPARED TO HER AVERAGE PRO HOCKEY GAME.

A BLACK MAN INTO HOCKEY? HECK YEAH!! MY DAD REGULARLY TOOK ME TO BOSTON GARDEN TO WATCH THE BRUINS IN THE '90s.

ANYWAY... 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK WILLIE O'BRIEN BROKE THE N.H.L. COLOR BARRIER WHEN HE ENTERED A GAME FOR THE BRUINS VS. HATED RIVAL THE MONTREAL CANADIENS...

NOT ONLY WAS IT A STEP TOWARDS A COLOR BLIND SOCIETY... O'BRIEN WAS ACTUALLY BLIND IN ONE EYE!!

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						3		
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	5		1	2			3	
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**Directions**  
Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

**Tuesday's Solutions**

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

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

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- ACROSS**
- Conductor Seiji
  - In... veritas
  - Glazier's piece
  - Capital of Delaware
  - Imitated
  - Fencer's stiletto
  - Retail come-on
  - Legal thing
  - Nastase of tennis
  - Large groups
  - Letters for Nob Hill cops
  - 18-wheeler
  - Type of penguin
  - Obese
  - March Madness org.
  - Crevasse pinnacle
  - Military trainee
  - Clerical vestment
  - Retail come-on
  - Ref. set
  - Barely sufficient
  - Contents of some pots
  - Deli loaves
  - Q&A wd.
  - Private teachers
  - Neap or ebb
  - Male cats
  - Diet drastically
  - Sluggish
  - Sammy
  - Arab robe
  - Retail come-on
  - Actress Turner
  - Concept in Cannes
  - Non-major studio film
  - Utah city
  - So-so grades
  - Hindu grouping

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By Philip J. Anderson  
Portland, OR

2/6/08

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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- 44 Small river
- 46 Balderdash!
- 48 ... had it up to here!
- 49 Lugs
- 50 Caen's neighbor
- 51 Whale's location?
- 52 "Rule Britannia" composer
- 53 Scottish dagger
- 54 Helpful hints
- 55 Worms, often
- 56 Toward shelter
- 58 Praiseful poem
- 59 Genetic make-up

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

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**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

# THREE IN A ROW

## Aggressive play key to conference win

By CHARLES RICE  
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team will enter the second half of Mountain West Conference play tied for second in the conference after knocking off the Brigham Young Cougars on Tuesday.

The two teams came into the game tied for third place in the MWC with identical conference records of 5-2. Both teams have had success as of late, with TCU winning four of its last five games and BYU coming in on a three-game winning streak after knocking off nationally ranked No. 22 University of Wyoming.

TCU snapped the conference tie with a 73-54 victory Tuesday night and moved into a tie with the University of Wyoming in the Mountain West. Both TCU and Wyoming now have records of 6-2 in the conference.

In a game that was dominated by an aggressive style of play from the Lady Frogs, both freshman Helena Sverrisdottir and Micah Garoutte lead the Horned Frogs in scoring with 14 points a piece. Sverrisdottir dominated the boards pulling in 11 rebounds for her first double-double with TCU.

The difference maker in the game was TCU's aggressiveness, pulling in 14 offensive rebounds while BYU had six.

The Horned Frogs knew rebounds were going to be a key aspect to the game because of BYU's usual aggressive style of play, Sverrisdottir said. She said she kept this at the front of her mind throughout the game.

"Before the game, we talked about having to rebound against them. I thought about this game all day today. I told myself, I am going to get some rebounds and allow the team to run," Sverrisdottir said.

Garoutte said she tried to match her style of play with BYU's aggressive style.

"BYU has a really good inside game. I just wanted to attack them, maybe draw a foul and try and get them out of their rhythm," Garoutte said.



ANDREW CHAVEZ / Editor-in-Chief  
The women's basketball team won three straight conference games for the first time this season, beating BYU 73-54. Senior guard Helen Roden came off the bench for the Frogs and added six points.

TCU head coach Jeff Mittie said he is pleased with his team's effort against BYU.

"This is one of the best defensive teams in the league if not the best, so this is against quality post defensive players," Mittie said. "I am very pleased with our effort in the paint tonight."

TCU is gearing up for the second half of conference play as they take on San Diego State University on Saturday. Mittie said the team had some success in the first half of the season but there are still areas he wants to work on, like the execution of the team's sets. Overall, he said, he feels the team is improving.

**BRETT'S BREAKDOWN**

# Youth potential boost for untested baseball Frogs

By BRETT LARSON  
Sports Editor

Entering the season with a core of untested pitchers and a lineup of new batters at the 2-5 spots, the baseball team appears to be heading toward tough times.



Brett Larson

This makeup of new players could actually be a good thing for the Horned Frogs. The 2008 team has the opportunity to carve its own identity.

Most sports teams enter a season with a core of known commodities. For baseball, it's pitchers who have started in college, a batting order with proven strengths and a strong middle of the order.

Each year, known commodities meet new commodities forming a meshed unit.

This year's baseball team has experienced vocal leaders, senior center fielder Clint Arnold and redshirt junior Matt Carpenter, who plays third base, but the exodus of core players to graduation and the draft leave the team with a very fresh look.

A majority of the players have an opportunity to make their first mark with the team. They are players who have not had the chance to showcase their skills because of established commodities.

These are players with something to prove, a new team identity and who no longer want to watch wins.

It is their time to shine purple and white. They've got the talent, and now they are in position to use it.

In the past two seasons, TCU finished as Mountain West Conference champions and was ranked in the top 20 at times.

Today's team is looking to prove itself and has big shoes to fill, but the players' skills were developed on championship teams.

The 2008 team calls itself a scrappy dirt-bag squad. It knows it's fresh, but it's taking the new look and carving its own definition.

What makes this new looking team even more exciting is the unexpected.

There are, of course, high expectations that come with belonging to a team that has won the Mountain West both years it has been a part of it, but with so many unknowns, it is impossible to fully predict whether such expectations will be met.

It could be argued that the team will not perform well because of a lack of proven pitching and hitting, but any team that doubts a winning program has already lost the battle.

The team can surprise others with its new structure. The players can mold their own identity as a starting unit. Starting the season off against 2004 College World Series champions, Cal State Fullerton, will be a big test for the Horned Frogs.

The first opportunity to see the team's in-game potential just so happens to come against a perennial power-house.

We will see how well this group of former role players and backups responds to a championship team, but as for the rest of the season, expect great things from those Horned Frog dirt-bags.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**

# Former soccer player hired to team's staff

By CAROLINE LOCKWOOD  
Staff Reporter

A former soccer player will continue her career with the team, but this time she'll be off the field instead of on.

Angie Nickens was named director of soccer operations by head coach Dan Abdalla. Nickens said she is thrilled to continue working with TCU soccer.

"This is so special for me," Nickens said. "I've been here for five years, so to enter the workforce with people I've been so comfortable around is a real blessing."

Abdalla said hiring Nickens is a unique situation for the team because she just graduated.

"We'll usually encourage kids to go elsewhere to experience new things," Abdalla said. "But Angie is such a mature, well organized young woman, so the opportunity to keep her for a little while was something we had to take."

As director of soccer operations, Abdalla said, Nickens will have her hands full.

"She'll be in charge of daily things regarding traveling, coordinating with the visiting teams and handling video," Abdalla said. "She'll get her hands dirty in order to prepare herself for a future in athletic administration and coaching."

Nickens said she is excited about her new position, but she was not shocked when she got

the job.

"Coach Abdalla and I had talked about it last year when deciding if I would be a red shirt or not," Nickens said. "If it became available while I was at graduate school, then they said they would give me the job, and it did."

Nickens is a graduate student, majoring in education advancement, but said she hopes to have a career in athletic administration. And though she will be working with her former teammates, Abdalla said, there shouldn't be any problems.

"She's a mature kid who will keep the balance between being a player and being a part of this administration," Abdalla said.

Nickens ended her career this fall as a midfielder for the Frogs. She started every game and had the most playing time on the team with 1758 minutes. She made 11 goals, including the game-winner against the University of New Mexico.

The only problem with hiring Nickens is the fear that TCU won't be able to keep her for long, Abdalla said. He said he has already gotten calls from other schools inquiring about her.

"As long as we can keep her around we'll be happy," Abdalla said. "She's a kid with a very bright future in college athletics, and we're very pleased she decided to start her career with us."

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Dougherty: 'Near perfect' play needed for win against Cougars

By ROB CRABTREE  
Staff Reporter

Amid a three-game losing streak, the TCU men's basketball team will face the Brigham Young Cougars at 8 p.m. today.

Head coach Neil Dougherty said regardless of their record, he still thinks the Cougars are the best team in the Mountain West Conference.

"We have to execute to near perfection just to stay in the game, especially since they are at home," Dougherty said.

BYU has a 42-game winning streak at home, and Dougherty said the only team that has been close with the Cougars in Provo, Utah, was San Diego State.

Dougherty attributes the current three-game skid to a lack of offensive cohesion.

"Our defense was good enough for us to win in those three games; we just had problems putting the ball in the hole," Dougherty said. "It really got us out of sync offensively when we lost Henry Salter, a guy who was 61 percent from three-point range when he suffered a knee injury against UNLV."

Junior forward Kevin Langford said the Horned Frogs are going to have to play sol-



ANDREW CHAVEZ / Editor-in-Chief  
Head coach Neil Dougherty and the Horned Frog basketball team take the show on the road against BYU today. The Frogs have lost three games in a row and lost both games against the Cougars last season.

id defense to stop BYU.

"We've been working on our transition defense to try to shut down the passing lanes and stop their good inside game," Langford said.

The Cougars' inside attack is anchored by junior center Trent Plaisted, who leads the team with 201 rebounds, 19 blocked shots and averages 15.1 points per game.

Dougherty said it's impor-

tant to keep low-post touches out of Plaisted's hands because he is so effective in the paint.

Junior forward John Ortiz said coaches emphasize that players should do their jobs and play with intensity.

"We respect them," Ortiz said. "We're going to have to do what we always do — go out there and play hard and execute our assignments."

After a stop in Provo, the

Horned Frogs return home for a game against SDSU.

Dougherty said he has noticed a definite difference in the recent attendance for TCU home games and he hopes it will continue.

"It puts a smile on my face to see all those people at our games because it makes our guys happy," Dougherty said. "I hope the attendance continues to grow."