



NEWS
People in management occupations are earning the most money.
TOMORROW



OPINION
Religious options open doors for personal enlightenment.
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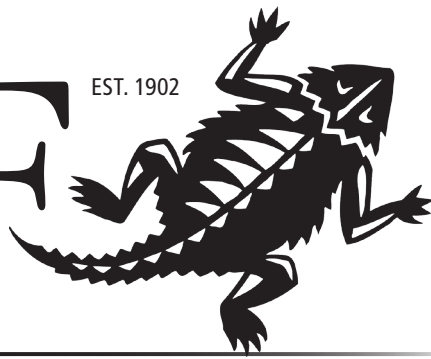


SPORTS
Four members of the rifle team prepare for the Olympic Trials.
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TCU

DAILY SKIFF

EST. 1902



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008
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Administrator: plus/minus system has little effect

By KATIE WINTER
Staff Reporter

Although many students have expressed mixed feelings about the new plus/minus grading system, research shows its implementation had little effect on students' average GPAs.

Cathy Coghlan, assis-

tant director of institutional research, said the average GPA from 2006 freshmen without the plus/minus system was 2.87, and the first-year average of the fall 2007 class with the plus/minus system was 2.94.

"Both of these numbers round to 2.9 so the difference

is negligible," Coghlan said. "It is really way too early to attribute any change in the GPA or distribution of the GPA to the new grading system."

Coghlan said in order to attribute average GPAs changing to the new grading system, researchers would need

to know which professors use the new grading system and look at the GPAs of students who took classes before and after the policy change.

However, Pat Miller, registrar and director of enrollment management, said there is no way of knowing how many teachers are using the

plus/minus system.

Research shows that though GPA averages for fall classes has not revealed significant changes, the standard deviation, a measurement of the variation in distribution, has lowered slightly.

In the fall of 2006 the standard deviation of student GPAs

was .83, as compared with .78 in fall 2007. That means the distribution of grades is more compact with the plus/minus system, with fewer extreme high and low grades and more near the average.

Van Jones, assistant director of the center for business See **GPA**, page 2

Alumnus to lead discussion with D.C. think tank

By KRISTIN BUTLER
Staff Reporter

The Schieffer School of Journalism is partnering with a think tank in Washington, D.C., and this evening starts a series of monthly dialogues with Bob Schieffer to discuss national issues, a university official said.



SCHIEFFER

The purpose of the dialogues is to bring the Schieffer School to the attention of national news, discuss important issues relative to the public and employ TCU graduates, said Larry Lauer, vice chancellor for marketing and communication.

Over time, the school hopes to find ways to involve students and faculty in Washington experiences, he said.

"How soon that will happen is in the works. We will have to evolve. This is just the beginning of a presence in Washington through visibility," Lauer said.

The partner think tank, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides strategic insights and policy solutions to decision makers

See **ISSUES**, page 2

Language barrier can be overcome abroad, author says

By CHRISTINA SCHAMS
Staff Reporter

Language is the greatest obstacle for students studying abroad, an associate professor in English at DePaul University said.

During a question-and-answer meeting, student heard about Green Honors Chair speaker Michele Morano's adventures abroad, and students voiced their concerns about international travel.

Morano, the author of "Grammar Lessons: Translating a Life in Spain," said it is impossible to avoid embarrassment when studying abroad in a foreign country.

"I frequently swam while I was studying abroad. I remember confusing the words bathtub (banera) and swimsuit (banador) often," Morano said.

The nightlife of Spain is where Morano said

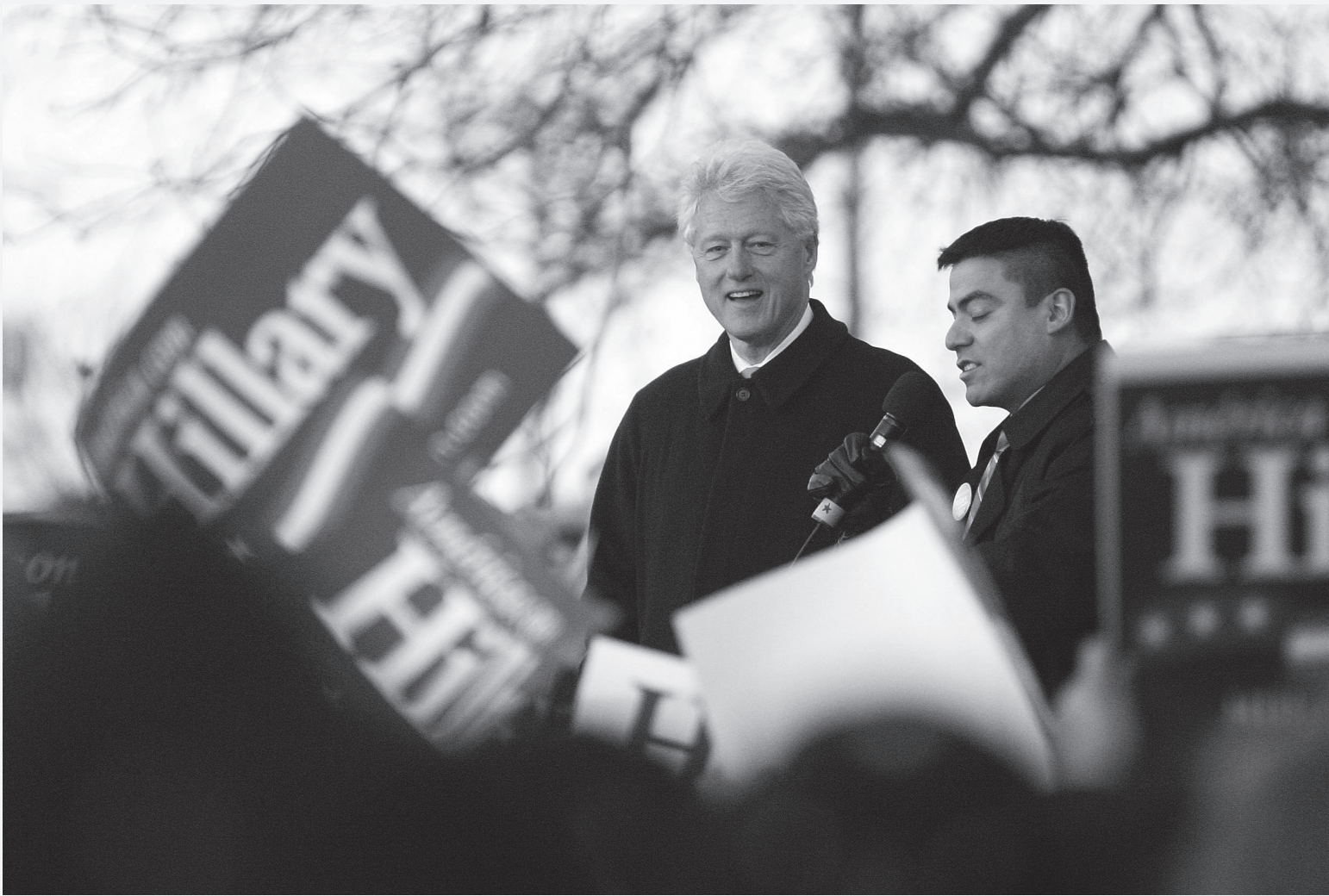
See **GREEN**, page 2

FOR YOUR INFO Travel speech

Who: Michele Morano
When: 4 p.m. Thursday
Where: Amon Carter Lecture Hall (Palko 130)
Admission: Free
A book signing will follow the event, and there will be a 40

percent discount on Morano's book purchased at the event. Morano's biography, excerpts from her current book and dates of upcoming appearances are available at www.michelemorano.com.

GET OUT THE VOTE



ANDREW CHAVEZ / Editor-in-Chief

Sergio De Leon, Tarrant County constable for precinct No. 5, introduces President Bill Clinton on Tuesday at Marine Park near the Stockyards. Clinton was in town campaigning for his wife, Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton and made six stops in a sweep across the Metroplex.

Pres. Clinton supports wife in multi-stop Metroplex tour

By MICHELLE ANDERSON
Staff Reporter

President Bill Clinton said Tuesday that he would campaign for Sen. Hillary Clinton even if she weren't his wife.

"Hillary is change you can count on," he said.

The former president spoke about the Democratic candidate's views on health care, the economy, the war in Iraq and education at two separate early vote events in Fort Worth.

"Hillary is the only candidate with a plan for affordable health care for everyone," President Clinton said. "If it is good enough for my family, it is good enough for yours."

Under Hillary Clinton's plan, Americans can either keep the health care they have or buy a new plan that will be more affordable, he said.

"You will never get control of the cost of insurance until everyone has it," the former president said. "No one will have health care they can't afford under Hillary's plan."

Health care was the major issue Ashley Alcalá, whose aunt works for the maintenance department at TCU, said she wanted

to hear the former president talk about.

"I support Hillary because she has a lot of experience and she can handle health care," Alcalá said.

The economy was another issue President Clinton addressed, saying it isn't working for ordinary people.

The former president said his wife wants to level the playing field and make it easier for everyone to live as a middle class citizen.

One Clinton supporter agreed that if Hillary Clinton is elected president, she will help pull people out of poverty and into the middle class.

"Her efforts have helped lower economic people, who happen to be of color," said alumnus Renny Rosas. "Obama does not have that experience."

As for the war in Iraq, Hillary Clinton's plan will take the troops out of Iraq and leave a small force in the North just in case al-Qaida makes a comeback, President Clinton said.

"The real enemy is al-Qaida, not the Iraqi people," he said.

Other TCU Hillary Clinton supporters were excited to see a former president.

See **CLINTON**, page 2

Nonprofit group aims to educate college voters

By ANNA HODGES
Staff Reporter

A nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization will address the importance of voting in this year's presidential election Thursday at TCU.

The Programming Council worked with the Student Government Association to bring the organization, Project Vote Smart, to campus to present an unbiased account of the presidential candidates and issues in the election.

"Our main purpose in doing this is to educate the populace about the candidates," said Chad Dresser, a programming council member. "We want people to know who they're voting for."

Since Jan. 5, Vote Smart volunteers have been traveling across the nation in a red, white and blue bus making stops at high

See **VOTE**, page 4

FYI Project Vote Smart

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday
Where: Parking lot between Smith Hall and the library



WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly sunny, 62/41
TOMORROW: Mostly sunny, 70/51
FRIDAY: Few showers, 70/51

PECULIAR FACT

ECONOMY, Pa. — A school bus driver was charged with impersonating a public servant for telling students he was an undercover officer.
— Associated Press

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NEWS: Wine's price affects perceived reward, page 4
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SPORTS: Baseball team downs Dallas Baptist, page 6

CONTACT US

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GPA

From page 1

and economic forecasting, said the data show the new system seems to be improving the distribution of grades, which is what the grading system was supposed to do.

“GPA averages seem to be improving, but there is not enough data to say that it is a trend that will continue, or that it is a trend that is meaningful,” Jones said. “But the data shown so far show that the grade point averages are moving up slightly.”

Coghlan said another possible explanation for the lower standard deviation is the fact that there was a slightly larger population than last year.

The biggest concern students had on campus before the system was implemented was that their GPA would be affected by the new grading system, said David Grant, who was the chair of the Academic Excellence Committee when the plus/minus system was implemented.

“The faculty has the right to set up their own grading standards, but we just wanted the plus/minus system to be available for them,” said, chair of the religion department.

Grant said whether a teacher chooses to use the plus/minus system is his or her own prerogative.

John Breyer, professor of geology, said by talking to different professors around campus, he noticed that the plus/minus system is all over the place. Some professors chose to implement the new system and some did not, he said.

Breyer said he chose to use

the plus/minus system because he thinks it is a fair system. Students who make a low 81 should get a B- and if they get an 89 they should get a B+, he said.

Breyer said there is quite a difference in an 81 and 89, and that should be reflected in students’ grades.

“The plus/minus system shows different degrees of performance and that’s what grades are supposed to do,” Breyer said. He said once students get used to the system they will enjoy it.

Madyson Chavez, a sophomore political science major, said she likes the plus/minus system when it helps her out but realizes that the new system allocates a student’s credit more accurately.

David Bedford, professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, said he has to use the plus/minus system because he teaches multi-section classes and the common syllabus in the department uses this system. If he had the choice he would not use the plus/minus system because what the system takes away, it can hand right back, he said.

Allison Jones, a freshman fashion merchandising major, said she is still indecisive about the implementation of the plus/minus system.

Jones said she likes the idea of getting the grade she deserves, but before the implementation she would have gotten the same grade as someone who got an 80 when she had worked harder for her 89.

The new system is applicable only for undergraduate, graduate and transfer students who enrolled before fall of 2007.

ISSUES

From page 1

in government and international institutions, according to its Web site.

Lauer said he went to the “Economist” magazine workshop in Washington where he met the president and CEO of CSIS, John Hamre. The pair realized they had mutual interests in national issues and began planning a partnership, he said.

“We are delighted to partner in this project with Bob Schieffer and the Schieffer School at TCU,” Hamre said in a press release. “Bob is the most universally respected journalist in the business. His fairness combined with

his depth on the issues establishes a standard for all his colleagues to emulate.”

Lauer said the reason the school partnered with CSIS is because it is one of the most prestigious and bipartisan think tanks in Washington.

Schieffer agreed to host the series of dialogues in Washington once a month.

“This is a great opportunity for the Schieffer School, since CSIS is one of the most respected institutions of its kind in the world,” Schieffer said in a press release. “Their resident fellows and associates are called upon by every

major news organization every day to provide insight into the complex issues facing the world.”

The first session will feature R. Nicholas Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs; Lt. Gen. David Barno, former U.S. army commander of combined forces in Afghanistan; Steve Coll, CEO of the New America Foundation; and Rick Barton, senior adviser in the international security program at CSIS.

Each dialogue will discuss international issues that affect everyone, Lauer said. Most of the discussions will be about national security issues, such as U.S. involvement in Afghani-

stan, Iraq and Africa, Lauer said.

Tommy Thomason, director of the Schieffer School, said there is no end date established because the dialogues’ popularity will determine how long it will run.

“It is important to the Schieffer School to introduce important issues and do it in a way that is credible,” Thomason said. “Washington provides the perfect audience for this partnership.”

At 5 p.m.at www.schiefferschool.tcu.edu, viewers can watch the first discussion which will involve the status of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan.

GREEN

From page 1

she learned to stop conjugating verbs and thinking about grammar and just began to communicate.

Not being able to ask for exactly what you want is frustrating at times, she said, but taking advantage of every opportunity to speak the language is the best way to become immersed.

Morano said she recommends students spend at least

12 weeks abroad, but a year is ideal to become accustomed to the culture and language.

Once Morano was well-adjusted to the natural pace of life in Spain, she said, returning to American life left her feeling lonely.

The U.S. and Spain live to a different beat, said Bonnie Frederick, a Spanish professor.

Americans live a life that is fragmented, frantic and inhibited by machines, she said, while there is a sense of com-

munity in Spain.

Tiffany Smith, a sophomore Spanish minor, said her concerns for living with new people will not stop her from studying abroad next summer.

Smith said she agreed with Morano when she said perfecting a language is nearly impossible because even native speakers will make mistakes.

Morano’s book is composed of 13 essays dating from her experiences in Spain, espe-

cially from those on her second time teaching in Oviedo, Spain.

Her book was recently listed on the New York Public Library’s 25 Books to Remember from 2007.

Morano is working on essays and a novel that are in the early stages of writing. Amid her writing, Morano is organizing a program for 40 students from DePaul University to study abroad in Madrid. She will speak again Thursday.

CLINTON

From page 1

“I think it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the fact that he is here campaign-

ing for his wife is really special,” said Beatriz Gutierrez, a junior communication studies major.

President Clinton encouraged people to vote early and

reminded everyone that Texans can vote twice — once in the primary and once in the caucus.

“As Texans, you get to vote twice without breaking the

law,” Clinton said with a smirk.

The first rally was held at the Worth Heights Community Center and the second was at Marine Park.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.”
— Robert Frost

THE SKIFF VIEW

New student group brings light to, educates students on touchy topic

Student activists on campus are protesting one of the most controversial issues in the U.S. and are bringing a topic to the public eye that truly matters.

Roe v. Wade had been a hot topic of debate for 35 years. The battle between the abortion rights and anti-abortion activists is still a touchy one. And a group of TCU student activists thought the issue of abortion was worthy of even more awareness. Senior modern dance major Melinda Castro created Students for Life, a student organization that is doing just that.

Although many people cringe when forced to listen to long-winded debates over abortion, student activists are bringing to the forefront a real issue.

Texas ranks No. 3 in the number of legal abortions with 74,801 abortions performed,

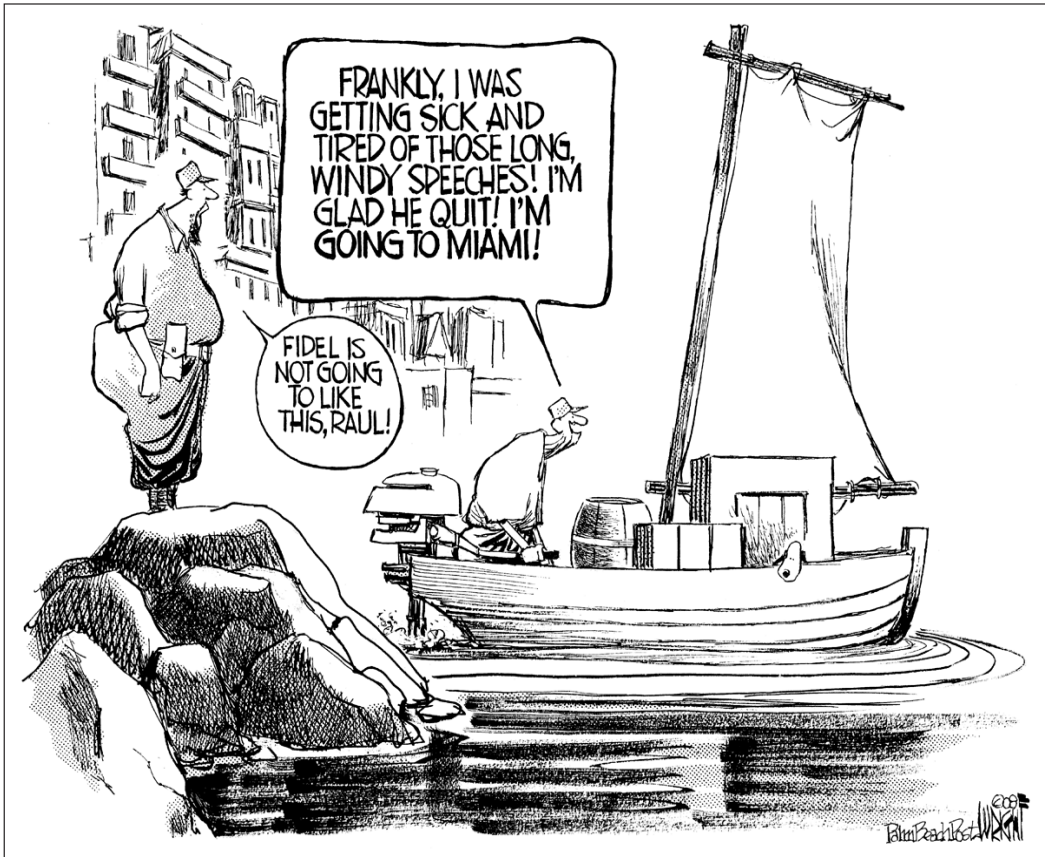
according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Now, the 10 members of Students for Life are talking about an issue that is uncomfortable to many, but one that needs to be discussed nonetheless. Whether students agree or disagree with the group's stance on the issue, the fact that it is being discussed is worthy of praise. These students are fighting for something they believe in and are actively involving themselves in a nationwide debate.

It's nice to see students on campus talk about something of substance. Although politics, religion and even campus administration issues are all important topics, debating controversial issues such as this one — despite the controversial nature of the topic — is admirable.

Web editor Lindsey Bever for the editorial board.

BY DON WRIGHT



Get in shape, train for races by exercising, eating healthy

The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and the races are becoming more numerous. With the Cowtown Marathon last weekend, soon all weekends will quickly be filling up with one mile walks, 5Ks, 10Ks, half and full marathons.

In order to run these races, you train for weeks, even months to get in shape. But good nutrition training is just as important as physical activity when it comes to performance. Here are some tips to train nutritionally before, during and after race day to help you maximize your potential for a run.



Kristina Keilson

Pre-Workout: Kate Bailey, a senior nutrition major, recommends eating about 20 to 45 minutes before working out in order to prevent dizziness while boosting energy. Snack suggestions include a quarter to a half of a granola or sports bar, a quarter cup dry cereal, piece of toast or other 75 to 120 calorie snacks.

Post-Workout: Bailey says to eat 15 to 30 minutes after a workout to replenish glycogen — the body's fuel source — as well as to provide muscles with nutrients necessary for repair and growth. Snack ideas include one to two hard boiled egg whites, 8 oz. skim milk, rice cakes or other 100-calorie snacks.

Race Day: Matt Fitzgerald from Active.com shares a plan to optimize race performance. The closer your pre-race meal falls to the race start, the smaller it must

be. If you're able to eat four hours out, you can safely consume up to 1,000 calories. If you eat just two hours before the start, eat a smaller meal of 300 to 400 calories. He states at least 80 percent of the calories you consume in your pre-race meal should come from carbohydrates. Keep protein and especially fat and fiber consumption low. Recommended foods include a bagel, banana, oatmeal, energy bars or meal replacement shakes.

These eating tips can help you improve your race performance, workout results, weight loss or dietary habits. And do not forget about hydration. For most workouts, just stick to water. Flavored sports drinks can add 25 to 200 calories, depending on brand and size.

Kristina Keilson is a senior nutrition major from The Woodlands.



SXC.HU

Changing U.S. religious climate helps nurture personal growth

More than one-quarter of Americans have left the religion of their upbringing by either claiming a new religious affiliation or becoming a non-believer altogether,

COMMENTARY



Marissa Warmes

according to an article by The Associated Press.

Regardless of our individual religious views, and without stirring a religious debate, it is astounding. I am intrigued by this statistic mainly because I am one of those individuals who changed his or her religious affiliation.

I was born and raised Catholic and the members of my extended family are almost entirely made up of practicing Catholics, at least on my dad's side. When I left for college, I stopped going to church altogether. I soon realized I needed the church in my life, but I wanted something new that I could apply to my daily life.

Almost three years ago, I was invited to attend a non-denominational church, Fellowship Church in Grapevine. Soon after, I joined the congregation and became a member. Churches like the one I attend are growing. Many people are calling them “megachurches” because of their size and reach in the population.

“The American religious economy is like a market-

place — very dynamic, very competitive,” said Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum. People have a choice and everyone fits into a different sect of religion. That is one of the amazing things about the freedom of religion we experience daily.

The pastor of my church teaches me something every weekend. He doesn't read me Scripture, expect me to already have a solid understanding of it and then give a short summary of what he just read. He takes Scrip-

“I needed the church in my life but I wanted something new that I could apply to my daily life.”
Marissa Warmes

ture, explains what it means in today's world and then concludes with how we can apply it in our lives.

I walk out with a new sense of understanding in a world full of misunderstandings every single weekend, without fail. In our world, I believe that people search for meaning, search for ways to make sense of the things we cannot and most often are not supposed to understand. The survey found that Catholics are losing the most members from this new denomination swap that is occurring. Could this be a possible reason that traditional churches are losing members?

Lugo also attributes the drop in organized religion to the “high tolerance among Americans for change.” He said, “People move a lot, people change jobs a lot. It's a very fluid society.”

He's right. We live in a world that embraces and takes advantage of change. Change happens to carry a more positive connotation than it has in a long time.

I can't say for certain that I will not return to my Catholic roots when I am older and possibly looking for something more traditional. As for right now, I need what the megachurches offer. I am learning what I need to learn to survive as a healthy Christian in the church I call home.

Everyone responds to a different tone and everyone needs a different church. People are looking for something different and in order to thrive, churches are changing and adapting.

When I made my decision to attend this non-denomination church rather than a Catholic church like the one I grew up in, my dad told me something. Churches show you how to become a better individual. He said as long as I was learning and growing and living a respectable life, then the name of the church I attended was meaningless.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

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

Sleep critical, deprivation can lead to health problems later

What time did you go to bed last night? Was it closer to midnight ... or closer to dawn? Odds are you're not going to get enough sleep tonight either. New data suggest that over the last 50 years, the amount of sleep the average American gets has decreased by as much as two hours a night.

After all, we can hardly afford to waste any time on meaningless shut-eye. We scoff at those who sleep the recommended seven and a half hours a night. Slackers. What busy lives they must lead, we yawn, rolling our (bleary) eyes to

the ceiling.

We openly admit our addiction — we are workaholics, rushing to our jobs before sunrise and stumbling home long after sunset. Our badges of honor are dark circles, fluttering eyelids and exceedingly poor posture. Yet we remain stout, trekking through the ever-lengthening days, our to-do lists in hand, wise-cracking about life being too short to sleep, or about catching up on our sleep when we're dead.

Sleep deprivation decreases our ability

to pay attention, catalog new information and react quickly to signals. It increases our risk of diabetes and heart maladies and, if that's still not enough to get you between the sheets at a timely hour, then perhaps the higher rate of obesity will. The sleep-deprived are more likely to produce an excess of a hormone that stimulates appetite.

Habitual sleep deprivation — like the five-hours-a-night foolishness for which we pat our backs — is, as one researcher puts it, what smoking once was:

Today's acceptable habit may come to be seen as a gateway to disease. The signs were there, doctors will sigh, but we didn't heed them.

Is that really possible? Will telltale yawns be the new nicotine stains? Will we someday learn that we've literally worked ourselves closer to death?

We'd rather not have anyone take the chance. So please, go to bed earlier tonight.

We'll be waiting for you in the morning.

This editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Monday.



SXC.HU

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VOTE

From page 1

school and college campuses hoping to influence voters — especially young voters — to check campaign facts and claims on Vote Smart’s Web site, which attempts to measure the validity of campaign information.

With the March 4 primary quickly approaching, some think the bus’ stop in north Texas could be crucial.

“The young people have played a huge role in this year’s primaries and I expect the same result here in Texas,” said Adam Schiffer, assistant professor of political science. “Young people are coming out in smashing numbers and are turning genuine excitement into active participation.”

Statistics show that America’s youth is positioned to impact the 2008 election outcome. In June, pollsters at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research found that 92 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds said they are “almost certain” they will vote.

Although information from the study shows that young voters are prepared to participate, some think TCU students lack a full understanding of the issues.

“I think a lot of people think they know what they’re talking about,” said William Brown, a

junior finance/real-estate major. “But a majority of the time they don’t really understand the concepts and are just regurgitating their parents’ beliefs.”

Karen Anisman, one of the faculty members responsible for bringing Project Vote Smart to campus, said it is important to be fully informed on the issues and anything that raises awareness about the importance of voting is beneficial.

According to a March 2007 survey by the John F. Kennedy School of Government’s Institute of Politics, 71 percent of non-college young adults are registered to vote and 85 percent of college students are registered to vote.

Although the registration deadline has passed to vote in the Texas primary, information on registration for the November election will be available.

Project Vote Smart began in 1988 as an organization dedicated to providing nonpartisan information free of special interests. According to the Vote Smart Web site, the organization does not accept contributions from political action committees or corporations and refuses to take advocacy positions.

The Project Vote Smart bus will be on campus Thursday from 10 to 3 p.m. in the Lowden parking lot between the library and Smith Entrepreneurial Hall.

Study: cost of wine increases likability

By FRANK GREVE
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The results of recent wine tastings conducted inside an MRI brain-scanning device have left high-end wineries with a bitter aftertaste but given consumers a new way to save money.

First, the savings tip: Remove the price sticker on the wine you bought. Put on a new one that quadruples the price. Or octuples it. And leave it on when you serve the wine, uncouth as that sounds.

Forget those blurbs about bouquets, body and berries. A meticulous new study found that the more people think a wine cost, the more they like it. And the less they think it cost, the less they like it. What’s more, the study found that the link between cost and enjoyment may be hardwired in the brain.

“It’s not the taste of the wine that changes” when its price goes up, said lead author Hilke Plassmann, a neuroeconomist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. “Rather, it’s how pleasant people interpret the taste to be.”

Plassmann and her co-researchers, who specialize in how the brain makes economic decisions, say it works like this:

While several parts of the brain assess a wine’s taste, a separate part — the medial orbitofrontal cortex — interprets the pleasantness of the sensation. When the perceived price of the wine goes up, there’s no change in the taste-registering parts. But there’s lots more excitement in the part of the brain that decides how much you like it.

Appealing labels, good reviews and brand names can produce the same effect as price, Plassmann said, and the process applies to a lot of products besides wine, especially heavily advertised ones.

Her group’s findings, published in the Jan. 22 issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, reflect an exotic study of brain activity in 20 Cal Tech students.

While lying immobilized in an MRI scanner, each student sipped a random series of 1-milliliter (a fifth of a teaspoon) samples of cabernet

sauvignon that were delivered through the scanner’s wall via a straw-like syringe.

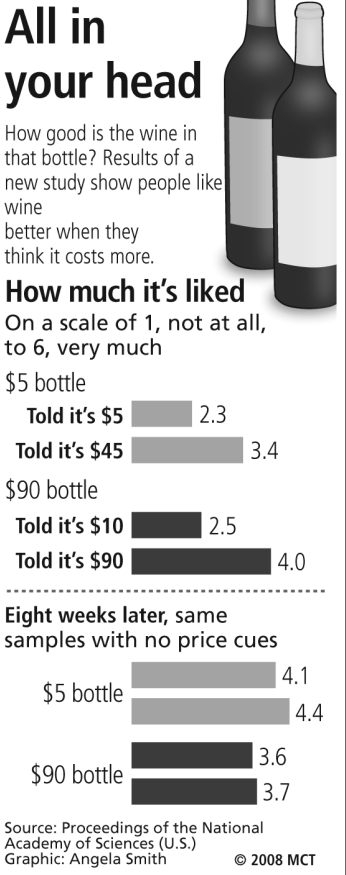
They were told that the experiment would trace brain activity during the tasting process. For identification purposes, they were told, the wines would be distinguished on the basis of price simultaneously with each sip: \$5, \$10, \$35, \$45 and \$90 a bottle.

Actually, the \$5 and \$45 wines were identical, as were the \$10 and \$90 wines.

In the \$5 to \$45 comparison, which used a \$5 wine, the tasters liked the wine nearly twice as much when they thought it cost \$45. In the \$10 to \$90 comparison, which used a \$90 wine, they liked the wine half as much when they thought it cost \$10.

In a follow-up tasting eight weeks later, conducted without price cues, the 20 subjects’ variations in satisfaction disappeared.

The students were all novice wine drinkers. However, members of the Stanford University Business School’s Wine Circle, who get together regularly to taste wines, had the same tendencies in a similar experiment: The more



they thought the wine cost, the more they liked it, and vice versa. That test’s results are preliminary and unpublished.

Wine professionals — such as vintners, wine critics and sommeliers — probably are more discerning, Plassmann said.

Vulnerabilities remain in social networking Web site’s safety

By LARRY KING
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — In the spring of 2006, Shawn Little met a 14-year-old Bucks County, Pa., boy on MySpace. com, the self-styled “place for friends.”

Little, however, was no friend. He was a 25-year-old man trolling the Web for boys.

Posing on MySpace as a fellow teen, Little approached the youth online, lured him to his Levittown, Pa., home, and sexually assaulted him.

Calling him “every parent’s nightmare,” Bucks County Judge Albert Cepparulo sent Little to state prison last spring for six to 15 years.

“When you hear of a case like this,” the judge said in court, “you want ... to take the computer and to hit it with a sledgehammer.”

Distressed by such incidents, 49 state attorneys general last month announced a safety agreement with MySpace — the world’s largest social networking site, with 110 million users — aimed at shielding children from strangers in cyberspace.

In theory, most adults would

be unable to view the sites of users younger than 18, or contact them online.

But even the pact’s backers — MySpace’s security chief included — admit it would not keep a predator like Shawn Little from underage prey.

That’s because the safety barriers it prescribes depend largely on MySpace subscribers truthfully reporting their ages when creating online profiles. And it offers no reliable means of identifying or policing the suspected millions who do not.

Little’s site, for instance, listed him as 14, the minimum age allowed by MySpace.

“I’ve been arguing this point for more than a year now,” said Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett, who considers the agreement more blueprint than panacea. “Age verification has been the No. 1 issue for us from the very beginning.”

Until that nut is cracked, no set of guidelines can keep 12-year-olds from registering their virtual selves as adults, or stop 60-year-olds from masquerading online as high school cheerleaders.

“Kids are still very vulnerable online, even with the

agreement,” New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram said.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a leading Internet-safety advocate, felt so strongly about the pact’s shortcomings that he refused to sign on.

“This agreement is not an all-clear sign that it is safe for children to go onto MySpace,” Abbott said in a telephone interview. Any predator “can go on there right now and establish a profile as a 15-year-old. That poses a great danger.”

Representatives at MySpace headquarters in Beverly Hills, Calif., declined to comment for this article. So did a representative at the Rupert Murdoch-run News Corp. in New York, which owns MySpace.

When the agreement was announced, MySpace’s chief security officer, Hemanshu Nigam, acknowledged in a statement that “existing age verification and identity products are not an effective safety tool for social networking sites.”

MySpace is hardly the only online collision zone for teens and predators. Court files are fat with sex-abuse cases arising



ED HILLE / Philadelphia Inquirer via MCT
Computer forensics investigator Scott Schillinger talks about searching for evidence to convict online predators at the Montgomery County Detectives office in Norristown, Pa. The bulletin board in the background is filled with mug shots of online predators.

from chat rooms, instant-messaging services, and other social networking sites, such as Facebook and Xanga.

But MySpace, founded 4 1/2 years ago, is by far the largest, so it was targeted by law enforcement officials.

Nigam, its security chief, said MySpace, with the support of the attorneys general,

would form an industry-wide task force to seek a solution.

Corbett and other attorneys general have suggested charging nominal fees to set up MySpace sites, payable by credit card. That would enable parents to give their teen permission to create the site, or at least spot the charge on their bill if the youth secretly used

their credit card. Milgram said that a database of Social Security numbers had been suggested, but that privacy concerns had arisen.

The MySpace task force would be given a year to show some results, Milgram said, or “we will have to take additional measures.”

BASEBALL

From page 6

Defensive plays made by senior shortstop Bryan Kervin and freshman left fielder Aaron Schultz helped keep the game in TCU’s favor.

Schultz threw out Patriots’ short stop Austin Knight at home in the top of the fifth inning to keep the score 3-1.

Schlossnagle said he was impressed with the effort given by Kervin, and he said his plays he made on some slowly hit ground balls did more than end innings — it kept runners from scoring.

“The difference in the game was the plays we made on defense,” Schlossnagle said.

The bats were cracking for the Horned Frogs, as well, as they managed six runs on eight hits, and junior third baseman Matt Carpenter was a significant contributor to the highest run total amassed by TCU

this season.

Carpenter and junior designated hitter Hunt Woodruff combined to knock in three runs for the Horned Frogs in the bottom of the seventh, giving TCU a commanding five-run lead with only two innings left in the game.

Carpenter said the late inning run support helped calm the team.

“When you can go up by five, it helps relax the pitching and the defense,” Carpenter said. “We played some really good defense in some crucial situations, which really helped us out.”

TCU is now 2-2 on the season and will travel to Minneapolis for its next three games to take on Minnesota, Pepperdine and Tulane, respectively. The team will be back in Fort Worth on March 4 when it faces the University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks at Lupton Stadium.

RIFLE

From page 6

the younger shooters and up-and-coming shooters.”

The trials last for three days and competitors can compete in all of them, but the rules differ from the NCAA’s, where men and women can compete against one another. The trials are separated by gender, and competitors do not get as many shots.

“During the season you get 60 shots,” Lorenzen said. “At the trials we will only have 40 shots.”

Lorenzen is ranked No. 10 in the nation with a score of 97.29 percent after 300 shots in air rifle. She also led the team in average for air rifle this season.

The critical part of the competition is at the end of each day, when shooters with the top scores will compete in an additional round.

“After the first 40 shots, the

top-eight shooters will get to compete in an additional round,” Monez said. “The eight shooters only get 10 shots in this additional round.”

In preparation for the trials, Monez has had the four practice on air rifle under Olympic trial rules.

“We have focused on shooting in the style that they will have to use when they get there,” Monez said. “I have also had them practice the 10-shot round as well. You never know.”

Monez competed in the same trials en route to a 1979 gold medal at the world championships in Seoul, Korea.

“I told them to take it one day at a time, and its three days of intense competition,” she said. “You can’t control the competitors — you can only control your score — just go out and give it your best effort. If somebody scores better then they just out-performed you that day, and that’s OK.”

MEN’S

From page 6

Horned Frogs are one game above .500 and have four games left before the Mountain West Conference Championships.

TCU needs to win at least three of its remaining games to end the season at .500 in the conference.

Senior guard Neiman Owens said the Horned Frogs are adding more

emphasis this game on getting the ball to the hole.

Sophomore guard Keion Mitchem said the team is working harder in practice and staying focused.

Mitchem said the Horned Frogs always play a lot better at home, especially when a decent a crowd is in the audience.

“If we have a crowd here, we will have a bigger chance to win,” Mitchem said.

WOMEN’S

From page 6

sophomore forward Kalee Whipple, who exploded for 30 points.

Beyond its shooting woes, TCU was also handily out-rebounded 41-29.

Since their loss to Utah, the Lady Frogs have won

seven straight games, their longest winning streak of the season.

Utah has not lost since Dec. 3, winning 18 in-a-row in that span.

Both Utah and TCU have four games left on the season, and the Utes still have to play No. 25 University of Wyoming on Sunday.



TODAY IN HISTORY

1827: A group of masked and costumed people dance through the streets in New Orleans marking the beginning of the city's Mardi Gras celebrations.

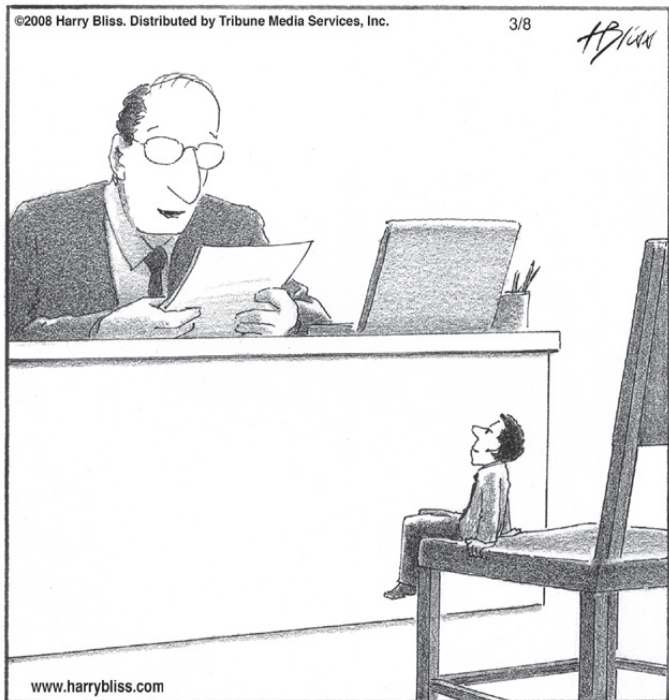
WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

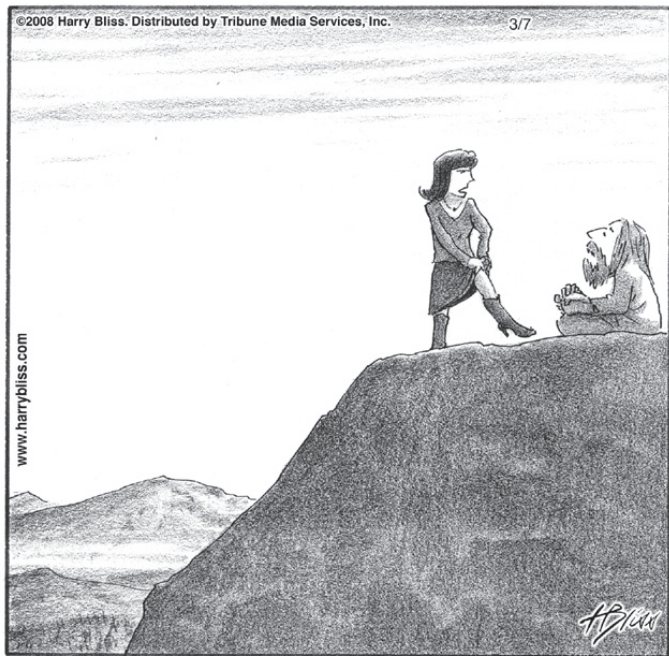
A: A stick.

Bliss

by Harry Bliss



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

Directions

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

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

Tuesday's Solutions

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

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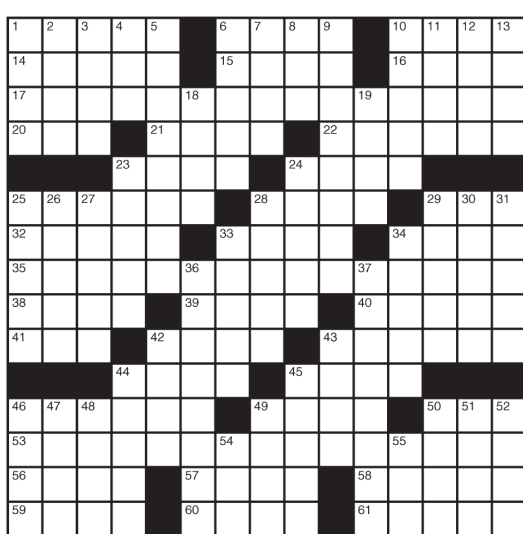
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14 "Butterfield 8" author
15 Minute skin opening
16 Latin lesson word
17 Cell mates?
20 Lincoln, casually
21 Heaps
22 Petty dictator
23 Mikita of hockey
24 Adjutant
25 New York island
28 Flows back
29 Spigot
32 Debate
33 Shrinking Asian sea
34 Overfill
35 Nest mates?
38 Cockney abodes
39 Tilt, at sea
40 Hangman's knot
41 Half a fly?
42 Richard of "Chicago"
43 Editorial symbols
44 Scottish hillside
45 Stunning stuff
46 Lenin's successor
49 Han or Napoleon
50 Louvre Pyramid architect
53 Bench mates?
56 Arduous journey
57 Pointless Olympic event?
58 macabre
59 Debate faction
60 Ewes' mates
61 Lessen



By Phillip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

2/27/08

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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2/27/08

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

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BIG SHOT

The men's basketball team looks to win its second straight game against the Utah Utes at home.
TOMORROW

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT GAME
MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UTAH
7:00PM TONIGHT



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team to face size problem against Utah, coach says



Senior guard Brent Hackett and the Horned Frogs need to win three of their last four games to finish .500 in the conference.

By KATIE WINTER
Staff Reporter

The Horned Frogs look to win their second straight game when they face the Utah Utes tonight.

Utah is currently No. 5 in the Mountain West Conference, and when the teams met earlier this season, the Utes beat the Horned Frogs 74-58.

Head coach Neil Dougherty said the Horned Frogs are preparing for what he calls the "Mountain West deluxe."

He used the term deluxe to describe the size problems the Utes create.

"Utah's size causes issues defensively like no other team does in the Mountain West Conference," Dougherty said.

Utah is a long team, with three of its top players listed at more than 6 feet 8 inches tall.

Dougherty said defending the 3-point arc will be extremely important this game.

In its last meeting, Utah shot .519 percent behind the 3-point arc, connecting on 14 compared to the Horned Frogs' four 3-pointers.

The Utes easily topped TCU in the assists category, dishing out 23 compared to TCU's four.

Utah's sophomore guard Luka Drca came off the bench to lead the Utes with 10 assists, handily improving his season average of 3.6 a game.

Senior guard Johnnie Bry-

ant led Utah's scoring attack, coming off the bench, providing 24 points in 27 minutes of work.

Going into this game, the See **MEN'S**, page 4

FOR YOUR INFO TCU vs. Utah Utes

When: 7 p.m. today
Where: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum
Stakes: TCU has to win three of its last five to finish .500 in the conference.

BASEBALL

PRETTY PITCHING



The TCU Horned Frogs won its second game of the season, defeating Dallas Baptist 6-1. The Horned Frog's six points all came in two innings, three were scored in the first and three in the seventh.

Record improves to .500 with win

By KYLE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Three runs in the first inning gave TCU a lead it would not relinquish against the Dallas Baptist University Patriots on Tuesday night.

The Horned Frogs beat the Patriots 6-1 in a game that was preserved and won with pitching and defense,

head coach Jim Schlossnagle said.

Sophomore Paul Gerrish made his second appearance of the season after his TCU debut in relief against Cal State Fullerton last weekend. Tuesday night, in his first start of the season, he threw 4 2-3 innings, allowing one run on four hits with

four strikeouts earning him his first victory of the season.

"I was throwing a lot of strikes, and I was getting ahead of hitters, especially early in the game," Gerrish said. "Next time I want to mix it up a little and start throwing my off-speed stuff a little more."

Gerrish said the early run support he received, along with the Horned Frogs' defense, made it a more relaxing outing.

"I love pitching with the lead; you have so much more confidence to just go at hitters and not feel like you have to be perfect," Gerrish said.

See **BASEBALL**, page 4

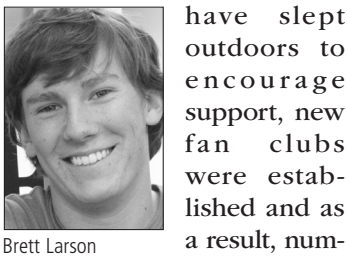
BRETT'S BREAKDOWN

Strong fan support beneficial for team

By BRETT LARSON
Sports Editor

The first baseball series of the 2008 season featured a familiar topic that has been prevalent for the majority of the spring season: attendance.

The basketball teams have openly campaigned for support, students have slept outdoors to encourage support, new fan clubs were established and as a result, numbers increased slightly. But many seats still remain cold and unused, and the basketball team started dropping more games at home.



Brett Larson

Then came baseball. The nation's pastime, one of TCU's more successful athletic programs and still attendance is an issue.

Fortunately the issue contained zero negatives this time, as supporters helped break TCU attendance records for a three-game series, shattering the notion of the apathetic purple-and-white supporter. At least for one sport.

A total of 7,486 fans came up Friday, Saturday and Sunday, breaking last year's single series attendance record of 6,989.

Granted, the Horned Frogs were taking on 2004 College World Series champions Cal State Fullerton, which also happened to be ranked as high as No. 14 in the nation in one poll, and it was the first series of the season.

Quality of opponent aside, seeing the stands filled with purple and white is an obvious step in the right direction.

The trick now is for students to show lasting support.

The baseball team, which is coming off a season when it was at times ranked in the top 20 nationally, is built around many players who are getting their first opportunities as starters.

A great home atmosphere, just as head basketball coach Neil Dougherty has preached, helps lead to wins and gives players additional confidence, which is something any young team can use.

Although the 7,486 fans who attended the opening series would barely sell out the 7,200 seat Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, the fans were at least actively supporting their Horned Frogs.

TCU lost the series, dropping two of the three games, but the team hung in there with perennial powerhouse and did so thanks in part to a packed house.

RIFLE

Nation's top rifle shooters prepare for Olympic trials

By JOHN BOLLER
Staff Reporter

Four members of the rifle team will travel to Colorado Springs and try to win a spot on the U.S. Women's Olympic Air Rifle Team.

The rifle team ended its season Feb. 16, defeating the University of Nevada and securing a spot in the upcoming national championship competition in March. Since this win, sophomores Erin Lorenzen, Emily Paper, Simone Riford and Lauren Sullivan have been preparing for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials.

At this year's trials, there will be 39 shooters competing in women's air rifle, head coach Karen Monez said.

Competitors at the trials include world-class shooters such as Emily Caruso, a 2004 Olympian, and Jamie Beyerle, the 2007 World Cup USA bronze medalist.

Only one slot is open in the U.S. Women's Air Rifle Team, which is open to international shooters who qualify as being eligible to play for the U.S. team.

TCU's representatives, all ranked in the top 50 nationally, said they will have to put forth their best effort to earn a spot.

"It will take good shooting to have a shot at it," Paper said.

Riford agreed with Paper and said there is no room for error.

"With former Olympians being there and international shooters, it will be intense," she said.

Riford and Paper posted scores of 590 and 586, respectively, in air rifle this season. Riford is ranked No. 42 in the nation, while Paper is No. 20.

Sullivan is ranked No. 21 in the nation and posted a score of 590 in the air rifle this month.

"A lot of shooters only go if they think they have a real shot," Sullivan said. "So it weeds out a lot of

See **RIFLE**, page 4

FOR YOUR INFO Olympic Rifle Trials

Where: U.S. Olympic Shooting Center, Colorado Springs, Colo.
When: Friday to Monday

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MWC frontrunner to face Lady Frogs

By BRETT LARSON
Sports Editor

The first-place women's basketball team in the Mountain West Conference, the University of Utah, takes on No. 2 TCU today in Salt Lake City in a battle of the conference's top teams.

The Utes, ranked No. 15 in the ESPN/USA Today poll, are still perfect in the conference at 12-0 and are in no danger of losing the top spot Wednesday to the Lady Frogs, who are 10-2 in conference play.

This is the second meeting between the two teams this season. Utah took the first game in Fort Worth, winning 60-50 on Jan. 26.

TCU was held to 27.9 percent shooting, its second-worst shooting performance of the season. The Lady Frogs' poor shooting percentage was thanks in part to a trigger-happy approach, which featured 26 attempted 3-pointers, of which only five were made.

TCU's leading scorer, senior guard Adrienne Ross, was held to seven points on 3-16 shooting.

The Lady Frogs had no answer for Utah's

See **WOMEN'S**, page 4

FOR YOUR INFO TCU vs. Utah Utes

When: 8 p.m. today
Where: Salt Lake City
Stakes: Battle between the conference's top two teams



ANNE COOPER / Staff Photographer

Sophomore guard Danielle Nunn and the Lady Frogs battle against No. 15 Utah, which sits in the top spot in the Mountain West Conference. The first time these teams met, the Ute's finished on top 60-50.